



State Advisory Panel For Special Education

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Minutes Summary State Advisory Panel Meeting November 18 & 19, 2010 Cave Springs, GA

Thursday, November 18, 2010

Time	Events	
8:00 - 9:00	BREAKFAST	
9:00 - 9:45	Welcome Panel Member Introductions and Update	Radha Vettrai opened the meeting and welcomed members. Panel members provided updates and announcements. Dr. Lee Shiver, Director of the Georgia School for the Deaf, welcomed the panel to the school.
9:45 - 10:45	State Performance Plan/Annual Performance Report (SPP/APR) Overview	<p>Elise Lynch and Zephine Smith-Dixon presented an overview of the State Performance Plan, as well as the required changes for this year, and answered questions from panel members.</p> <p>The 3 priority areas set by the Office of Special Education (OSEP) which include Free and Appropriate Public Education (FAPE), General Supervision and Disproportionate Representation as a Result of Inappropriate Identification were reviewed.</p> <p>The difference between the State Performance Plan (SPP) and the Annual Performance Report (APR) was reviewed. Georgia met requirements established by the Federal Government for FY 2009 APR.</p> <p>Staff discussed how each Local Educational Agency (LEA) is measured for meeting indicator requirements. Each indicator was discussed in detail, including what each indicator measures and the targets for that indicator, including upcoming targets. The status of each indicator was reviewed with the panel, including whether the target was met and, if not, whether progress was made towards meeting that target.</p>
10:45 - 11:00	BREAK	
11:00 - 11:30	SPP/APR Small Group Activity	<p>Panel members worked in small groups to make recommendations for the SPP/APR indicators.</p> <p>Panel members were separated into 5 groups and assigned a set of indicators. Each group was asked to review the 3 year trend data for their indicators, review the state proposals for extension and provide proposals for targets for each of the group's indicators. Each group reported on their recommendations at the end of the work period.</p>
11:30 - 12:00	Public Comment Session	No public comments were submitted during this panel meeting.

Time	Events	
12:00 - 1:00	LUNCH (provided)	
1:00 - 2:00	Transition Update	<p>Lu Nations-Miller presented an overview of the transition process for students with disabilities and answered questions from panel members.</p> <p>The elements necessary for transition teams to have a successful transition process for students were discussed. These included when the initial transition plan should occur, who should be invited to be a part of the transition team, the transition form that IEP teams could use and the components that are required by the Department of Education for compliance.</p> <p>Mrs. Nations discussed the types of transition goals that are appropriate to show what a student will be doing after graduation as well as the types of activities that are used to support those goals.</p> <p>Activities that the Georgia Department of Education is implementing to support districts that were non-compliant in the area of transition were also discussed.</p>
2:00 – 2:30	Georgia School for the Deaf Student Presentation	Three students from the Georgia School for the Deaf presented on their experiences at the Georgia School for the Deaf, their transition plans and goals for after they graduate from high school.
2:30 – 2:45	BREAK	
2:45 – 4:00	Tour of Georgia School for the Deaf facility	Staff from the Georgia School for the Deaf conducted a tour of the school facilities.
4:00 – 5:00	Georgia School for the Deaf	Staff from the Georgia School for the Deaf shared information about the program at the Georgia School for the Deaf and their students.

Friday, November 19, 2010

Time	Events	
8:00 - 9:00	BREAKFAST (provided)	
9:00 - 9:30	Committee Meetings	All committees met to review current activities and recommendations.
9:30 - 10:00	Committee Reports	<p>Committees reported on current activities and recommendations.</p> <p><u>Membership Committee:</u> The current application for panel membership was reviewed and revised. The deadline for applicants for the 2011-12 school year will occur earlier this year and the application will be posted on the Department of Education website in December 2010.</p> <p><u>Policies and Procedures:</u> The committee has reviewed the current policies and procedures and updated policies in the areas of public</p>

Time	Events	
		<p>comment, companions and attendance.</p> <p>The committee also discussed the issue of recording panel meetings. Currently, policy allows for recording of meetings after notifying the panel. A panel member may request that the recording be turned off when they make comment. Additional issues were raised regarding the type of recordings that can be made. Revisions to the policy addressing concerns related to recording meetings have been submitted and will be reviewed by the legal department at the Georgia Department of Education. If these revisions are approved, they will be presented to the panel and added to the Panel Policies and Procedures with final approval.</p> <p><u>Family Engagement:</u> The committee presented recommendations on additional topics to be added to the one page flyers already published. The committee also requested that a presentation on family engagement activities at the Department of Education be added to the docket this year.</p> <p><u>Dispute Resolution:</u> The committee reviewed topics that have resulted in complaints and looked at trend data from FY 2007 through 2011. The number of complaints has increased each year and current data for this year seems to be similar to the previous year. The number of mediation requests has decreased. Due process complaints have also decreased.</p>
10:00 - 10:30	GaDOE, Divisions for Special Education Services and Supports Update	<p>Debbie Gay presented updates from the Division for Special Education Supports and Services.</p> <p>Mrs. Gay discussed the launch of the Graduate First website (www.graduatefirst.org). The department is working to promote the website with special education and curriculum directors around the state. The website contains tools to assist districts such as data tools, webcasts, and tools for preventing dropout and increasing attendance.</p> <p>The Least Restrictive Environment (LRE), a new project designed to increase the amount of time students with disabilities spend in general education through providing coaching and improving environments was discussed. Kathy Everett is involved with the project along with Gail Wilkins. The project is being implemented in Cobb and Bibb Counties.</p> <p>A proposal was passed at the last state board meeting to remove the Georgia High School Graduation Test (GHS GT) and replace it with End of Course Tests (EOCT). In order for the proposal to go into effect, seven state rules would have to be changed. Questions and comments from the panel were discussed.</p> <p>A new rule regarding the required number of math courses was passed. Effective for FY 08-09 students, Math 1 Supports and Math 2 Supports can be counted as core courses and can count towards graduation requirements.</p>

Time	Events	
		<p>The Disproportionality Forum met in September and November 2010. A subgroup was formed to look at calculations to determine whether they are statistically sound. The forum will also work on developing a self-assessment for school districts.</p>
10:30 - 10:45	BREAK	
10:45 - 12:15	Positive Behavioral Interventions and Supports (PBIS)	<p>Ginny O’Connell presented an overview of the Positive Behavior Interventions and Supports (PBIS) program, as well as current activities, and took comments and questions from panel members.</p> <p>Research on behavior and the cost of discipline at the student, teacher and administration level was reviewed. Information was provided on the framework of PBIS. The number of districts in Georgia that have received training over a 3 year period was discussed.</p>
12:15 - 1:00	LUNCH (provided)	
1:00 - 2:30	State Advisory Panel Planning for Future Meetings	<p>Panel members provided input on topics for future meetings. Topics which were suggested included:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • A presentation on Family Engagement from the Division for Special Education Supports and Services. • A presentation on the neuroscience related to Autism. Diana Robbins at Georgia State University was suggested as a possible presenter. • An update on the status of the graduation test with state board.