

# LRE SETTLEMENT IMPLEMENTATION

New Jersey Department of Education  
Office of Special Education Programs  
December 2014



# Introduction

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- Goal for today's meeting
  - To identify potential professional development for each district that addresses the topic, type and targeted audience for each professional development session.

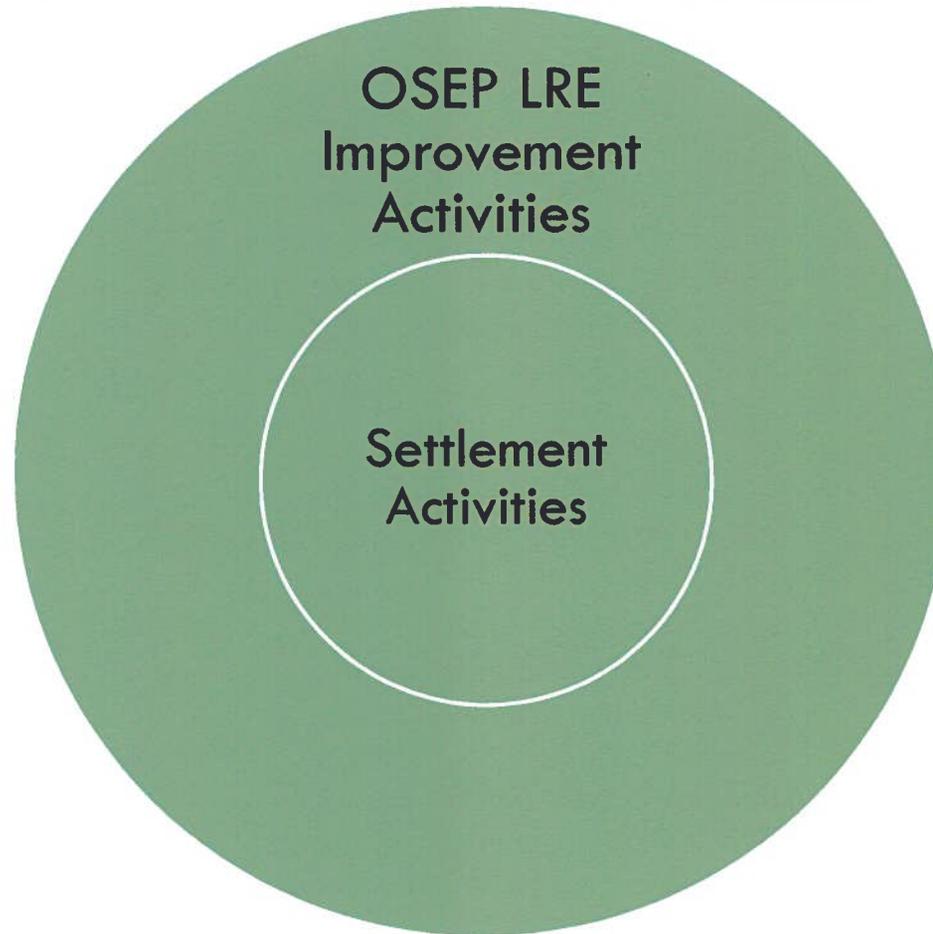
# History of the Lawsuit

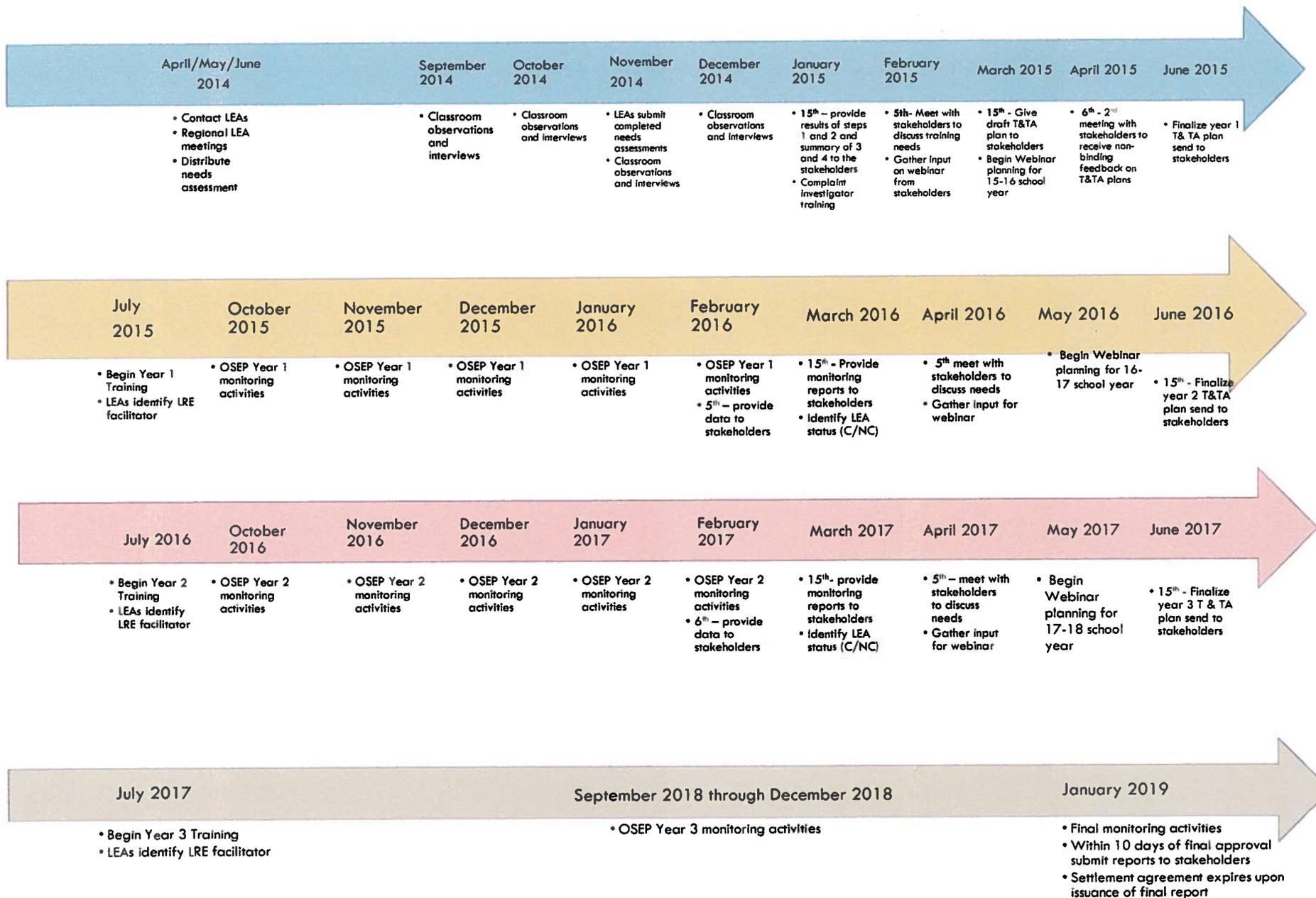
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- Complaint was filed in 2007 by Disability Rights New Jersey (formerly New Jersey Protection & Advocacy), the Education Law Center, the Statewide Parent Advocacy Network and The ARC of New Jersey.
- Complaint alleged a failure to provide FAPE in the least restrictive environment for children with disabilities.

# Settlement and OSEP LRE Activities

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# Needs Assessment

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- Step 1: Conduct data review and analysis
- Step 2: Complete LRE Questionnaire
- Step 3: NJDOE will conduct site visits
  - Classroom observations
  - Interviews with district staff and parents
- Step 4: Districts will meet with NJDOE

# Training and Technical Assistance

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- Annually, for three years, NJDOE will develop a “training and technical assistance plan”.
- The plan will be based on identified areas of need and may include but is not limited to:
  - ▣ Supporting diverse students with the full range of disabilities in general education classes;
  - ▣ Developing an inclusive school climate;
  - ▣ Analyzing placement data to ensure placement in the LRE;
  - ▣ Transportation; and
