

## TA Tuesday: Resources to Support District Leaders, February 14th, 2023

### Purpose

Hello Special Education Directors,

Every Tuesday, the AOE will be sending a technical assistance email to LEAs as a reminder and to provide any updates on available resources or professional development for a particular topic related to upcoming special education rule changes. Today's TA topic is resources to support district leaders.

The AOE has identified sets of resources and themes that are relevant to district leaders and recommend that, as a starting point, district leaders review the resources shared below to acquaint themselves with how their individual roles might be impacted by the changes taking effect.

Please share these resources with district staff as appropriate.

### Resources to Support District Leaders and the Special Education Process

District leadership is foundational to build successful systems of support and appropriately meet the needs of all students. These resources include the report that was a catalyst for change in Vermont, and a description of how the rule changes manifest in an initial evaluation.

[District Level EST Oversight](#): This document describes the core responsibilities and recommended practices of district leaders for a successful educational support team. Although the team operates at the school level, ESTs are overseen at the district level, and it is ultimately the district leader's responsibility to ensure that ESTs are effectively implemented district wide. Leaders at the district level must be invested in the development and success of supporting all students through ESTs.

[Educational Support Team \(EST\): Making Connections with VTmtss](#): This document is intended to be used by school systems that are reviewing and improving their EST model. It can be used independently as a diagnostic/needs assessment tool, or in conjunction with other VTmtss tools as part of a more comprehensive continuous improvement process. The Making Connections document is intended to measure SU/district wide consistency of practice.

[Expanding and Changing Best Practice for Students Who Struggle - DMG Report](#): This is a report issued by the District Management Group (DMG) and it provides a road map for Vermont to be more cost effective and to better serve students who struggle. The goal goes well

### Contact Information:

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beyond just issuing this report, published in 2017, and intends to be a catalyst for a sustained effort to raise achievement, expand services, and manage costs. District leaders must be familiar with this document and its findings as well as the foundational connection it has to the rule changes and Act 173.

[K - 12 Special Education Evaluation Implementation Guide](#): All district leaders are integral to ensuring that systems are in place so that a free appropriate public education is accessible for all students. The Special Education Evaluation Implementation Guide walks district leaders through the evaluation process, identifying how systems of supports interact with a student's individualized needs. District leaders are responsible for ensuring that their staff is familiar with the legalities regarding the evaluation process, the role their entire staff plays in implementation, and the systems that must be in place to uphold the process.

## **Resources to Support District Leaders and the Special Education Rule Changes**

District leaders should familiarize themselves with the special education rule changes and Act 173. These resources provide the changes in their entirety and how they impact schools.

[Act 173 Guidance Documents](#): This link is to the section of the AOE website that houses the library of Act 173 Guidance Documents. It is essential that district leaders ensure that this guidance is disseminated to all applicable staff with protected time to process and plan for implementation.

[Rule 2360 Side by Side](#): This document outlines the major changes to the special education rule 2360. It compares the previous rules to the new rules in a side-by-side format. To best see the changes in written format, district leaders should review this resource.

[Special Education Rule Changes Webpage](#): This webpage contains webinars, guidance documents, and tools detailing expectations and impacts for education in Vermont related to the changes being implemented. Supporting students requires consistent access to appropriate universal instruction, evidence-based intervention, and data collection to inform decision making. District leaders must support schools with building systems that ensure that eligibility decisions are based in data, that time is provided to collaborate and support students, and the guidance necessary to build capacity. District leaders should review this webpage and reflect on the systems in place to support these processes.

[Using AOE Tools and Resources to Support Local-level Responses to Act 173](#): This document provides a recommended sequence for LEAs to follow when seeking to identify their Act 173-related needs, to help LEAs with this work, and how LEAs can request AOE assistance. District leaders must seek support from the AOE promptly if they are uncertain how to support act 173 and special education rule changes.

Happy Tuesday,

Special Education Program Team