Missouri Special Education Advisory Panel

Annual Report

Beverly Woodhurst, Chair

Fiscal Year 2008-09

Letter from the Chairperson

To Whom It May Concern:

This annual report of the Missouri Special Education Advisory Panel is respectfully submitted for public review. The past year was a year of great accomplishments, great sadness and great team work. There was much team building and collaboration among the panel members and the Department of Elementary and Secondary Education.

Over the last year, the state saw changes within graduation and dropout rates. Services and supports increased among school districts to better educate all students. There was also an increase in graduation requirements.

Throughout the year, the panel reviewed regulations while the subcommittees continued to work behind the scene to provide a more broad educated vision to the Department and panel.

The panel welcomed many new faces, as well as said good bye to some that had been involved for many years. Their information and dedication to the panel will always be remembered and greatly appreciated. Many new ideas and comments were brought to the table to make the panel work more effectively in an advisory role.

We also lost one of the most respected members of the department, Dr. Kent King. With the death of Dr. King, there were a lot of memories shared about his passion for equal education among all of Missouri's children and his commitment to the department. He will be greatly missed. A big thank you goes to the Department staff for their valuable information, Heidi Atkins Lieberman for her awesome expertise and informational updates, and to Lina Browner for her dedication and organization.

Advisory panel meetings are open to the public and anyone with an interest is encouraged to attend. If you have needs addressed by the Americans with Disabilities Act and need an alternate format of this letter, please call 573-751-5739 and efforts will be made to accommodate your request.

Sincerely,

Beverly Woodhurst

Beverly Woodhurst
Chairperson

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Introduction

This annual report of the Missouri Special Education Advisory Panel (SEAP) is respectfully submitted to the Commissioner of the Department of Elementary and Secondary Education (DESE) for the state of Missouri. The reporting period is June 1, 2008, through May 31, 2009. The annual report is a summary of panel activities and recommendations during the reporting period. The panel operates in a collaborative spirit with DESE's Division of Special Education in identifying and addressing areas of concern. The panel convenes on a regular basis to review issues relevant to special education in Missouri. Subcommittees meet throughout the year to examine specific target areas. The panel is composed of stakeholders including:

- Parents of children with disabilities;
- Individuals with disabilities;
- Teachers;
- Representatives of institutions of higher education that prepare special education and related services personnel;
- State and local education officials including official who carries out activities under the McKinney-Vento Homeless Assistance Act (42 USC 11431et seg.);
- Administrators of programs for children with disabilities;
- Representatives of state agencies involved in the financing or delivery of related services to children with disabilities;
- Representatives of private schools and public charter schools;
- A representative of a vocational, community, or business organization concerned with the provision of transition services;
- A representative from the state child welfare agency responsible for foster care; and,
- A representative from the state juvenile and adult corrections agencies.

Advisory Panel Duties

The advisory panel is authorized under the Individuals with Disabilities Education Act (IDEA). The role of the panel is advisory and not advocacy. The panel provides policy guidance on special education and related services and carries out those specific and general functions set forth in IDEA. The panel shall:

- Advise the Department of Elementary and Secondary Education (DESE) of unmet needs within the state in the education of children with disabilities;
- Comment publicly on any rules or regulations proposed by the state regarding the education of children with disabilities;
- Advise DESE in developing evaluations and reporting on data to the U. S. Department of Education under Section 618 of the Act;
- Advise DESE in developing corrective action plans to address findings identified in federal monitoring reports under Part B of the Act;
- Advise DESE in developing and implementing policies relating to the coordination of services for children with disabilities;
- Advise DESE in review of complaints and due process hearings; and,
- Advise on programs for eligible students with disabilities in juvenile and adult corrections agencies.

Missouri's Vision for Special Education Services

We, the people of Missouri, believe that diversity enhances our culture; therefore, we commit our resources and efforts to accept, educate, and support all children and youth. All children and youth, being of diverse backgrounds and abilities, will have access to all learning activities with accommodations and supports to enable them to succeed. All children and youth are actively engaged in creating their own futures; are prepared for life as independent, informed, and empowered citizens; and, are embraced as vital, valued, and contributing members of their communities.

Therefore, we need inclusive communities and schools that:

- Recognize that all children and youth can learn;
- Commit to providing equitable opportunities for all children and youth;
- Build on the individual strengths and abilities of each child and youth;
- Collaborate for the benefit of all children and youth; and,
- Recognize and involve families as full partners.

The Special Education Advisory Panel is committed to this vision. We believe all children, including those in special education, are entitled to and deserving of fair and equitable treatment by the educational system. We believe all local school systems and all students should be held to the highest standards and all students should receive an appropriate and quality education to prepare them for life beyond the school years.

The panel recognizes there have always been and will continue to be challenges in providing an appropriate education for each individual student. It is the firm belief and commitment of this panel that the needs of the individual student should be the prime concern of those involved in creating an individualized program. The panel feels a strong responsibility to represent the interests of all students in special education in achieving the best possible outcomes for them in the educational process. The best outcomes can be achieved when all stakeholders work together in a collaborative manner for the best interests of the individual student.

Panel Activities

The advisory panel engages in a number of activities to fulfill its role of advising the Division on special education issues. The following describes activities from 2008-09.

1. Missouri State Performance Plan (SPP)

   The reauthorized Individuals with Disabilities Education Act (IDEA) of 2004 established a series of monitoring priority areas which states must address for students with disabilities. In turn, the Office of Special Education Programs (OSEP) subsequently established performance indicators for each of the priority areas.

One year from the date of the reauthorization of the IDEA 2004, all states were required to develop and submit to OSEP a State Performance Plan (SPP). The SPP was to indicate, for each of the priority performance indicators, the state's "measurable and rigorous" targets for performance from 2006 through 2011. The plan also had to specify improvement activities which were reasonably calculated to ensure the state would reach the targets by 2011. Missouri submitted its SPP on December 1, 2005. On an annual basis thereafter, the state must submit an Annual Performance Report (APR) on progress made towards the targets and the activities completed during the fiscal year, along with any necessary revisions to the SPP. In February 2007, Missouri submitted its first Annual Performance Report (APR) for 2005-06. The second APR was submitted in February 2008 with the third submitted in February 2009. The panel has an active role in reviewing the SPP and APR and serves as the primary stakeholders group for the process. The SPP and APR documents are located on the Division's website at the following address: dese.mo.gov/divspeced/SPPpage.html.

- Increasing student performance is the objective of the SPP. Student performance is everyone's job. It is important to ensure students with disabilities have access to the general education curriculum and environment so they may acquire the skills they need to transition successfully to post-secondary education or employment.
- Each year, the state is required to report to OSEP its progress toward meeting the targets on the SPP. The state is also required to report publicly the performance of every district in the state on each of the indicators.
- Monitoring of districts in the fourth cycle of MSIP (2006-07 through 2010-11) will be focused on district's performance on the indicators, rather than on procedural compliance.

