



**Kathe Shelby, Director - Office for Exceptional Children (July 2010)**

## Special Education Data Check

As a result of our recent verification monitoring visit by the federal Office of Special Education Programs (OSEP), the Office for Exceptional Children (OEC) is increasing its scrutiny of EMIS special education data, especially those data reported in our State Performance Plan (SPP).

To assist LEAs in reporting complete and accurate data for SPP indicators, OEC staff members are completing a preliminary analysis of data for compliance indicators. Starting tomorrow and through next week, the OEC staff will send e-mail messages to LEA superintendents and special education directors who have submitted data indicating potential noncompliance or missing codes. Please note that the e-mails for special education directors will be sent to the electronic addresses most recently provided to the OEC by the LEA. Although not every LEA will receive an e-mail, all LEAs are encouraged to check their own data for inaccuracies. Also, please check your spam mailbox to ensure that any e-mail sent by OEC has not mistakenly been directed there.

LEAs receiving data for review will be sent two e-mails: one with the notification and password for accessing the encrypted data file, and another containing the data file comprised of the applicable student EMIS records.

In particular, OEC staff members are looking at LEA's data to ensure that:

- for every parental consent that has been reported, an initial ETR also has been reported (Indicator 11);
- for any initial ETR that was late, a noncompliance reason has been reported (Indicator 11);
- the number of preschool transition conferences reported by districts in EMIS matches the number reported to the Department of Health by Help Me Grow (Indicator 12);
- for any IEP implemented after the third birthday for preschool students transitioning from Help Me Grow, a noncompliance reason has been reported (Indicator 12); and
- a secondary planning element code has been reported for every student that attended your LEA sometime during the school year and turned age 16 prior to June 1, 2010 (Indicator 13).

## Institutions of Higher Education – Request for Proposals announcement

The Ohio Department of Education (ODE) is supporting Institutions of Higher Education (IHEs) in the ability to plan and pilot a redesign of their teacher prep-program, this redesign will ensure that intervention specialists and early childhood professionals are highly qualified to teach students who have disabilities. This redesign requires a strategic state investment, including various program areas in education as well as local educational agencies. To achieve this goal the ODE Office of Exceptional Children invites IHEs, who have teacher prep-programs and are members of the Ohio Consortium to Improve the Teaching of Students with Disabilities, to improve the teaching of students with disabilities to submit innovative proposals to redesign intervention specialist and/or early childhood preparation programs to not only meet NCLB and IDEA requirements but to provide a structured, systemic approach to improve professional teacher education.

Review the Request for Proposals at [www.education.ohio.gov](http://www.education.ohio.gov) keyword search "Request for Proposals Intervention Specialist."

## Revised Q&A from OSEP on IEPs, Evaluations and Reevaluations

The U.S. Department of Education, Office of Special Education and Rehabilitative Services (OSERS) issued a revised Q&A document to provide States, State educational agencies (SEAs), local educational agencies (LEAs), parents and other stakeholders with information regarding the IDEA requirements relating to individualized education programs (IEPs), evaluations, and reevaluations. Questions and Answers on IEPs (revised June

2010) is available online at <http://www.ed.gov/policy/speced/guid/idea/iep-ga-2010.pdf>.

The Guidance Document on [edresourcesohio.org](http://edresourcesohio.org) is currently being reviewed to ensure that it aligns with USDOE's new guidance.

## **Whose IDEA Is This? Available in Accessible Formats**

The Statewide Braille Production Center at the Ohio State School for the Blind (OSSB) has accessible copies (including braille and large print) of the updated Whose IDEA is This? A Parent's Guide to the Individuals with Disabilities Education Improvement Act of 2004 (IDEA). To request an electronic copy or a paper copy, please contact Cheryl Boley at [cboleyn@ossb.oh.gov](mailto:cboleyn@ossb.oh.gov) or call (614) 644-8461.

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