

Louisiana Department of Education
Report to the Developmental Disabilities Council - April 2022

Guidance for Leading Inclusive Special Education Programs

School systems often face unique and complex challenges in improving outcomes for students with disabilities. Addressing these challenges is multifaceted and requires leaders who can effectively coordinate programming within and across departments and schools to increase access to inclusive learning opportunities for students with disabilities. In January, the Department began releasing a series of guidance materials for Leading Inclusive Special Education Programs. Each guidance document covers a critical topic for special education programming. Following the release of each guidance document, a webinar is available to school systems to support implementation. School system leaders are encouraged to review the guidance materials and attend webinars in partnership with special education leaders.

The first three topics released were [Leveraging Data to Align Budgets and Spending to Priorities](#), [Creating Compliant Systems for Student Success](#), and [Staff Well-Being](#). Future topics will include student well-being, creating a student-centered vision of teaching and learning, positive behavior intervention, identifying, engaging and managing stakeholders, and inclusive and accessible learning.

IDEA Budget Stakeholder Input

The Department is currently in the [public comment](#) period of the [draft](#) of our IDEA budget application for FFY22. We received 553 responses to our stakeholder survey. The grant application requires states to outline how state-level set aside funds will be spent in 15 different categories. To date, the final allocations each state will receive has not yet been released. OSEP has advised states to prepare the application using allocations from the FFY 21 application, and upon receipt of the allocation tables, to insert the most updated information with the application and repost during the public participation timeline. The dollar amounts shown in the Description of Activities may change based on the total allocation received from the federal government. The Department will update this document, along with other application documents, when allocations are received.

SPED Fellow Academy: Cohort 3

[SPED Fellow Academy](#) is a year-long, comprehensive development program for novice special education leaders across the state. To improve our special education leadership pipeline, this year, applications will be open to special education coordinators who plan to be school system special education leaders in the next 3-5 years. The fellowship provides in-person training, coaching and a community of practice that will instill the knowledge and skills that the next generation of leaders need to lead and sustain change to improve outcomes for students with disabilities. The second cohort will run in 2022-2023. Applications for the upcoming school year will open on April 11, 2022 and close on May 13, 2022.

SEAP Vacancies

SEAP Panel members each serve 3 year terms, and appointments are staggered so that $\frac{1}{3}$ of membership rotates off at the end of each year. Members serve no more than 2 consecutive terms and must reapply at the end of their term. [Applications](#) for vacant positions will be posted on the Department website three months before term ends, and will be accepted for thirty days. Vacancies will be advertised in April 2022, with interviews in May 2022 and appointments in June 2022.

2022 Special Education Parent Involvement Survey

Each year the Department surveys parents of children with disabilities who receive special education services. The purpose of the survey is to seek feedback on how well schools help to involve parents in the education of their children. We use this information to guide our efforts to improve services and results for children with disabilities and enhance family involvement. The 2022 Special Education Parent Involvement Survey is now available.

The Department uses a sampling method to collect this information. Each year, we select school systems to participate in the survey. Parents in the selected school systems should receive information to participate in the survey from their child's school. A list of participating school systems is available on our [Special Education Parent Involvement Survey webpage](#) on the Louisiana Believes website. If parents would like to complete the survey, but their child's school district or charter school is not participating, they can still **[complete the survey here](#)**. The survey will be available until June 30.