	SPP Indicator	Data Source	2007-08 State Performance	2007-08 Target	2010-11 Target
1	Graduation rate for students with disabilities	DESE Core Data	73.4%	≥75.0%	≥75.0%
2	Dropout rate for students with disabilities	DESE Core Data	5.2%	≤4.3%	≤4.8%
3a	Percent of districts meeting AYP	DESE Assessment	18.3%	≥34.0%	≥37.0%
3b	Participation rate for children with IEPs on statewide assessments	DESE Assessment	99.6%	≥95.0%	≥95.0%
3c	Proficiency rate for children with IEPs on statewide assessments	DESE Assessment	CA 19.1% Math 22.7%	CA ≥51.0% Math ≥45.0%	CA ≥75.5% Math ≥72.5%
4a	Percent of districts identified as having significant discrepancies in suspension/expulsion rates	DESE Core Data	0.0%	≤1.2%	0.5%
4b	Percent of districts identified as having significant discrepancies in suspension/expulsion rates by race/ethnicity	DESE Core Data	N/A	N/A	N/A
5a	Percent of children with IEPs inside regular class > 79% of the day	DESE Core Data	57.1%	≥59.0%	≥59.5%
5b	Percent of children with IEPs inside regular class < 40% of the day	DESE Core Data	10.0%	≤10.8%	≤10.2%
5c	Percent of children with IEPs served in segregated settings	DESE Core Data	3.70%	≤3.40%	≤3.50%
6	Percent of children ages 3-5 with IEPs in settings with typically developing peers	DESE Core Data	N/A	N/A	N/A
7	Percent of preschool children with IEPs who demonstrate improved a. positive social-emotional skills b. acquisition and use of knowledge and skills c. use of appropriate behaviors to meet needs	New collection	NA	TBD	TBD
8	Percent of parents who report school facilitated parent involvement as a means of improving services and results for children with disabilities	MSIP Parent Survey	72.3%	≥72.5%	≥80.0%
9	Percent of districts with disproportionate representation of racial and ethnic groups in special education and related services that is the result of inappropriate identification	DESE Core Data	0.0%	=0.0%	=0.0%
10	Percent of districts with disproportionate representation of racial and ethnic groups in specific disability categories that is the result of inappropriate identification	DESE Core Data	0.0%	=0.0%	=0.0%
11	Percent of children with parental consent to evaluate who were evaluated and eligibility determined within 60 days	New collection via MSIP cycle	97.1%	=100.0%	=100.0%
12	Percent of children referred by Part C prior to age 3, who are found eligible for Part B, and who have an IEP developed and implemented by their third birthdays	Collected via MSIP cycle	88.6%	=100.0%	=100.0%

	SPP Indicator	Data Source	2007-08 State Performance	2007-08 Target	2010-11 Target
13	Percent of youth age 16 and above with an IEP that includes coordinated, measurable, annual IEP goals and transition services that will reasonably enable the student to meet the post-secondary goals	New collection via MSIP cycle	82.5%	=100.0%	=100.0%
14	Percent of youth who had IEPs, are no longer in secondary school, and who have been competitively employed, enrolled in some type of postsecondary school, or both, within one year of leaving high school	DESE Core Data and new collection for dropout follow-up	74.6%	≥74.0%	≥75.5%
15	Percent of findings of noncompliance corrected within 12 months	Compliance	100.0%	=100.0%	=100.0%
16	Percent of complaints resolved within 60 day or extended timelines	Child complaint/ due process database	100.0%	=100.0%	=100.0%
17	Percent of due process hearings fully adjudicated within 45 day or appropriately extended timelines	Child complaint/ due process database	100.0%	=100.0%	=100.0%
18	Percent of hearing requests that went to resolution sessions that were resolved through resolution session settlement agreements	Child complaint/ due process database	48.8%	≥35.0%	≥35.3%
19	Percent of mediations that result in a mediation agreement	Child complaint/ due process database	64.7%	≥35.0%	≥35.3%
20	Percent of state reported data that are timely and accurate	Federal reports	100.0%	=100.0%	=100.0%

NA designates 2007-08 data or targets that were not available or required in the SPP.
TBD designates targets are to be determined in a future SPP revision.

2. Formal Recommendations to DESE

Formal Recommendation #9 (Guidelines/Parameters for a Child Complaint Review, June 2004)

There was a database in place to track the survey information. The division was receiving very few child complaint surveys returned and DESE staff discussed options for getting more surveys returned. At the June 6, 2008, panel meeting, a recommendation was made and approved to end the Child Complaint Survey based on various factors including the survey's failure to elicit useful information.

3. Participation in OSEP Conference

Heidi Atkins Lieberman (DESE), Pam Williams (DESE), and Lynda Roberts (vice-chair of SEAP), attended the U.S. Department of Education's Office of Special Education Programs (OSEP) Leadership Conference in August 2008. The conference was very informative. The sessions attended emphasized progression and system's change at the elementary, middle and secondary levels.

4. Amendments to the Bylaws

   Revisions were reviewed and passed at the SEAP meeting on March 3, 2009. Revisions were made within Article III - Sections I, II, III, IV, and V.

5. Synopsis of Panel Meeting Activities for FY 09

   For more detailed information on the meeting minutes, go to the following link: dese.mo.gov/divspeced/Administration/AdvisoryPanel/AdvisoryPanelMinutes.html.

Panel Meetings

Panel Meeting – June 6, 2008

Assistive Technology Presentation – Diane Golden and David Baker from Missouri Assistive Technology (MoAT) presented information on assistive technology. To view the presentation and handouts, go to the panel's website listed above. For more information about the Assistive Technology Center, go to www.at.mo.gov/.

Missouri Integrated Model – Ronda Jenson from UM-KC presented information on the Missouri Integrated Model. To view the presentation and handout, go to the panel's website: dese.mo.gov/divspeced/Administration/AdvisoryPanel/94142meetings.html.

