

Date: December 18, 2024

To: Local Educational Agency Leads, Administrators of Approved Private Schools for Students with Disabilities

From: Kathy Ehling, Assistant Commissioner Division of Educational Services

## Office of Special Education's Quarterly Updates: New Releases and Opportunities

The Office of Special Education (OSE) values its mission to provide educators, families, and other stakeholders with the technical assistance, professional learning in evidence-based practices, and access to instructional materials and resources necessary for students with Individualized Education Programs (IEPs) to achieve academic success.

This quarterly broadcast, along with the OSE's Newsletter, highlights various tools and resources recently made available to the public through the OSE website. Each resource is curated with equity, diversity, empowerment, and improved student outcomes in mind.

The following resources and websites are now available:

- <u>Special Education in Action Newsletter, Issue 11</u>: Highlighting the New Teacher Academy out of the Learning Resource Center South
- Websites Released:
  - o <u>Significant Disproportionality</u>
    - Including the release of the "Significant Disproportionality Information and Resource Guide"
  - About Local Education Agency (LEA) Determinations
    - Including the "<u>Local Special Education Profile Indicator One-Pagers</u>" available on the Data and Resources Website.
  - o Support for Military-Connected Families
    - Including the release of "<u>Guidance for Military Families with Students in Special</u> Education"
- Under the <u>Policies and Procedures</u> websites, you will find the following new resources:
  - "IDEA Allowable Uses Resource Document"
  - "Management of Student Records Guidance"
- Developed in collaboration with diverse stakeholders, the "<u>Best Practices for New Jersey Public School</u> <u>Behavior Analysts</u>" has been released. Information sessions to further explore this resource with the field have been announced and can be accessed on our engagement website.
- In addition to the recently released "<u>Educational Planning Guide for Students who are Deaf or Hard of</u> <u>Hearing</u> in printable and <u>fillable</u> formats, the OSE has also released a resource on "<u>The Scope of Service of</u> <u>Professionals in Deaf Education</u>".
- In collaboration with the Boggs Center at Rutgers University through the <u>Person-Centered Approaches in</u> <u>Schools and Transition (PCAST)</u>, the "IEP Family Workbooks" have been released, including resources for the following populations:
  - o <u>Early Elementary</u>
  - o <u>Elementary</u>
  - o Middle School
  - o High School
  - o <u>18-21-Year-Olds</u>

In addition to these resources, we continuously highlight ongoing opportunities for action, learning, and collaboration on the <u>Special Education Engagement Website</u>. For more information or questions, please contact the Office of Special Education at <u>OSEinfo@doe.nj.gov</u>.

c: Members, State Board of Education NJDOE Staff SPAN Parent Advocacy Network Garden State Coalition of Schools NJ LEE Group