

SELF ASSESSMENT PROCEDURES FOR DISTRICTS WHO HAVE SPECIAL EDUCATION MONITORING IN THE 2012-13 SCHOOL YEAR

SPECIAL EDUCATION MONITORING SELF ASSESSMENT PROCESS

The self assessment process occurs during the year prior to a district's scheduled special education compliance review. The self assessment consists of four main activities:

- The district will conduct Improvement Planning and submit an Improvement Plan to the Department, if required, based on district data.
- The district will conduct a File Review. Some review items will be triggered by district data and other items will be completed by all districts.
- The district will submit related file review documents to the Department.
- The district will submit a Data report that includes initial evaluation timelines and Part C to B timelines. Part C to B transition timelines will be reported in both the initial timeline and Part C to B timeline sections of IMACS.

Improvement Plans:

RPDC Consultants and Department staff will review Improvement Plans. The Department staff will provide feedback on the Improvement Plan, and if it is not written at an "acceptable" level based on a review using the scoring guide which has been developed, the district will have one opportunity to make changes and re-submit the plan to the Department.

Timelines for Self Assessment:

- Improvement plans are due by **March 1, 2012**.
- File reviews must be completed and results submitted to DESE by **March 1, 2012**.
- The Department Special Education Compliance Section will request documentation from the files of specific students for the desk review after **March 1, 2012**. The requested documentation can be uploaded using IMACS, mailed or faxed to the Department.
- Data on timelines will cover the period from **July 1, 2011 to April 30, 2012**, and will be due by **May 15, 2012**.

Self-assessment and the IMACS system:

The IMACS (Improvement Monitoring, Accountability and Compliance System) will provide information to each responsible public agency regarding what SPP indicators require completion of an improvement plan and file review. The IMACS will only provide the applications (Improvement Plan, File Review, and Timelines) required for the special education monitoring process if it is the year prior to the district's federal monitoring review. Charter Schools or other agencies may be scheduled for a monitoring review also.

IMACS will be the system into which the district will enter the File Review and required Data on Timelines. The district may use IMACS to provide documentation for the verification reviews conducted by the Department. If a Corrective Action Plan is necessary, it will be completed and submitted through IMACS.

The system will summarize results of individual file reviews and provide an avenue for communication between the local education agency and the Department.

Logging on to IMACS

Districts must request a Login ID for the IMACS system for everyone at the district who needs access. This must be done through the Department's IT department using the "the Department's Web Systems User ID Request Form" which can be found on the Department web site at:

<http://k12apps.dese.mo.gov/webapps/securityforms.asp>.

Districts will be asked to designate someone as the "Administrator" of the IMACS system. **The administrator designates district level duties for all other users in their district.** This is a two-part process: first, the administrator will designate the names of people in the district allowed to access the IMACS system; second, when those people have been granted access, the administrator will need to enter IMACS again to designate the type of access each individual may have. Those choices are: edit, submit, and view. **Please be aware that if "view" is chosen, that person may ONLY view activity in IMACS.**

(NOTE: Do not attempt to log onto IMACS until you have received notification from the Department that IMACS is ready for you to use.)

When using the system for the first time, the "Administrator" will go to the Department's homepage at: <http://dese.mo.gov> Click on "Web Application Login" and follow the login prompts. When the web menu page opens, IMACS will be an option under the Special Education heading.

When IMACS is selected, the user will be directed to the IMACS program. The administrator will use the "Agency Maintenance" screen at the bottom of the IMACS home page to designate duties for other users in the district. From that point, all authorized users will have access to the system based upon the level of security the "Administrator" has deemed appropriate.

Conducting the file review:

General information:

- When making determinations, it will be important to read the entire indicator and refer to your Standards and Indicators Manual in order to be sure the compliance call is made correctly. Do not rely only on the brief checklist summary language.
- **Select files from the current and prior school year, either the '10-'11 or '11-'12 school years.**
- Transition indicators apply only to files for students age 16+ unless you have checked the box for transition on the demographics screen for that child.
- Do not review files of students that were found ineligible.
- Files should be selected randomly and should represent a cross section of the agency's buildings as well as children with a variety of disabilities and placements. It is preferable to select a variety of ages and grades, including ECSE.
- Some SPP indicators will trigger a checklist for discipline documentation for students. If you have files that include discipline documentation, please include at least one of those students in your file review selection.
- 100% of all noncompliance must be corrected within one year.

Numbers of files to select:

It is difficult to clearly define the number of files the district will need to review, since each district's review will be individualized based on the performance data. However, all districts will complete some file review. The following chart represents general guidelines on numbers of files districts should review.

Based on the December 1, 2010 child count for the agency, the following number of files should be used as a guideline for conducting file reviews:

11-100	minimum of 10 files reviewed
100-200	minimum of 15-25 files reviewed
200-1000	minimum of 25-40 files reviewed
1000	minimum of 40-60 files reviewed

The district will need to select a portion of files of children who were initially evaluated and of children who have had a re-evaluation in the present or preceding school year. The district will

Sending self assessment and supporting documentation to the Department:

Supporting documentation should be mailed or emailed to the Department. File review results, timeline data, and Improvement Plans will be recorded in IMACS. IEPs and all other supporting documents used to make decisions about compliance on any indicators will be submitted to the Department after the Department has notified the district of which sample files they need to send.

Bypass any uploading requests in IMACS. The Department is not currently using the uploading process.

The completed file review and the required Improvement Plan must be submitted to the Department by March 1, 2012. Data on timelines will be submitted by May 15, 2012 in order to include data through the end of April 2012.

The Department's review of self assessment documentation and determination of compliance:

To reiterate, the step by step process is as follows:

1. The district submits its self assessment documentation to the Department.
2. Compliance Supervisors complete a desk review to verify the results of the district's file review using submitted IEPs, evaluation reports, reviews of existing data, meeting notifications, referrals, prior written notice and other supporting documents from the files the district reviewed.
3. If the Department finds non-compliance that was not identified by the district for that particular child and that indicator, the Department will change the call for that child on that indicator, which may shift the district's overall percentage for that indicator from "in compliance" to "out of compliance".
4. The district will need to complete a Corrective Action Plan in addition to correcting individual child non-compliance, as appropriate. The Corrective Action Plan (CAP) will be completed and submitted through IMACS.
5. Non-compliance must be corrected within 12 months.

Individual child noncompliance must be corrected (as appropriate) within three months. If only one child's file out of 10 reviewed was found out of compliance on an indicator, the district will need to correct that non-compliance. Not all indicators that are called "NO" for a particular child can be corrected but the Report of Individual Student Noncompliance will indicate which indicators should be corrected. When conducting follow up for compliance within the year following the final report, the Department will request documentation on just a sampling of these cases where individual child noncompliance was identified and will verify that noncompliance was corrected.

CAP Process:

If a Corrective Action Plan (CAP) is required, the district will submit the CAP to the Department via IMACS. Within 30 days of the date on the letter from the Department notifying the district of identified noncompliance and a required CAP, the CAP must be submitted to the Department. Compliance Supervisors will review the CAP and approve it or send it back to the district with comments for revision. Districts may begin submitting documentation verifying the correction of non-compliance any time after their CAP has been approved. All identified noncompliance must be corrected within 12 months of the date on the letter from the Department notifying the district of identified non-compliance.

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