DESE Update

- **State Board Meetings** – April meeting: Heidi Atkins Lieberman, Dr. Janet Farmer, Pam Williams, and Jeanne Lloyd conducted a working session on Autism Spectrum Disorders. May meeting: Response to Intervention (RtI) presentation by Dr. Erica Lembke, University of Missouri-Columbia. State Board suspended the CAN! Charter School for one year and voted to extend the transition board running St. Louis City School District for a three-year period.
- **IDEA Regulations** - The new IDEA regulations are out for public and panel members' comment. Information regarding this was sent via the SELS listserve.
- **Standards Based IEP Training** - The statewide Standards Based IEP training was held with a second training anticipated in the fall.
- **Missouri Schools for Severely Disabled (MSSD)** – MSSD serves approximately 1,000 students (these students primarily are severely to profoundly mentally retarded and many have medically fragile conditions). Students served in this manner have segregated placement justified as their least restrictive environment. There are no plans to close the MSSD. For more information, go to dese.mo.gov/divspeced/Administration/AdvisoryPanel/APMhndout06_08.html.
- **Cooperatives** – DESE has encouraged the formation of cooperatives that are tied closely to the low-incidence populations and continue to fund the startup of these cooperatives. At this time, 86 school districts have been funded to startup ten cooperatives as a way for districts to pool their resources.

- **Training for Parent Advocates -** As a follow-up to a request made at the last panel meeting, Heidi Atkins Lieberman talked with Mary Kay Savage about IEP facilitation and training for parent advocates. Ms. Savage indicated to Ms. Atkins Lieberman that MPACT discusses this in their parent mentor training. Ms. Savage was asked to present on this topic at a future panel meeting.
- **No Child Left Behind (NCLB) -** Heidi Atkins Lieberman indicated she was unsure but did not expect any language specific to RtI to be included in the revisions to NCLB based on information she has received from NASDSE.
- **Temporary Authorization Certificates (TAC)** – A handout was emailed to panel members prior to the meeting (see panel's website for a copy).
- **End of Course Exams** – Only a few adjustments were needed after pilot testing. The FAQ for end of course exams was sent via the SELS listserve. Panel members were encouraged to email Heidi Atkins Lieberman with any additional questions for her to share with appropriate staff.

Miscellaneous

- **Subcommittee Meetings -** Reformation of the committees to ensure adequate attendance and more even distribution between committees was discussed. A suggestion was made to conduct this reformation at the end of each fiscal year. Additional discussion was made in regard to combining some committees based upon duties and committee size. The process would be conducted through members indicating 1st through 3rd choices after being given a description of the duties of each subcommittee. After panel members submitted subcommittee choices, the panel chairperson conducted committee assignments. A decision was made for subcommittees to meet immediately following the Call to Order/Introductions/Approval of Minutes and Comments from the Public for approximately one hour.
- **Formal Recommendation #9** – After panel discussions, the panel voted to end the child complaint surveys and to close formal recommendation #9.
- **Programs Subcommittee** – Martha Crabtree indicated the subcommittee would like presentations or additional information on:
  - the retention of teachers;
  - training opportunities available for parents, paraprofessionals, and teachers;
  - cooperatives (with possibly one or two coop representatives present);
  - educational surrogates;
  - evidence-based instruction; and,
  - special education funding (how special education funds are distributed to districts).
- **Evaluation** – The annual report was approved with the two corrections from the March 2008 minutes.
- **Monitoring** – The Executive Committee and the Monitoring Subcommittee recently met via conference call to appoint Sherri Tucker the new chair for the Monitoring Subcommittee.
- **Public Comment** – Jeaneal Alexander indicated the panel now has an email address that can be used for public comments listed on the Division's webpage with a disclaimer notifying the individual submitting a comment that they will not receive an answer or response. Only subcommittee members will have access to view the emails.
- **Nominations** – Trish Grassa indicated there are some panel vacancies which are in the process of being filled.

- At the December panel meeting, Dr. John Heskett from the Department of Mental Health had reported his office requested an appropriation from the legislature that would have funded mental health professionals in school districts. Update by Kris Callen: This request did not pass and will not be available to school districts.
- Martha Crabtree indicated that the Missouri Division of Learning Disabilities will be holding their midsummer conference on July 17, 2008.

Panel Meeting – September 11, 2008

Special Education Coops - Shelley Witherbee, Director, Funds Management Section, discussed the Special Education Coops. The presentation is available at dese.mo.gov/divspeced/Administration/AdvisoryPanel/94142meetings.html. Additional information about Coops is available at dese.mo.gov/divspeced/Finance/. Kimbra Mullenix, Ford County Coop, discussed with the panel her Coop and its duties.

Division of Youth Services Award - Martha Crabtree reported that the Division of Youth Services received the Innovation in America Award from Harvard Institute at a ceremony with the Governor.

OSEP Leadership Conference - Lynda Roberts (attending as SEAP representative) and Heidi Atkins Lieberman recently attended the OSEP Leadership Conference in Baltimore. Sessions included those that emphasized reading progression at the elementary level and a session on the Memphis' reading program funded by the U. S. Department of Education which focused on students in middle school and secondary school. The Memphis program is only in its second year so they did not have much data to share.

Learning Disabilities Association Conference - Learning Disabilities Association offered a special SEAP panel member scholarship of $65 to attend their conference October 3-4, 2008, at Tan-Tar-A by indicating "SEAP Member-$65" on the registration form. Heidi Atkins Lieberman offered a free pass for one SEAP member to attend.

Family Partnership Program - Bev Woodhurst reported that the Family Partnership Program is having their annual retreat on November 7-8, 2008, for families providing services to a child with special needs at the Best Western in Columbia. There was a 150 participant maximum (expenses will be reimbursed). Funding for the retreat was provided by the Department of Health and Senior Services.

DESE Update

- **Educational Surrogate Program** – Information was provided regarding the educational surrogate program which included the procedures for assigning students an educational surrogate. DESE is always interested in recruiting new educational surrogates. If interested in becoming an educational surrogate, send an email to webreplyspec@dese.mo.gov.
- **SEAP Orientation** – The SEAP orientation was videotaped and will be available on DVD and CD to be provided to new members of the panel that were unable to attend the orientation and to new members as they are appointed to the panel. If anyone else is interested in a copy, send an email to lina.browner@dese.mo.gov.

