

Special Education Nuggets

November 2023

In this issue:

- [Items from the State Director of Special Education](#)
- [OSEP Resources](#)
- [Professional Development Opportunities](#)
- [General Monitoring and Supervision](#)
- Extended Special Education Team Updates:
 - [Interagency/Home Study](#)
 - [Independent Schools](#)
 - [Early Childhood](#)
 - [Data News](#)
 - [Special Education Finance](#)
 - [Assessment](#)



Items from the Interim State Director of Special Education:

Director Check In, November 13, 2023, from 3:00pm-4:00pm. Need the link contact [Sabine](#)

Topics of discussion to include:

- Form 2
- Upcoming Assessment timelines
- NIMAC survey update
- Open discussion for using Patterns of Strengths and weaknesses for determining SLD

Full agenda to be sent ahead of the meeting.

Upcoming Project Related to Collaboration with Developmental Services:

We are embarking on a systems improvement project for how schools and developmental services collaborate. We specifically want to address concerns we are hearing from you around the handoff from the IEP team to developmental services after a student graduates. If you have any specific experience good or bad with how that handoff is working for your students who are eligible for DS services, we would love to hear about it. We need to hear from more directors on this so we can better address this ongoing challenge. Please email John Spinney your feedback at john.spinney@vermont.gov.

Recent Special Education Director – list serv emails sent:

- Friendly reminder! November 11, 2023- Holiday
- Weekly Field Memo for November 8, 2023
- Weekly Field Memo for November 1, 2023
- Upcoming PD Opportunity- November- Indicator 11 and IEP Timelines Training for Special Education Teachers
- PD Opportunity reminder - October 26 from 3:30 to 4:30 p.m Vermont K-12 Special Education Evaluation Implementation Guide Diagnostic
- October 16 Director Check In - PPT Presentation
- Weekly Field Memo for October 18, 2023

- October 16th Director Check In- Topics and meeting link
 - October 16 Director Check In - Call for Topics
 - Weekly Field Memo for October 11, 2023
-

OSEP RESOURCES

RESOURCES:

Read more at [OSERS Blog](#) and in the [IDEA News/Updates](#).

[OSEP Newsletter](#):

November 2023 — 3E: Expect, Engage, Empower initiative from OSERS, National Parent Involvement Day, Accessibility, Resources and More.

October 2023 — Save the Date: Successful Transitions for All, ED Games Expo Recap, 50th Anniversary of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973, Resources Webinars, and More

September 2023 — Secondary transition, ED Games Expo 2023, Improving Outcomes for Students with Disabilities, Personnel Development, Webinars, Resources and More.

Review OSEP Database and [see which programs OSEP funds in your State](#).

OSEP Releases Updated Technical Assistance Center Resource

The Office of Special Education Programs released [a new resource \(PDF\)](#) that outlines OSEP-funded centers, including the new centers funded in Federal Fiscal Year 2023, that help support the implementation of the Individuals with Disabilities Education Act ([IDEA](#)) and provide technical assistance services to families, schools, districts and states.

The document is organized by:

- Technical Assistance and Dissemination (TA&D) centers;
- Parent Training and Information centers;
- Educational Technology, Media, and Materials centers;
- Personnel Development centers; and
- TA on State Data Collection centers.

Expect, Engage and Empower: Successful Transitions for All:

Webinar Opportunity

This session will target the recent OSERS initiative 3E: Expect, Engage, Empower. This initiative challenges our field to raise expectations, engage families earlier, and empower all who support students with disabilities to improve postsecondary outcomes. Come join staff from the National Technical Assistance Center on Transition: The Collaborative (NTACTC) who will share information and resources about evidence-based transition practices and predictors leading to improved student outcomes. These resources can be used by state educational

agencies and educator preparation programs to ensure transition is included across the lifespan. Register [here](#).

National Parent Involvement Day — Nov. 16

OSEP is excited to share that Secretary Cardona and several other U.S. Department of Education senior officials will host a live webinar for parents and families to celebrate National Parent Involvement Day — Nov. 17 at 7p.m. ET.

This high-energy event will focus on the Department's commitment to supporting parents and the success of their children and will feature the Secretary and other senior Department officials in conversation with Grace Bastidas of Parents Magazine. Register [here](#).

Professional Development Opportunities

Indicator 11 and IEP Timelines Training for Special Education Teachers
Audience: Special Educators, Special Education Directors

[Registration](#) is open for Indicator 11 and IEP Timelines Training for Special Education Teachers November 13th from 2:00 - 3:00. Participants will increase their understanding of timeline requirements under IDEA, indicator 11, and forms used for initial evaluations and reevaluations. Contact Cassie.Santo@vermont.gov for more information.

[General Monitoring and Supervision](#)

Friendly reminder!

If you are in Targeted after Targeted and/or Selective Monitoring, please remember to complete and upload your submissions in Globalscapes ("To AOE" folder) by 11/30/23.

Extended Special Education Team - Updates:

Interagency/Home Study: (*Italic writing below indicates new information*)

Interagency Updates (staff: Alicia Hanrahan and Cathy Scott)

- Reminder that independent school waivers are **no longer** required due to the July 1, 2023 implementation of Act 173. LEAs are required to ensure that independent schools can support students' disabilities. For more specific information on the requirements outlined in Act 173 regarding independent schools or for the current AOE approved independent school tuition rate, contact deborah.ormsbee@vermont.gov.
- Please contact Ernie at ernest.wheeler@vermont.gov for educational surrogate information (Alicia and Cathy do not have access to that information).
- LEA Residential Placements For LEAs considering placing students in residential facilities (not via the Interagency Case Review Committee/CRC), fill out this [Cognito Form](#) to get started. Once the form has been received, I can review the documentation and recommend various schools for LEAs to contact (via rule, there is a 30 day timeline).

