

Iowa State Board of Education

Executive Summary

September 17, 2026

Agenda Item: Individuals with Disabilities Education Act - Differentiated Accountability

State Board Goal(s): Goal 2

State Board Role/Authority: State Board has authority per Iowa Code chapter 256B and Iowa Administrative Code chapter 281-41.

Presenter(s): Leisa Breitfelder, Administrator
Division of Special Education

Betsy Lin, Chief
Bureau of Student Evaluation, Instruction and Supports

Attachment(s): One

Recommendation: It is recommended the State Board hear and discuss this information.

Background: This presentation reviews the historical approach to measuring outcomes for students with disabilities and outlines the Department's direction for future accountability and improvement efforts launching late fall 2026.

Individuals with Disabilities Education Act – Differentiated Accountability

Presented to the State Board of Education
September 17, 2026



Department of Education

General Supervision

States must have in place a system of general supervision that monitors LEAs' implementation of IDEA and provision of FAPE (34 C.F.R. § 300.600).

Iowa Administrative Code:

41.600(2) Primary focus of monitoring activity. The primary focus of the state's monitoring activities must be on the following:

1. Improving educational results and functional outcomes for all children with disabilities; and
2. ensuring that public agencies meet the program requirements under Part B of the Act, with a particular emphasis on those requirements that are most closely related to improving educational results for children with disabilities.

Unifying ESEA and IDEA Accountability Systems

- Utilize the same rigorous, transparent ESEA accountability system to provide **District Performance Profiles** beginning fall 2025
- Operate no more than two accountability systems—one system under ESEA and one system under IDEA—with **coordinated identification and improvement supports** by:
 - Aligning Iowa's IDEA and state special education district accountability systems in fall 2026 (like Iowa's ESEA and state school accountability systems in fall 2024)
 - Comprehensively supporting Iowa schools and districts with coordinated special education and school improvement plans

ISPP/IDEA-DA Accountability

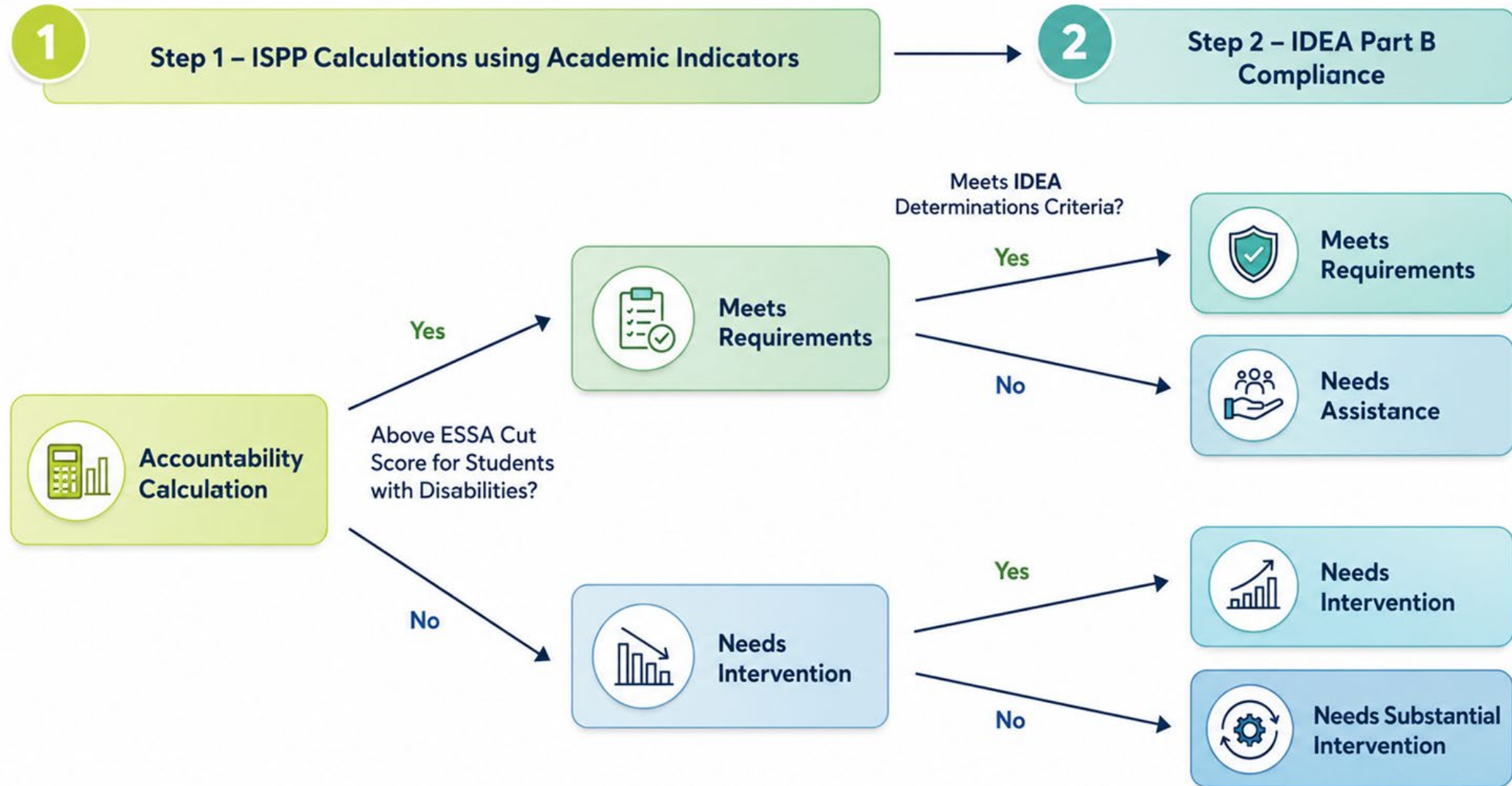
District without a high school

Elementary/Middle School			
Measure		Points (% of Total)	
Proficiency	ELA	100	300 (42.9%)
	Math	100	
	Science	100	
Growth	ELA	100	300 (42.9%)
	Math	100	
	English Learners (ELPA21)	100	
Chronic Absenteeism	Rate	50	100 (14.3%)
	Attendance Growth	50	
Total			700 (100%)

District with a high school

High School			
Measure		Points (% of Total)	
Proficiency	ELA	100	300 (33.3%)
	Math	100	
	Science	100	
Growth	ELA	100	300 (33.3%)
	Math	100	
	English Learners (ELPA21)	100	
Chronic Absenteeism	Rate	50	100 (11.1%)
	Attendance Growth	50	
Graduation Rate	4-Year	50	100 (11.1%)
	5-Year	50	
Postsecondary Readiness	WBL	50	100 (11.1%)
	College Credit	50	
	Industry Recognized Credential (2025)		
Total			900 (100%)

IDEA-DA Accountability System



Questions



Department of Education