- **Recruiting -** DESE is recruiting individuals to fill the following positions: Director of Special Education Compliance Section (Margaret Strecker is retiring on September 19, 2008) and Coordinator of the First Steps Program (Joyce Jackman is retiring on September 12, 2008).
- **State Determination -** DESE received the "met the requirements" state determination label from the U. S. Department of Education. The Division notified districts/agencies of their determination label. Approximately 520 districts/agencies received the "met the requirements" label.
- **Missouri Integrated Model (MIM)** – Through the support of a State Personnel Development Grant (SPDG) funded by the U. S. Department of Education, Missouri has been researching, developing, and implementing an integrated process of supporting student learning. A central theme in the Missouri Integrated Model framework is a focus on supporting academic achievement and successful behavior through tiered levels of support that acknowledge and address diversity in student learning. Fourteen districts were selected to pilot this program and will be evaluated to determine if it is worthwhile. Heidi Atkins Lieberman will keep the panel updated on the status of the MIM since Missouri is getting a lot of attention from the national level.
- **Exploration of the Statewide Electronic IEP System** – Heidi Atkins Lieberman reported on meetings she has been attending on the possibility of a statewide electronic IEP system. The first meeting started with a small group of district representatives to discuss issues, advantages/disadvantages, and what IEP formats schools are currently using. The second meeting included people with diverse backgrounds and perspectives. Heidi Atkins Lieberman indicated the next step is for her to discuss with Dr. Bert Schulte and the Commissioner to see if DESE wants to move forward. If so, several vendors will be invited to meet with the group to discuss what options they have available. The panel will be kept updated.
- **New Directors' Institute** – New special education directors attended the New Directors' Institute in July 2008. Approximately 40 new directors attended and received information on Compliance, Funding, Effective Practices, Data, etc. A follow-up session will be presented at the MOCASE conference for those who attended the training.
- **Blind Task Force (BTF)** – Heidi Atkins Lieberman is a member of the BTF. Their focus is on students who are blind or visually impaired. The BTF is moving toward a focus on student achievement for students who are blind or visually impaired. The BTF is concerned about rural areas which may not have access to teachers for the blind/visually impaired.
- **Post Secondary Transition Institute** – This is an annual institute. The Missouri Interagency Transition Team is looking at education for children going through transition and statewide system changes/updates. The Community of Practice is an online group where individuals can share techniques as well as Q&A with experts. The website is dese.mo.gov/divspeced/EffectivePractices/mo_comm_pract.htm. The Community of Practice is a closed group that is occasionally open to everyone (when that happens, a SELS message will be sent).
- **Deaf and Hard of Hearing Workshop** – DESE purchased a workshop from the National Association of State Directors of Special Education (NASDSE) for public school district administrators about Meeting the Needs of Students who are Deaf and Hard of Hearing (HOH). This workshop is designed to deliver the most current information and work on identified state issues as well as proposed solutions for improving educational services for students who are Deaf/HOH. The workshop will be held in Jefferson City on October 2-3, 2008.

- **Standards Based IEP Training** – A training was held in June but due to the diversity of the group it was decided that another Standards-Based IEP workshop would be held on November 19, 2008, in mid-Missouri primarily for teachers and individuals who serve as LEA representatives on IEP teams. A webinar training will be scheduled for administrators on Standards-Based IEPs. During the webinar, the emphasis will be about understanding the purpose and requirements of standards-based IEPs and will include some information about IEP development processes. Watch SELS messages for additional information.
- **Monthly Special Education Webinars** – The monthly webinars will resume on October 8, 2008. To view a webinar or review the Q&A, go to dese.mo.gov/divspeced/mnthlywebstrmHAL.html.

Miscellaneous

- **Parent Advocates/IEP Facilitation/Parent Mentor Training** – Mary Kay Savage presented information regarding parent advocates. To review her presentation, go to dese.mo.gov/divspeced/Administration/AdvisoryPanel/94142meetings.html. A list of MPACT certified parent mentors can be found on their website at www.ptimpact.com/. MPACT is a private organization funded as a contractor by DESE and OSEP.
- **Evaluation** – Lynda Roberts indicated the annual report was approved, published and is available online at: dese.mo.gov/divspeced/Administration/AdvisoryPanel/94142reports.html. The subcommittee will begin reviewing the APR soon. Heidi Atkins Lieberman indicated the preliminary data will be available at the December 2008 meeting.
- **Rules and Regulations** – Ray Wicks indicated they discussed their three responsibilities. Heidi asked the subcommittee to work with the nomination subcommittee to review the nomination form and suggest revisions if necessary. Ray indicated they will bring back their findings and recommendations, if needed, at the December 2008 meeting. The committee also discussed end of year exams. Heidi Atkins Lieberman indicated many questions have been answered and are posted on the web at www.dese.mo.gov/divimprove/assess/eoc/.
- **Monitoring** – Sherri Tucker will be reviewing the Annual Performance Report (APR), State Performance Plan (SPP), Corrective Action Plans (CAP), and Improvement Plans (IP). The subcommittee plans to review the child complaint and due process data before the December 2008 meeting through a conference call and asked for Lina Browner to send preliminary data to them in mid to late November 2008.
- **Programs** – Martha Crabtree reminded panel members that DESE has a SELS archives (located at dese.mo.gov/divspeced/Listserv_Archives.html). The subcommittee would like discussion on information gained through parent surveys used during the MSIP process presented at a future meeting. She expressed the committee's concern over the shortage of educational surrogates. Heidi Atkins Lieberman stated the Division looks to stakeholders to help recruit. The subcommittee would like to continue discussion of the retention of special education teachers and the kind of activities that are being done elsewhere to retain quality special education teachers.
- **Public Comment** – Jeaneal Alexander indicated the panel now has a website/email address for individuals to send comments to the Public Comment subcommittee at dese.mo.gov/divspeced/Administration/AdvisoryPanel/94142feedback.html.

Panel Meeting – December 12, 2008

MSIP Presentation – Pam Williams, Coordinator of Special Education Services, presented information on MSIP and special education. To view the PowerPoint presentation, go to: dese.mo.gov/divspeced/Administration/AdvisoryPanel/APMhndout12_08.html.

DESE Update

- **End of Course Exams -** DESE is considering whether to permit an exception for students with disabilities for the four follow-up end of course exams (not the first four end of course exams) based on the student's IEP decision. The panel has indicated they would like to see DESE pursue this exception.
- **SELS/SELS2** – This is the Division's main method of communication to school districts including information on technical assistance, professional development opportunities, funding, etc. Panel members not already receiving SELS/SELS2 messages are encouraged to sign up at dese.mo.gov/divspeced/Listserv_Archives.html#Subscribe.
- **Missouri Integrated Model (MIM)** – Missouri was awarded a five year grant from the U. S. Department of Education with 14 districts selected to pilot the model. The pilot districts/schools are in their "preparation" phase with the implementation to begin next school year. This is a regular education initiative with the Division of School Improvement and Division of Career Education in collaboration with the Division of Special Education. At this time, the federal funding has been decreased from what had been originally indicated.
- **Teacher Retention -** Many states provide some type of financial incentive and Missouri has been reviewing what other states are doing regarding teacher retention. In Missouri, financial incentives are sometimes provided by local districts; however, stakeholders in Missouri do have concerns about the use of these incentives since it causes competition among different types of teachers/providers.
- **Due Process Hearings/Disclosure** – The 2007-08 due process hearing decisions link dese.mo.gov/divspeced/Complaint_System/07-08_DPDecision.html was sent to panel members prior to the meeting and a hard copy of each decision was available at the meeting for panel members to review. A summary sheet handout provided a summary of the data in connection to these decisions along with the data reports provided to the SEAP.
- **Regional Response to Intervention (RtI) Meeting** – A team of staff from the divisions of School Improvement, Career Education, and Special Education attended the Regional (RtI) meeting in Chicago recently. Missouri is currently in the spotlight with the work being done with three-tiered models of intervention through School-Wide Positive Behavior Supports (PBS), Professional Learning Communities (PLC), High Schools that Work, Reading First, and RtI. Missouri is only one of a few states to be given the opportunity to receive high intensity technical assistance and resources from the National Center on RtI because of the collaboration shown between special education and regular education and because Missouri has come far in implementing three-tiered models.
- **Blind Task Force (BTF)** – The BTF is looking for candidates to fill a couple of important positions currently vacant. They need an employer that works for an agency/organization that employs youth who are blind or visually impaired (someone in a supervisory position) and there is a position available for a high school student who is blind or visually impaired. The nomination form is located at dese.mo.gov/divspeced/Blind/documents/btfnomform-4-08.pdf.

