



DIRECTOR OF SPECIAL EDUCATION ADVISORY GROUP

Kentucky Department of Education
Meeting to be held virtually via Microsoft Teams (See invite for link)
May 27, 2020
1:00-3:00 pm ET

Purpose: The Director of Special Education (DoSE) Advisory Group was created to advise the Office of Special Education and Early Learning (OSEEL) on issues relevant to special education. The DoSE Advisory Group consists of 9 members who each represent a Special Education Cooperative region of Kentucky. The members of this group provide valuable feedback and engage with Kentucky school districts to provide support for special education. The advisory group members meet with the OSEEL staff, both in person and virtually, to discuss needs in the area of special education support provided in Kentucky school districts. The members provide feedback on critical issues that align with the OSEEL priorities and this feedback is used to help shape the guidance and support being provided by the OSEEL staff.

AGENDA

I. Roll Call of Members

Kim Chevalier, Chair
Jefferson County Public Schools

II. Review Minutes from Last Meeting

Kim Chevalier, Chair
Jefferson County Public Schools

- Approved minutes from last meeting

III. Welcome

Kevin C. Brown, Interim Commissioner

- Welcome and thank you for your hard work.

Gretta Hylton, Associate Commissioner, Office of Special Education and Early Learning

- Great work in districts and supporting colleagues across the state.
- There are not words to express our gratitude in the OSEEL to have this advisory group to have engaging and challenging conversations.
- You are making NTI happen for all of our kids. Preparation was incredible and the ability to continue to provide FAPE to students with disabilities is incredible.

IV. CARES Funding

Robin Kinney, Associate Commissioner, Office of Finance and Operations
Kentucky Department of Education

- Overview of the CARES Act

Guiding Question: What recommendations would special education staff offer to their districts about the CARES funding?

- Compensatory education will be a need. However, paying for personnel to provide that will be a large expense for districts, because it will be after school hours. Is there any discussion

about that?

- Under CARES Act salaries are permissible expenditures. These are one-time funds that go away so you don't want to become dependent on these funds.
- It is very important to work very closely with finance officers through this. It is critical you don't do anything to undermine Maintenance of Effort (MOE) under the IDEA.

V. Summer Professional Learning for Teachers

Misty Higgins, Academic Program Consultant, Office of Teaching and Learning
Kentucky Department of Education

- Preparing for Academic Re-Entry – guidance for teachers
- Stage 1 of guidance has already been released.
- Stage 2 will be released in July.

Guiding Question: What professional learning opportunities are available for special education teachers this summer? What additional opportunities are needed?

- It is essential during this time to be very critical in using common language with all educators. Exceptional children overall tends to be a second thought when talking about professional development.

VI. Re-entry in the Fall

Gretta Hylton, Associate Commissioner, Office of Special Education and Early Learning

- Vital to consider equity and access for students with disabilities, young learners, gifted and talented students, diverse learners.
- We need to ensure Admissions and Release Committees (ARCs) are convening to have discussions about least restrictive environment (LRE).
- Compensatory Education – This is the buzz around the nation right now. Compensatory education is the remedy for a denial of a free, appropriate public education (FAPE).
- OSEEL is currently working on guidance around the difference between compensatory education and ESY.
- Emergency contingency plans are allowable under the IDEA.

Kay Kennedy, Office of Finance and Operations

Kentucky Department of Education

Guiding Question: What options are being considered for re-entry for the next school year?

What type of guidance and support are needed for re-opening and once school is re-opened?

- So many families are withdrawing their children to home-school. Some of those are students with IEPs. Families are already making those preparations without knowing yet the re-entry plans for school. We are having discussions now about service plans for those students.
- Districts are already seeing a lot of home/hospital requests.
- Safety for staff and students is a concern when using physical restraint. Any guidance for students with behavior needs.
- Staff are required to attend to some very personal needs of some MSD students. How will they comply with guidelines and remain safe under this if we return to the school building?
- Directors are concerned about implementing contingency plans.
- We need more specific guidance in what needs to be addressed, specific areas to address.
- We had difficulty with student engagement toward the end of the school year. Teachers were really concerned because they couldn't document minutes served because students stopped attending.

VII. Webcasts for DoSEs

Amanda Waldroup, Assistant Director, Division of IDEA Implementation and Preschool
Kentucky Department of Education

- Seeking input on webcasts that were provided in April and May.
- Overview of the webcasts

Guiding Question: Have the NTI webcasts been useful? What would you like to see next?

- Anytime we can see a webcast like that, it is on-going and can be used over and over again, it is appreciated.
- We have limited guidance overall for related services. Any information would be helpful. Several people would like guidance around related service personnel.
- Also, anything to do with integration of related services would be helpful.
- Social and emotional learning
- Teachers appreciated the 30 minutes, weekly and a routine schedule.
- Several people stated they liked the 30-minute format.

VIII. Mental Health

Dr. Damien Sweeney, Office of Teaching and Learning
Kentucky Department of Education

Guiding Questions: Are the current mental health supports and resources meeting your needs? What additional guidance and resources would you like to see?

IX. CEIS/CCEIS Funding

Jarrod Slone, Consultant, Office of Special Education and Early Learning
Kentucky Department of Education

- Overview of CEIS/CCEIS

Guiding Questions: What additional codes can be opened for districts? How can further financial guidance be offered specifically to CEIS/CCEIS districts?

X. Adjournment

Future Meetings: TBD