Keep in mind that these residential schools will most likely have waiting lists, or the student may not fit in with the current student population. I can include the name of another special education administrator who may have some experience with that residential facility upon request.

- For LEAs who have already placed students in residential facilities (again, not via CRC), please complete and submit this [form](#) (must be done annually). I have only received a couple of these for the current school year.
- When students are “cleared” through CRC, students are not automatically going to be enrolled and sent to a residential facility. Due to the increased need to find appropriate placements for students (most placements are out of state), there may be significant wait lists. LEAs are strongly encouraged to continue to obtain and maintain all educational placements.
 - Similarly, when students are ready to be discharged from residential facilities due to their completion of treatment, the students are entitled to transition back to a VT LEA. Many students are transitioning back to LEAs without an educational program (understanding the decreases in independent schools and school staffing is a factor). Maintaining a connection to the DCF social worker, Designated Agency, parents, residential school and student allows LEAs to be active participants in discharge planning to support a smoother transition back to a VT LEA.
- Questions/Answers for the Count of State Placed Students form need go directly to cathy.scott@vermont.gov. The completion date (the submission date was several months ago) is fast approaching.
- Worksheet A and Bs are due to AOE on 11/15/2023. Alicia will be reviewing/completing this round (November 2023 submission only), so please send any questions or responses to alicia.hanrahan@vermont.gov and not to Cathy Scott
- ESSA/Best Interest Determination training is available. Contact alicia.hanrahan@vermont.gov to schedule a time that’s convenient for you, your staff, and/or your regional meeting. Feel free to invite you DCF colleagues so everyone hears the same thing...currently scheduling one for the St Albans DCF office in December (it will be a Wednesday from 8-915ish and will be virtual). Feel free to send an email and we’ll get you the link.

[Independent Schools](#)

Nothing at this time.

[Early Childhood](#)

ECSE Newsletter

ECSE newsletters now have a home on the ECSE home page. Check out the [Fall 2023 edition](#) and [ECSE Padlet](#).

Suspension and Expulsion of Young Children

On October 30, 2023 the American Academy of Pediatrics (AAP) released [Addressing Early Education and Child Care Expulsion](#).

problem of child care and early education expulsion. It also draws attention to the increased risk of exclusionary discipline children with developmental disabilities have due not only to their disability but to certain comorbidities that may also exist. Children with any disability or social-

emotional challenge make up only 13 percent of the preschool population, but they constitute 75 percent of all early suspensions and expulsions.

Free Webinars

The OSEP TA Center National Center for Pyramid Model Innovations (NCPMI) is offering: [A Conversation about Developing and Implementing Individualized Interventions for Children who have Experienced Trauma](#), a FREE webinar on November 13th at 3pm.

[Strategies to Help Every Child Fly in Inclusive Early Childhood Classrooms and Programs](#) (recorded webinar) Join acclaimed early childhood education researcher and author, Iheoma Iruka, and early childhood disabilities and child development expert, Jani Kozlowski to learn strategies that foster inclusive learning environments, individualized teaching practices and meaningful family engagement.

ECSE Webinars and Communities of Practice Calls

An ECSE Webinar on Indicator 12: Part C to Part B Transition will be held on Friday, November 17th from 1pm-2pm. A Question and Answer period will be held following the webinar from 2pm-3pm. There is no registration. Log in information for this and upcoming webinars can be found on the [ECSE Live Webinars page](#). Webinars are not recorded, however, slide decks will be posted on the [ECSE home page](#).

[Early Childhood Special Education \(ECSE\) Community of Practice \(CoP\)](#)

Topics are driven by the participants. Visit the [ECSE CoP Events page](#) for dates and more information.

[Data News](#)

Child Count Office Hours Fall 2023

The December 1, 2023, Child Count Collection will open later this month. AOE is planning five “Office Hours” sessions ahead of and during the Child Count submission window to help districts prepare and carry out the collection. You may drop in for any or all of the sessions for advice and troubleshooting. ***No student identifying info if staff from other SU/SDs are present, please!***

Office Hours will be held on:

- Tuesday, November 14th from 10:00 am to 10:45 am
- Friday, December 1st from 2:00 pm to 2:45 pm
- Wednesday, December 6th from 1:00 pm to 1:45 pm
- Tuesday, December 12th from 10:00 am to 10:45 am
- Thursday, December 14th from 11:00 am to 11:45 am

Known Child Count respondents have received emailed invitations; the meeting information is also copied below (the link is the same for all 4 sessions):

Microsoft Teams meeting

Join on your computer, mobile app or room device

[Click here to join the meeting](#)

Meeting ID: 236 533 983 862

Passcode: Mh5d9r

[Download Teams](#) | [Join on the web](#)

Or call in (audio only)

[+1 802-828-7667,,875114572#](#) United States, Montpelier

Phone Conference ID: 875 114 572#

[Find a local number](#) | [Reset PIN](#) [Learn More](#) | [Meeting options](#)

If you have any questions, please [contact the AOE Child Count team](#).

[Special Education Finance](#)

Special Education Finance:

- Special Education Expenditure Report cumulative worksheets A and B are due November 15 for state-placed students and extraordinary special education costs reimbursement, respectively. The payment date for those two reimbursements will be December 15.
- FY23 IDEA CEIS collection to be deployed soon
- FY23 IDEA MOE Compliance Standard email coming soon
- FY24 IDEA MOE Eligibility Standard email coming soon

If you have questions, please contact [Jennifer Perry](#)

[Assessment](#)

Nothing at this time.