- **Exploration of the Statewide Electronic IEP System** – A group of DESE staff and stakeholders recently met with several potential vendors to give the group an idea of what is currently available and what a Request for Proposal (RFP) would need to contain. If DESE decides to move forward, the next step will be to develop an RFP for vendor bids. MOCASE recently did a survey and found that most districts would make the switch once they finished their current vendor contract. Cost structures have not been developed but it is assumed this would be cheaper than districts contracting on their own. There are no intentions of making the system mandatory.
- **Draft State Performance Plan (SPP)/Annual Performance Report (APR)** – The draft SPP/APR was emailed to panel members prior to the meeting for their review. When IDEA was reauthorized in 2004, it included provisions for each state to develop a state performance plan and, as part of that requirement, each year the Division has to submit an APR to the U. S. Department of Education. There are specific categories along with specific indicators for each category that must be covered in the SPP/APR. Each state is required to establish targets for meeting these indicators for a six year period (received stakeholder input). Those targets can change and the Division is proposing changes to the targets for three indicators. Proposed changes and feedback were discussed with the panel and the panel agreed to accept the proposed revisions to the SPP and APR.
- **Child Complaint Written Decisions** – Sherri Tucker, panel member, expressed concern with the number of child complaints showing that districts were out of compliance. She was also curious as to the social economic status of the families involved with the withdrawals. She questioned if DESE collected information about whether students stayed in the district or moved to a different district after child complaints were withdrawn. DESE does not collect this information. Child complaints being withdrawn could be for a number of reasons – it could be the parent and district reached an agreement and not necessarily that the family wanted to move to a different district.

Miscellaneous

- **Rules and Regulations -** The subcommittee along with the Nominations subcommittee discussed the regulation making up membership of the advisory panel. A draft survey is being sent to the panel chair and Heidi Atkins Lieberman for consideration and then to panel members for their review and comments.
- **Programs** – The subcommittee is reviewing information from other states regarding retaining and recruiting special education teachers. They would like to provide some suggestions to DESE. The subcommittee also felt that a presentation concerning the Transition Outcomes Project (TOP) would be helpful. They would like more guidance pertaining to National Assessment of Educational Progress (NAEP).
- **Nominations** – The subcommittee is working on the paperwork for the two parent vacancies.
- **Public Comment –** The subcommittee received five comments in the panel's public email. The subcommittee will continue to monitor the emails received and report to the panel as necessary.

Panel Meeting – March 5, 2009

Comments from the Public - Vicki Davidson, Missouri Planning Council on Developmental Disabilities, reported to the panel that Senator Rupp proposed a bill this year (Senate Bill 445) regarding restraint/seclusion rooms. The panel requested a copy of the legislation for further review and discussion.

Post Secondary Transition Improvement Activities/Update – Barb Gilpin and Beverly Luetkemeyer presented on post-secondary transition improvement activities using a PowerPoint presentation. To view their presentation, go to: dese.mo.gov/divspeced/Administration/AdvisoryPanel/documents/MissouriTransitionEffortsBarbGilpin.pdf. They will be bringing in nine more teams this year.

End of Course Exams and MAP/MAP-A – Andrea Wood, Director of Assessment, Division of School Improvement, and Lin Everett, Assistant Director of the Assessment Section, discussed this year's changes to end of course exams (EOC) and MAP/MAP-A. The Terra Nova forms (national norm position) have to be changed this year and the state is required to stay up to date with the national form. The Terra Nova form needs to be tested this year so it will be ready for next year. There are embedded parts to this test. All the information has been sent to school districts.

IEPs are still convened to determine what is best for students. One of the things that happened as part of NCLB was that all students are left responsible for participation in the entire test. The administration of the Terra Nova is strictly timed because it is a nationally normed test and must have the same conditions. Timing for students with IEPs can be changed but the scores can not be compared to other students who did not receive the accommodation. The score does determine how well the student understood the material; however, the score is invalid for comparison purposes.

The training this year for the MAP/MAP-A has been severely cut due to budget cuts. The manual contains rubrics and a list of examples of both correct and flawed samples for MAP-A administration. There are also examples on the website of new samples (under the MAP-A page). The panel brought up many questions and concerns that were discussed and Andrea Wood said she would do what she could to address those concerns. Andrea Wood indicated the End of Course exams have gone operational this year. If students qualify for the MAP-A, they must participate in the exam but it does not count towards the course grade. The student has the opportunity to select when it is appropriate for them to take the test. A core amount of information is expected to be exposed to all students. The tests are scored by the state and a list is sent to teachers giving the student's name, number of questions, and actual score. Professional development for all teachers was built in and all teachers are being trained on the scoring process. IEP teams need to decide if the student is ready or not to take the test. For additional information about EOC and MAP/MAP-A, go to dese.mo.gov/divimprove/assess/. To contact the Assessment Section, call 800-845-3545.

National Assessment of Educational Progress (NAEP) – Cynthia Hollis, Director of National Assessment of Educational Progress (NAEP), presented information about NAEP (also known as the Nation's Report Card). This is the only assessment you can compare student scores state to state. Thurma DeLoach, panel member, asked if there were states that consistently scored high and how that related to students with disabilities and thought it would

be helpful to see some of the models and resources available to those states. Cynthia said she could pull part of that information. It should be noted that dictation to scribe is an allowed accommodation of the writing portion of the national assessment. For additional information about NAEP, go to dese.mo.gov/divspeced/Administration/AdvisoryPanel/documents/NAEPSpEdAdvPanel0309.pdf.

