Special Education Compliance
Standards & Indicators

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Our Vision
Missouri public schools: the best choice … the best results!

Our Mission
The Missouri Department of Elementary and Secondary Education’s mission is to guarantee the superior preparation and performance of every child in school and in life.

Our Goal
All Missouri students will graduate ready for success.
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 and 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.
PREFACE

The Compliance Section of the Office of Special Education supports the mission of the Department of Elementary and Secondary Education and the Vision of the Office of Special Education by providing leadership in establishing standards which promote improved outcomes for students with disabilities as well as consistency in the procedures public agencies implement for meeting compliance with state and federal regulations.

This standards and indicators manual represents the collaborative efforts of many dedicated individuals from across the state who have responsibilities for working with students with disabilities. As a result of these efforts and their willing cooperation, this manual provides a resource for special educators in their work of providing quality special education services to children with disabilities throughout the State of Missouri.
General Information for Use of this Manual

Codes and abbreviations used throughout manual:

34 C.F.R.: Legal citations beginning with this refer to 34 Code of Federal Regulations Part 300
Agency: Responsible public agency (i.e., local school district special school district, Charter School, State board Operated Program, or other public agency)
DESE: Department of Elementary and Secondary Education
DFS: Department of Family Services
DMH: Department of Mental Health
DOC: Department of Corrections
DYS: Division of Youth Services
ECSE: Early Childhood Special Education
EDGAR: Education Department General Administrative Regulations
FAPE: Free appropriate public education
FERPA: Family Educational Rights and Privacy Act
GEPA: General Education Provision Act
IDEA: Individuals with Disabilities Education Act
IEP: Individualized Education Program
LRE: Least Restrictive Environment
NIMAC: National Instructional Materials Accessibility Center
NIMAS: National Instructional Materials Accessibility Standards
Part C: The section of IDEA that provides for children with disabilities ages birth to three.
RSMo: The Public School Laws of Missouri (Regulations of the State of Missouri)
RtI: Response to Intervention
SP(): The Missouri State Plan for Special Education and specific section number

Additional information regarding the manual’s format:

A. This Manual is divided into two (2) main sections.
   1) Section I: State Performance Plan (SPP) Indicators
   2) Section II: Compliance Standards & Indicators
B. Legal citations are found either at the beginning of a section or throughout each document.
C. Each document has a three-column format.
   1) The “Legal Requirements” column, on the left, states the requirement and cross-references each to the appropriate legal citation.
   2) The “Indicators” column, in the center, provides an explanation for meeting the legal requirement. In some cases, additional clarification or examples are provided. The format for this section is as follows:
      a) Numbered items identify required components
      b) Open round bullets provide additional information to clarify the requirement
   3) The “Documents” column provides examples for documentation of the required information. Information may not necessarily be found in all sources or limited to only those listed.