

Meeting Minutes

Iowa Special Education Advisory Panel

January 10, 2025

Present: Wendy Andersen, Joy Barlean, Josh Bowar, Carrie Champine, Linda Dettman, Casey Force, Rhonda Haitz, Tami Hoffman, Mary Jackson, Lori Janke, Lee Longmire, Kim Neal, Keri Osterhaus, Stephanie Petrillo, Sandra Smith, Karen Thompson, Rebecca Torres and Joel Weeks.

Absent: Pam Litterer, Sarah Norvell, and Sonia Reyes

Department Staff Present: Barb Guy, Betsy Lin, Nancy Hunt, Beth Buehler-Sapp.

Public Comment: None

Welcome/Introductions

The meeting was called to order by Rhonda Haitz, Chair at 9:05 a.m.

Panel members were offered the opportunity to join via Zoom due to a shortened meeting agenda.

Barb Guy announced her retirement. Her last day with the Department is January 10, 2025. Betsy Lin, Chief, Bureau of Student Instruction, Evaluation and Services, will fill in as the Director of Special Education until a new Special Education Division Administrator is hired.

Approve Agenda

A motion was made to approve the agenda by Rebecca Torres. The motion was seconded by Casey Force. Motion carried.

Consent Agenda

Minutes were reviewed by the panel members. Joel Weeks made a motion to approve the minutes from the November 2024 meeting. Wendy Anderson seconded the motion. Motion carried. The minutes were approved with no suggested changes.

State Performance Plan (SPP) & Annual Performance Report (APR) – Melissa Schnurr, Iowa Department of Education ([Slide Deck](#))

All states who receive IDEA funds must annually develop a SPP/APR report that evaluates the efforts to implement the requirements and purposes of Part B and Part C of the IDEA. Melissa Schnurr, Part B Data Manager, reported on Iowa's progress against the targets for the 18 compliance and results indicators. In some instances, we closed the gap, and in others we narrowed the gap and continue to work towards the set target.

Some data not ready to report. Once available, the final data will be sent to SEAP.

There was discussion regarding Indicator 8 for the Parent Involvement survey which is sent to parents through ACHIEVE. The response rate is 10.87 percent. Now that we have the ACHIEVE Family Portal available to use to send this out to parents, this will hopefully significantly increase the parent participation response rate for this survey. Several parents present at the meeting reported they had not received or didn't remember ever having received the survey. Melissa suggested the messages may be going to spam.

The discussion on Indicator 8 was tabled for a future agenda for more follow up.

Summary: The decisions that parents, teachers, and LEAs make for each child influence the SPP/APR indicators. It is the data in the SPP/APR that communicates to the federal government, Iowa's efforts to meet IDEA requirements and, in doing so, can be used as leverage to improve outcomes for children with disabilities.

Announcements

The ACHIEVE Family Portal is scheduled to go live in February of 2025.

Future Agenda Items

Indicator 8 – Parent Survey distribution
Questions asked during the Equity Policy, Procedures and Practice Review
Secondary Transition data

Emerging Issues

None

Adjourn

Karen Thompson made a motion to adjourn the meeting and Joel Weeks seconded the motion.
Meeting adjourned.

2024-25 Upcoming Meeting Dates

February 28, 2025
April 11, 2025
May 16, 2025