DESE Update

- **Part C/Parent Notification** – Heidi asked the panel for input on the Part C parent notification issue. IDEA allows for First Steps to notify school districts of First Steps children without parent consent. DESE prefers to require and has been requiring parental consent. The information shared with the district is information such as name, disability, and parent(s) name. In most cases, the parent(s) is open to having the district invited to the meetings and only about four percent of First Steps families refuse referral to ECSE. The panel recommended DESE continue requiring written parental consent before providing notification to the district of a First Steps child.
- **Stimulus Money (American Recovery and Reinvestment Act of 2009 (ARRA))** – Heidi indicated the Division does know how much we are getting but does not have answers yet as to what strings are attached to the funds. Part B IDEA (ages 5-21) is an additional $227 million on top of our original grant and can be spent over two years. There will be two fifty percent installments to school districts. This money will be closely scrutinized to see how it is used. DESE is awaiting written guidance from the U. S. Department of Education. SELS messages will be sent as soon as we receive additional information. To view SELS archive, go to dese.mo.gov/divspeced/Listserv_Archives.html. Information related to the Stimulus Funds is located at dese.mo.gov/divimprove/sia/ARRA.html.
- **School Improvement Grants** – The Division has offered School Improvement Grants competitively the last two years at $2 million each year. The applications are submitted via the electronic monitoring system (IMACS). The grants are each scored with preference given to proposals including three-tiered models of intervention and evidence-based practices. The deadline to submit a grant has passed for this year with proposed grants totaling over $5 million. Plan to notify districts awarded grants by early April.
- **State Performance Plan (SPP)/Annual Performance Report (APR)** – Both reports were submitted to the U. S. Department of Education in February. They will notify the Division of any concerns they have and give a ten day window to respond.
- **Missouri Integrated Model (MIM)** – A Summer Institute is planned for the MIM pilot schools. This will be the kick-off for the first year of implementation after the first year of preparation. For information about Response to Intervention and three-tiered models of intervention, go to dese.mo.gov/3tieredmodels/.
- **State Board** – An eight member team led by Tom Davis, former State Board member, is in the process of searching for a new Commissioner. After applications are reviewed and interviews conducted, the team will recommend finalists to the State Board. The hope is to have a new Commissioner by July 1.
- **Part B Application** – The IDEA Part B Application has been posted on the web at dese.mo.gov/divspeced/Compliance/Part%20B/documents/PartBapp2009.pdf and was open for public comment until April 24, 2009. To submit a public comment, send to the attention of Pam Williams, Coordinator, Special Education Services, at webreplyspe@dese.mo.gov or P.O. Box 480, Jefferson City, MO 65102-0480.
- **Budget** – The Governor's budget recommendation includes the elimination of ninety FTE from the state board operated programs (Missouri School for the Blind, Missouri School

for the Deaf, and Missouri Schools for Severely Disabled). Many of these are vacancies. He also recommended the elimination of twelve positions between the divisions of School Improvement and Teacher Quality and ten from the Division of Administration. This is a real concern because there are no vacancies in those divisions. It is early in the process and the legislature will be the final decision maker on DESE's budget.

- **Professional Development Funds** – There is a real possibility that professional development funds will be cut again this year by the legislature. These funds, also known as the "critical needs fund" primarily support the work of the Regional Professional Development Centers (RPDCs). We are very concerned since the RPDCs are the regional system DESE uses to deliver support and training to school districts.
- **Statewide Electronic IEP System** – DESE staff and stakeholders met with potential vendors in December for two days. The goal was to get an idea of what provisions would need to be included in the contract and what data DESE could get from it. This resulted in recommendations from the committee to Heidi on January 31. Heidi then forwarded the recommendations to Dr. Bert Schulte, Interim Commissioner, for his consideration.

Miscellaneous

- **Learning Disabilities Association of Missouri (LDA) –** LDA has a teacher survey on their website.
- **Evaluation -** Lynda Roberts indicated the subcommittee has begun work on the panel's annual report. Committee chairs were asked to send their reports to Lina Browner by May 1. Beverly Woodhurst will provide the chair letter. The subcommittee will meet on May 5 in Rolla at 9:00 a.m. to put the report together. A draft of the annual report will be sent to Lina Browner by May 18 for DESE to review. A draft of the annual report will then be sent to panel members by June 1 for their review. It will be discussed and approved at the June panel meeting.
- **Rules and Regulations** – Ray Wicks indicated they were charged with looking at the issue of the makeup of the panel and selection of new members to determine if consistent with federal law. Eleven categories were associated with special education and the subcommittee presented a draft nomination form. The subcommittee also recommended all panel members be required to complete pages 4 and 5 to make sure everyone on the panel is still in compliance for the position they represent. Panel members would not be terminated based on that information at this time but the subcommittee would make sure all members are still in the category they should be. The panel recommended adopting the revised form.
- **By-Laws -** The subcommittee was asked to determine what implications there would be in the bylaws if changes were made to the nomination form. Ray Wicks indicated the changes needed were under Article III. The panel reviewed and approved his recommended changes.
- **Monitoring -** Scott Montgomery indicated the subcommittee will be discussing dropout rates and disproportionate data at the state level and by urban and rural areas to determine what things are affecting dropout rates either positively or negatively.
- **Programs –** Martha Crabtree requested further discussion and presentations from the Transition Liaisons (representing large, medium, and small/rural districts). She also requested presentations from MPACT on the STELLAR Program, Transition (TOPS, models of success), and status and number of individuals trained as educational surrogates at future panel meetings.
- **Nominations –** Trish Grassa indicated that Lina Browner will email the revised nomination form to all SEAP members.

Standing Subcommittees

The panel decided the following six standing committees would drive much of the panel's meeting agendas. The committees are expected to meet prior to and during SEAP meetings and provide updates and make formal recommendations to the entire panel for consideration.

Rules & Regulations

Section 300.652(a)(2) Comment publicly on any rules or regulations proposed by the state regarding the education of children with disabilities

Defined Purpose

- Review any rule changes in special education proposed by DESE;
- Review current rules and regulations and make appropriate recommendations for change; and,
- Provide a forum for keeping panel members advised of proposed legislation relevant to special education.

The Rules and Regulations Subcommittee activities include the following:

With approval of the State Plan by the State Board of Education in 2007, the Rules and Regulations subcommittee anticipated that few major issues would require its attention during 2008-09. During this year, the subcommittee addressed the following issues.