  - ▣ Long-range facilities planning related to students with disabilities.

# Training and Technical Assistance

- There will be at least four (4) training and/or technical assistance sessions each year for three (3) consecutive academic years (for a total of 12 sessions).
- If a district is designated as noncompliant, NJDOE will require certain district staff to attend at least three of the four trainings.
- Each training will be at least three hours long.
- Parent groups, including parent members of district special education advisory groups, will be invited to attend at least one training.

# First Activity:

- At your table, work with the OSEP staff to review information from the data analysis and the questionnaire.
- Next, work with the OSEP staff to review the information from the interviews and classroom walkthroughs.
- Summarize the areas of need on the T-chart

# Second Activity:

- Utilizing the chart provided, identify the top three/four potential training and technical assistance options.
  - ▣ Identify the Topic, Targeted Audience, and Type of Professional Development/Technical Assistance.
  - ▣ If a topic is not listed on the draft plan, identify the topic you wish to be added.

**Comments and/or Questions?**

# What happens next?

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- January
  - ▣ Summary of results of needs assessment to the stakeholders
- February
  - ▣ Meeting with stakeholders (OSEP)
- March
  - ▣ Draft training and technical assistance plan to the stakeholder
- April
  - ▣ Meeting to discuss the draft plan with the stakeholders
- June
  - ▣ Finalized plan given to the stakeholders
- July
  - ▣ Begin year one training and technical assistance

# Communication

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- Primary Contact:
  - NJOSEP Teams (district specific) listed in binder