

**SUMMARY**  
**September 8, 2023 Meeting**  
**Indiana State Advisory Council (SAC)**  
**on the Education of Children with Disabilities**  
 Online Virtual Meeting

<u>Council Members:</u>	<u>Present</u> <u>(Yes/No)</u>
<b>Melaina Gant</b> , SAC Chair, Department of Child Services	Y
<b>Kim Dodson</b> , The Arc of Indiana	Y
<b>Bethany Ecklor</b> , Division of Mental Health & Addiction, Indiana FSSA	Y
<b>Anthony England</b> , Elkhart Community Schools	N
<b>Paloma Garza</b> , parent representative	N
<b>Dennis Heathfield</b> , Cummins, Inc.	N
<b>Dr. Nancy Holsapple</b> , Office of Special Education, Department of Education	Y
<b>Funmi Ige-Wright</b> , parent representative	Y
<b>Aleesia Johnson</b> , Indianapolis Public Schools	N
<b>Donald Koors</b> , Indiana School for the Blind and Visually Impaired	Y
<b>Jonathan Kraeszig</b> , Division of Disability & Rehabilitation Services, Indiana FSSA	Y
<b>Kristi Linson</b> , Children’s Special Health Care Services, State Department of Health	N
<b>Molly McGuire</b> , parent representative	Y
<b>Dr. John Nally</b> , Department of Correction	Y
<b>Dr. Leah Nellis</b> , Indiana University-Kokomo	N
<b>Lesa Paddack</b> , IN*Source	Y
<b>Michelle Robinson</b> , MSD of Lawrence Township	Y
<b>Tiffany Sanders</b> , parent representative	N
<b>Sarah Watson</b> , Archdiocese of Indianapolis	Y
<b>Lucy Witte</b> , Indiana School for the Deaf	Y

**Also Present:** Tracy Brunner, Alyssa Christy, Angela Vaughn, Department of Education; Alicia Cooper, Department of Child Services

**Call to Order**

Council Chair Melaina Gant called the meeting to order at 9:30 a.m. A quorum (thirteen of twenty members) attended.

**Action Items**

Lucy Witte moved to approve the June meeting summary; Donald Koors seconded. The motion passed.

## Information Items

### 1. Indiana Department of Education (IDOE) Updates

State Director of Special Education Dr. Nancy J. Holsapple reported that the Office of Special Education received notice from the U.S. Department of Education's Office of Special Education Programs (OSEP) that Indiana again received the highest possible annual state determination, "Meets Requirements," for special education compliance monitoring. She commended Indiana's public educational agencies and OSE's monitoring and compliance team for achieving this overall state result. Nancy shared new federal guidance on general supervision of special education programs, which expands the state education agency's role beyond existing monitoring and compliance activities for special education programming and fiscal accountability with the intention of moving LEAs toward improved student outcomes and achievement of Results Driven Accountability goals. Nancy provided a quick overview of the latest special education child count data by primary exceptionality and noted that Indiana is likely still seeing pandemic disruption aftereffects in these data. She updated the council on OSE staffing additions and changes as well as I-SEAL, ASELI, and ASSET participation. Nancy took members' questions and responded to comments on the child count data and about these three programs aimed at expanding and diversifying the special educator talent pool in Indiana.

In follow up to previously shared information on LEAs' uses of temporary supplemental American Rescue Plan (ARP) Part B funds, Nancy shared photos of one special education cooperative's new ADA compliant building to expand its "Community, Habilitation, Opportunity, Independence, Cooperative, Education" (CHOICE) program that can now serve up to 30 applied skills students with disabilities ages 18 years and older who are working toward independent living goals. In addition to standards-based academics, these students learn how to plan meals, grocery shop, cook for themselves, apply for employment, hold jobs in the community; they also work with their teachers and paraprofessionals to set and pursue their own individualized goals for transition to adulthood. Additionally, Nancy gave a brief status update on LEA applications for three other currently open special education funding opportunities:

- state funds to help LEAs purchase Robokind technology that serves students with ASD; and
- federal grant funds that OSE set aside to help LEAs provide needed training for paraprofessionals who serve students with disabilities;
- and increased state funding to help LEAs pay excess costs for providing residential and other high cost services for students who require intensive interventions to meet their educational needs.

Nancy concluded with a reminder that all SAC members were invited to attend Indiana's inaugural Employment First Cross-Council Summit. The meeting materials included the Cross-Council Plan shared at this event designed to facilitate collaboration among state councils, boards and commissions with the goal of improving employment outcomes for individuals with disabilities. She advised that OSE will continue to forward information and announcements

about future events to participate in this effort to foster coordination among state advisory groups.

OSE Monitoring Team Assistant Director Angie Vaughn and Special Education Data Specialist Alyssa Christy briefly explained current methodologies for identifying LEA non-compliance as determined by specific federal IDEA indicators targeting disproportionality in eligibility determinations and suspension/expulsion rates. Angie shared OSEP's latest feedback regarding changes Indiana can make to improve its general supervision of LEA special education compliance and student outcomes in these areas and noted that OSE is collaborating with subject matter experts at Indiana's federally funded technical assistance center to analyze the state's data, approach to monitoring and compliance, and various options for revising Indiana's methodology per OSEP's comments. Alyssa summarized findings of her analysis of how various methodology changes may impact Indiana's monitoring and compliance outcomes. After engaging in discussion with those present, they shared their contact information and encouraged members to provide additional feedback as they consider the information presented at today's meeting.

### **Discussion Items**

#### **1. Council Member Reports and Concerns**

At the Chair's request, Kim Dodson summarized the findings reported in the HB 1313 Report, which was included with the September meeting materials. She then reminded the council of its ongoing role in updating the Hoosier Workforce Resources that are posted annually on Department of Workforce Development's and IDOE's public web sites as required per legislation passed in 2021. Kim provided her contact information and asked for volunteers to participate on the resource list update subcommittee she agreed to chair. Interested members responded, and the updated list for the council's review will be included with the November meeting materials.

### **Public Comments**

There were no public comments.

### **Next SAC Meeting Date**

The Chair noted that November 3, 2023 is the date of the council's next meeting.

### **Adjournment**

The meeting adjourned at 10:38 a.m.