- Newly appointed panel members were oriented to the responsibilities and functions of this subcommittee.
- The Assistant Commissioner requested this subcommittee and the Nominations subcommittee review panel membership and the nomination process. The intent was to ensure procedures were in place to maintain compliance with IDEA 2004 regarding the categories of panel membership specified in the law. The two subcommittees were asked to review current panel membership, procedures for obtaining information about prospective panel members, and a minimum age for panel members qualifying in the "Individuals with a Disability' category.
- The subcommittee also discussed "end of course" exams being implemented this year at the secondary level.
- The two subcommittees met jointly to discuss federal regulations regarding composition and membership requirements for the state advisory panel. The membership categories specified in IDEA 2004 were reviewed and discussed.
- A survey of current panel members was proposed to determine their current qualifications to represent the membership category to which they were appointed. It was agreed that a survey would be drafted and presented to the panel for review at the next panel meeting.
- Other suggestions included: making language on both the survey and nomination form consistent with membership categories specified in IDEA 2004; conducting an annual survey of panel members to ensure continued compliance with federal membership requirements; and, having the Commissioner's appointment letter specify the membership category the appointee represents.
- Also discussed was whether a panel member could complete the term of appointment if found to no longer be eligible and if the by-laws needed to be amended to address vacancies resulting from an ineligible member.

- It was agreed the nomination form would be modified and amendments to panel by-laws would be drafted. The joint subcommittee would consider these proposals at the next meeting and make recommendations to the panel.
- The joint subcommittee reviewed the changes in the nomination form and amendments to the by-laws. After discussion, a few minor changes were made.
- It was agreed to recommend to the panel that the revised nomination form be adopted, an annual survey of current members' qualifications be implemented, and the by-laws be amended to address eligibility of members and vacancies created by changes in member qualifications.
- Upon adoption of the joint subcommittee recommendations, the survey would be distributed to current panel members and a report of the survey presented at the June 2009 meeting. Pending those survey results, appropriate action would be taken regarding eligibility of current panel members.
- The Rules and Regulations subcommittee also discussed use of seclusion rooms, limits on DESE to provide policy direction on the topic, and proposed legislation in the General Assembly. The subcommittee asked that the panel be provided with additional information regarding seclusion and restraint practices, policies of other states, and effective models used by school districts.

Evaluation

Section 300.652(a)(3) Advise the State Education Agency (SEA) in developing evaluations and reporting on data to the Secretary under section 618 of the Act

Defined Purpose

- ensure that evaluations and collection of data are appropriate and complete as directed by the panel and office of special education (data watchers)
- ensure that decisions are data based
- track the improvement plan (CIMP)
- prepare the SEAP annual report

The Evaluation Subcommittee activities include the following:

- Received approval from the panel to publish and disseminate the SEAP 2007-08 Annual Report.
- Reviewed the Missouri Special Education Annual Performance Report (APR) and State Performance Plan (SPP) for the reporting period July 1, 2008-June 30, 2009.
- The SEAP 2008-09 Annual Report was compiled in DRAFT format for panel members to review and accept at the June 12, 2009, panel meetings.

Monitoring

Section 300.652(a)(4) Advise the State Education Agency (SEA) in developing corrective action plans to address findings identified in federal monitoring reports under Part B of the Act

Defined Purpose

- review statewide monitoring trends
- review corrective action plans (CAP) and improvement plans (IP) submitted to OSEP
- review MSIP cycle plans
- review due process and child complaint results

The Monitoring Subcommittee activities included the following:

- Formal Recommendation #9 – Discussed and agreed that the child complaint surveys should be continued. Discussed making it more parent friendly and different ways to encourage parents to fill out the form. After some discussion by the panel, the panel voted to end the child complaint surveys and close Formal Recommendation #9.
- Expressed concern with the number of child complaints showing that districts were out of compliance. Requested information on the social economic status of the families involved with the withdrawals. Inquired if DESE collected information about whether students stayed in the district or moved to a different district after child complaints were withdrawn. Requested information on whether dropouts, withdrawals for home schooling, and withdrawals to another district/private school were due to a child complaint or due process issue. Inquired if DESE monitors the withdrawals, the reasons for withdrawals, and tracks the outcomes.
- Need to continue discussing dropout rates and disproportionate data at the state level and by urban and rural areas to determine what things are affecting dropout rates either positively or negatively.
- Discussed concerns with use of seclusion and physical restraints in school settings. Requested information about if/how DESE currently collects information about the use of these practices

Programs

Section 300/652(a)(5) Advise the State Education Agency (SEA) in developing and implementing policies relating to the coordination of services for children with disabilities

Defined Purpose

- Provide panel input to the Effective Practices Section of DESE/DSE to act as an advisory board in the development of initiatives rather than just to the finished products.

The Programs Subcommittee activities include the following:

- Reviewed Missouri's Part B State Performance Plan for 2005-06 through 2010-11.
- Reviewed and made recommendations to the Missouri Part B Annual Performance Report for the upcoming years' indicator percentages.
- Reviewed and made recommendations concerning lack of educational surrogates, teacher recruitment/retention, training for parent advocates, Part C/Parent Notification.
- Reviewed information and expressed concerns pertaining to the special education budget cuts-elimination of jobs from the state board operated programs; divisions of School Improvement, Teacher Quality, and Administration; and, the Regional Professional Development Centers.
- Requested presentations or additional information on Assistive Technology, special education cooperatives, Missouri Integrated Model, statewide electronic IEP system, school improvement grants, parent advocates/IEP facilitation/parent mentor training, parent surveys during the MSIP process, post-secondary transition improvement activities, end of course exams and MAP/MAP-A, and National Assessment of Educational Progress (NAEP).

- Formally expressed appreciation to SEAP presenters Diane Golden, David Baker, Ronda Jenson, Shelley Witherbee, Mary Kay Savage, Pam Williams, Cynthia Quetsch, Barb Gilpin, Beverly Luetkemeyer, Andrea Wood, Lin Everett, and Cynthia Hollis in providing timely information regarding special education programs throughout the state of Missouri.
- Formally expressed appreciation to Beverly Woodhurst, SEAP Panel Chair, for being an effective leader and role model to all panel members. Many, many thanks for all of your hard work and devotion shown to all of the representatives of the SEAP as well as your strong commitment in meeting the needs of our students with disabilities.

Nominations

Defined Purpose

- Provide panel with slate of officers and four members at-large for next fiscal year for nomination
- Review and recommend nomination requests for panel members

The Nominations Subcommittee activities include the following:

- Selected a slate of officers to serve for FY 2009-10.
- Recommended applicants to DESE for nomination to serve as panel members for the following categories:
  - 6 vacancies from Parents of Children with Disabilities
  - 1 vacancy from State and Local Education Officials
  - 1 vacancy from Private and Charter Schools
  - 1 vacancy from Representative from the State Child Welfare Agency responsible for Foster Care
  - 1 vacancy for Title VII – Homeless Assistance Act

Public Comment

Section 300/652(a)(1) Advise the State Education Agency (SEA) of unmet needs within the state in the education of children with disabilities

Defined Purpose

- Identify available sources (including but not limited to: taxpayers, parents, teachers, school administrators, school boards) which may be available to facilitate public input. The public input received shall be disseminated to the panel to assist the panel in carrying out its prescribed function.

