

THE LIST

Part B Compliance **March** 2018



The MAP-A spring window opens March 26, 2018.

Mark your calendars for the summer session of the **NEW DIRECTORS ACADEMY** scheduled for Tuesday through Friday, July 24 through July 27, 2018, at the Capitol Plaza Hotel in Jefferson City, MO. This training is provided for first and second year special education directors during the 2018-19 school year. More information and resources can be found at <https://dese.mo.gov/special-education/effective-practices/new-directors-academy>

Children transitioning from **FIRST STEPS** who have **SUMMER THIRD BIRTHDAYS** falling between April 1 and August 15, 2018, have several choices for obtaining services starting on their third birthday. As with all **FIRST STEPS** children, remember that eligibility must be determined and an IEP in place prior to the child's third birthday. However, the parents of these students may choose when these services begin. These particular students may stay in **FIRST STEPS** until school starts in August OR may transition to Early Childhood Special Education (ECSE) to receive Extended School Year (ESY) services OR may wait to start ECSE services in August. Additional information can be found at <https://dese.mo.gov/sites/default/files/se-fs-first-steps-summer-third-birthday-services-webinar-february-2016-three-handouts.pdf>

Begin planning for procedures to ensure that all **ESY** decisions are made prior to the end of the regular school year. ESY must be considered for all students at least annually and, if the decision is to determine at a later date, be sure that a data-based decision is actually made prior to the end of the regular school year.

Remember that ESY is NOT summer school. Summer school is beneficial to all students while ESY is required to provide a free and appropriate public education (FAPE) to students with disabilities as determined by their IEP teams.

The **FACILITATED IEP (FIEP)** process has been used multiple times this school year to help parents and local education agencies (LEAs) to resolve issues and concerns. Feedback has been overwhelmingly positive from both LEA staff and parents. Information about the FIEP process and the supporting research can be found at <https://dese.mo.gov/special-education/compliance/facilitated-individualized-education-program-fiep>. Remember that FIEP is an alternative approach to developing IEPs that can be used to avoid child complaint investigations or due process hearings.

If your LEA is purchasing new curriculum materials or books, please remember the Individuals with Disabilities Education Act (IDEA) requirement that these be accessible to students with print disabilities (such as through Braille or audio books) that meet the National Instructional Materials Accessibility Standards (NIMAS). The National Instructional Materials Accessibility Center (NIMAC) is a federally funded online repository of source files in the NIMAS format. Your Local Compliance Plan allows NIMAC to be a resource or the sole provider for your LEA.

COHORT 2: LEAs should be participating in mock file reviews to prepare for the self-assessment process during the 2018-19 school year. Visit with your Regional Professional Development Center (RPDC) Compliance Consultant for training opportunities available in your area.

COHORT 3: If your LEA had a follow-up timeline submission, these are due in IMACS no later than March 20, 2018. Cohort 3 LEAs should be working on providing documentation to show that systemic compliance has been achieved no later than April 1, 2018. Be sure to contact your Compliance Supervisor if you have any questions.

COHORT 1: All Self-assessment file reviews have been submitted into IMACS at this time. Requested documentation for student files chosen for the desk review is due in IMACS no later than April 1, 2018. It is very important to upload all of the documentation that was reviewed in order to make your calls on each indicator in IMACS. This is because the Compliance Supervisors do a desk review of the selected student's file to verify your calls and they must "see" the same documents you saw to make the original calls. Also, remember the initial evaluation timelines and the C to B Transition timelines are both due in IMACS no later than May 15, 2018. The Cohort 1 parent surveys are due March 31, 2018.

Update contact information in IMACs, even if you are not listed as special education director in core data. If you are given the responsibility for Special Education Monitoring, then you need to be listed as contact person in IMACS. What name you put in IMACs does not change whose name is located on screen 3 of core data as the district's special education director.

Explain to staff when to provide Procedural Safeguards for Children and Parents (PS) and the Parent's Bill of Rights. Remind staff that they need to have an understanding of what is included in the documents. They also have an obligation to parents to explain PS to them.

When eligibility determination teams look at specific learning disability (SLD) eligibility, if they only have a subtest score that meets criteria, they need additional data to support the use of the subtest score. A composite score should be used if it is an appropriate composite score for the area of SLD.

Be sure to contact your compliance team of DESE Compliance Supervisors and RPDC Compliance Consultants for support or if you have any questions.