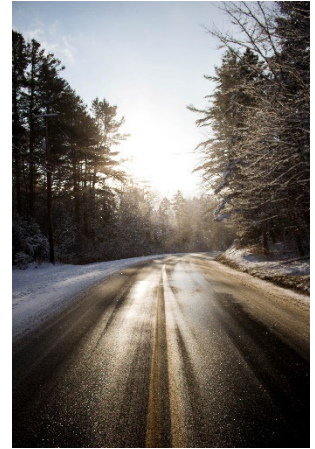


Special Education Nuggets

March 2023

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Items from the Interim State Director of Special Education:

March 13th will be the rescheduled Director Check In and the State of State from 3:00pm-4:00pm. We will record the State of the State portion.

Future Director Check In meetings will be April 10, May 8 and June 12th from 3:00pm-4:00pm, contact [Sabine](#) if you do not have the link.

Staff Update:

State Special Education Director position, at this time we are working on a in-depth job description that describes this positions responsibilities and obligations to better fit our future working structure at the Agency.

Division Director Chris Case will be leaving our Agency to be the Director of Policy and Planning for the State of Vermont, Child Development Division, his last day will be March 10th.

OSEP RESOURCES

RESOURCES:

[February OSEP Newsletter](#) with resources related to: Assistive Technology and IDEA, Technical Assistance Opportunities, Visual Impairments in Students with Significant Cognitive Disabilities, Resources and More

[Discipline Discussions: Informal Removals Matter | Office of Special Education and Rehabilitative Services Blog](#): Information and reminders of informal removals for students on IEPs.

Reminder: In July 2022, OSEP released the most [comprehensive IDEA discipline requirements guidance package](#) since the law was passed in 2004. Notably, this guidance:

- [Defines informal removals](#);
- Describes situations in which informal removals could indicate that a child's IEP does not appropriately address their behavioral needs ([Question C-3](#));
- Describes how informal removals could constitute a disciplinary removal ([Question C-6](#));
- [Highlights evidence-based practices that address behavior using proactive and preventative strategies.](#)

[Secretary Cardona Announces the U.S. Department of Education's "Raise the Bar: Lead the World" Initiative](#)

[December 6, 2022 -- Letter about how Federal funds can support science, technology, engineering, and mathematics \(STEM\) education](#)

Professional Development Opportunities

March 16, 3:00 – 4:00 [General Educators: Impact of Special Education Rule Changes Office Hour](#)

Please join us for an office hour intended to support the special education rule changes and the impact it has on general educators. General educators are integral to the special education process. Established systems should be in place that directly involve general educators in ensuring appropriate instruction and interventions supports are provided for all students. A webinar will be shared prior to this office hour to support general educators with the special education rule changes that are scheduled to fully take effect on July 1st, 2023. The webinar reviews the background of the rule changes and act 173, identifying how each category impacts the work of general educators. Please share this meeting with the appropriate staff and we encourage participants to submit questions in advance through this [form](#).

March 14, 3:00-4:00 Assistive Technology- What do educators working with students with disabilities need to know?

Audience – Special Educators, 504 coordinators, CTE Special Needs Coordinators. This session will delve into the considerations for assistive technology (AT) for students with disabilities. As a special educator, how do you know when the IEP team should be considering AT? What are some common signs that a student could benefit from AT? How does AT help students access their education? How does AT tie into postsecondary transition planning? These questions will be explored and discussed. Presenters: **Phil Seiler** has been the Vermont Assistive Technology Director since 2019 after a 20+ year career in Information Technology. **Fred Jones** is the Director of the State Division for the Blind and Visually Impaired. He has experience as a classroom teacher, special educator, and a Teacher of the Visually Impaired. **Ben Wimette** – has been with The Assistive Technology Program in partnership with UVM Center on Disability and Community Inclusion since 2014. [Meeting link](#) will be up next week.

March 17 11:00am-12:00pm Live office hours answering any follow up questions from the March 14 webinar. [Meeting link](#) will be up next week.

March 23, 3:00 – 4:00 [CEIS Funds Office Hour](#) (Coordinated Early Intervening Services)

Please join us for an office hour to discuss CEIS funds. The purpose of this office hours is to preview an upcoming webinar that reviews budgeting considerations and IDEA Part B subgrantee applications to support CEIS. Jen Perry, from the special education finance team, will join to support an understanding of the required components of a workplan strategy. We will also be available to respond to questions related to reporting requirements for IDEA-B Funds used for CEIS. Please share this meeting with the appropriate staff and we encourage participants to submit questions in advance through this [form](#).

General Monitoring and Supervision

Nothing at this time.

Extended Special Education Team - Updates:

Interagency/Home Study:

Nothing at this time.

Independent Schools

Nothing at this time.

Early Childhood

Nothing at this time.

Data News

Child Count Data Quality Review

Child Count Data Quality Checks will arrive soon; the AOE Child Count Team is available to help with any questions you have. Our goal is still to distribute Verification Reports for your review by the end of March. Verification Reports will include counts and summaries of the data your SU/SD submitted for review and signatures.

If you have questions about your SU/SD's Child Count data quality, please contact the [AOE Child Count team](#).

Special Education Finance

Nothing at this time.

Assessment

New Alternate Assessment Implementation for SY23

Training Modules are open and available for Test Coordinators and Test Administrators. Testing window opens March 13th. For the most up to date information and FAQs please visit the [Alternate Assessment Webpage](#)

The [New Alternate Assessment Implementation for SY23 Memo](#) is intended to inform supervisory unions (SU/SDs) and independent schools of the upcoming transition and describe next steps towards the 2023 administration of the alternate assessment.

Please see the memo for contact information for follow up questions. Thank you!