The Public Comment Subcommittee activities include the following:

- The Public Comment Subcommittee accomplished the long-awaited goal of establishing a standardized option for Public Comment on the DESE webpage. A button and link to a confidential email address (separate from DESE) was installed on the DESE website to encourage and accommodate public comment. A disclaimer was added indicating comments were not to include personally identifiable information or the expectation of a response. The emails are first received by a member of the subcommittee, reviewed by the subcommittee, and summarized for the panel and DESE during the panel meetings. To date, a minimum number of comments have been received and all have been presented to the panel for consideration.

- The panel was advised on a number of issues both from DESE and from individual panel members surrounding special education. Visitors are welcome to comment at any of the panel meetings. Comments can also be submitted via email, telephone, fax, or in writing to:

  Missouri Department of Elementary and Secondary Education
  Division of Special Education
  P. O. Box 480, Jefferson City, MO 65102
  Email: webreplyspe@dese.mo.gov Phone: 573-751-5739 Fax: 573-526-4404

Future Focus

It is with great hope and dedication from many members that the advisory panel continues its close relationship with DESE over the next year. As members come and go, the focus stays strong within the panel that it will advise DESE on programs and services provided across our state to serve individuals with their needs in special education. It is also anticipated that the panel will continue to address issues of upcoming legislation as it presents itself for review and that the members of each subcommittee will work closely to review all information provided and give responses necessary to DESE according to the by-laws as a volunteer panel.

Closing

The advisory panel continuously works towards the understanding of, respect for, support for, and the appropriate education of, all children with disabilities in Missouri schools. The panel believes in optimizing the educational achievement of every child through a strong education system that is proactive and supportive of students, families, and educators. To this end, the panel will use its strength as a broad-based constituency group to plan an active and influential role in decisions affecting policies, programs, and services. Improving the education of children with disabilities is never an accident; it is the result of high intention, sincere effort, intelligent direction, skillful execution, and the vision to see obstacles as opportunities.

Acknowledgement

The panel wishes to acknowledge the contributions of Heidi Atkins Lieberman, Pam Williams, Mary Corey, and Lina Browner, along with other DESE staff, for their assistance in providing essential information through a variety of reports and presentations.

Links

Additional information about the panel can be found at:
dese.mo.gov/divspeced/Administration/AdvisoryPanel/94142mainpage.html

Additional information from the Division of Special Education can be found at:
dese.mo.gov/divspeced/

Membership

Sue Alderton-Canton
Jeaneal Alexander-Columbia
Lisa Amundson-Rock Hill
Heidi Atkins Lieberman-Jefferson City
Brenda Boyd-Florissant
Russ Brock-Fayette
Angela Brown-Thayer
Kristen Callen-Springfield
Donna Cash-Jefferson City
Martha Crabtree-Cabool
Thurma DeLoach-Kirkwood
Cathy Einhorn-Chesterfield
Doreen Frappier-Columbia
Melissa Frazier-Steelville
Patricia Grassa-Springfield
Amy Harrington-O'Fallon
Tammy Hicks-Laquey
Michele Hoffmeister-Farmington
Eileen Huth-Ballwin
Patricia Jackson-Raytown
Byron Koster-Overland
Roxie Lanier-Warrensburg
Ginger Luetkemeyer-Jefferson City
Scott Montgomery-Jefferson City
Donna Montague-Auxvasse
Jerry Neal-Corder
Kim Oligschlaeger-Jefferson City
Dorothy Parks-Jefferson City
Lynda Roberts-Jefferson City
Mary Kay Savage-Kansas City
Elizabeth Tattershall-Jefferson City
Nancy Thomas-Russellville
Sherri Tucker-Lee's Summit
Theresa Valdes-Jefferson City
Stephen Viola-St. Louis
Raymond Wicks-St. Louis
Beverly Woodhurst-Perry
Shirley Woods-Kansas City

Terms

- **APR** – Annual Performance Report
- **AYP** – Annual Yearly Progress
- **BTF** – Blind Task Force
- **CAP** – Corrective Action Plan
- **CIMP** – Continuous Improvement Monitoring Process
- **DESE** – Department of Elementary and Secondary Education
- **FAQ** – Frequently Asked Questions
- **HOH** – Hard of Hearing
- **IDEA** – Individuals with Disabilities Education Act
- **IEP** – Individualized Education Program
- **IP** – Improvement Plan
- **LD** – Learning Disability
- **LDA** – Learning Disabilities Association
- **MAP** – Missouri Assessment Program
- **MAP-A** – Missouri Assessment Program - Alternate
- **MIM** – Missouri Integrated Model
- **MoAT** – Missouri Assistive Technology
- **MSIP** – Missouri School Improvement Plan
- **MSSD** – Missouri Schools for Severely Disabled
- **NAEP** – National Assessment of Educational Progress
- **NASDSE** – National Association of State Directors of Special Education
- **NCLB** – No Child Left Behind
- **OSEP** – Office of Special Education Programs
- **PBS** – Positive Behavior Supports
- **PLC** – Professional Learning Communities
- **RFP** – Request for Proposal
- **RtI** – Response to Intervention
- **SBOP** – State Board Operated Programs
- **SEAP** – Special Education Advisory Panel
- **SELS** – Special Education Listserve
- **SPDG** – State Personnel Development Grant
- **SPP** – State Performance Plan
- **TAC** – Temporary Authorization Certificate
- **TOP** – Transition Outcomes Project

It is the policy of the Missouri Department of Elementary and Secondary Education not to discriminate on the basis of race, color, religion, gender, national origin, age, or disability in its programs or employment practices as required by Title VI and VII of the Civil Rights Act of 1964, Title IX of the Education Amendments of 1972, Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973, the Age Discrimination Act of 1975 and Title II of the Americans with Disabilities Act of 1990.

Inquiries related to Department programs may be directed to the Jefferson State Office Building, Title IX Coordinator, 5th Floor, 205 Jefferson Street, Jefferson City, Missouri 65102-0480; telephone number 573-751-4212. Inquiries or concerns regarding civil rights compliance by school districts should be directed to the local school district Title IX/non-discrimination coordinator. Inquiries and complaints may also be directed to the Kansas City Office, Office for Civil Rights, U.S. Department of Education, 8930 Ward Parkway, Suite 2037, Kansas City, MO 64114; telephone: 816-268-0550; FAX: 816-823-1404; TDD: 877-521-2172.