

Greetings to all.

At the Illinois Association of Private Special Education Centers (IAPSEC) conference for outcomes held on June 19, 2009, Paul Nijensohn and Sarah Sebert presented an overview of current outcomes for nonpublic programs and the continuing development of their new statewide data collection system (A copy of that PowerPoint can be found at: [http://www.isbe.net/spec-ed/html/nonpublic\\_se.htm](http://www.isbe.net/spec-ed/html/nonpublic_se.htm))

At that workshop, the ISBE monitors announced that they would be forming a task-force to examine potential outcomes and indicators of success for approved nonpublic programs. This committee would help determine a set of common indicators that schools could choose to use in order to help show the efficacy of their therapeutic programs. These outcomes will demonstrate the effectiveness of nonpublic schools as well as provide critical information to parents, local education agencies (LEA), and ISBE's Illinois State Performance Plan (SPP) information to OSEP.

This new system (yet to be named) will be similar to the Illinois Interactive Report Card (see: <http://iirc.edu>). On the Report Card, all school districts in Illinois must publicly report specific information regarding assessment results, demographics, special education outcomes, etc. This information is put into a profile on the IIRC and available to the public. A modified version of that system is being proposed to combine much of the basic information found on that site in addition to what is found on the Harrisburg Project (<http://www.hbug.k12.il.us>) as well as topics specific to nonpublic schools such as:

- ◆ Population served
- ◆ Current approval status
- ◆ Contact information
- ◆ Per diem costs
- ◆ Date of the last monitoring visit and the results of that visit
- ◆ A comparison graph of scores from the sections of the monitoring form in relation to the average statewide scores (on-going and resulting from visits)
- ◆ The number of students enrolled
- ◆ Ethnicity of students enrolled
- ◆ Type of program: residential or educational or combination
- ◆ Rate of participation in state assessments
- ◆ Program description
- ◆ Specific academic interventions
- ◆ Assessments used in the program
- ◆ Behavior interventions used
- ◆ ***Results of Outcomes/Indicators***

Much of the information above can be accessed through ISBE's database. However, this committee will be formed to help develop the specific outcomes that measure the impact nonpublic schools provide for special education students throughout Illinois.

The SPP will serve as a basis for determining indicators for nonpublic programs, but it is expected that most of the indicators will be developed by the group and will apply specifically and meaningfully to programming at nonpublic schools. Not all indicators will pertain to all programs and programs will be able to choose what to track and report on. Suggestions for indicators to be explored by the group include:

- ◆ Post-school outcomes (SPP #14)
- ◆ Academic progress made
- ◆ Progress made toward eliminating behaviors that precluded public school attendance

- ◆ Rate of progress (academically, behaviorally)
- ◆ Reduction of behavioral supports such as time-outs, physical restraints, one-to-one assistants, and other social/emotional supports needed by students that are not readily available in public schools
- ◆ Correction of noncompliance in a timely manner (SPP #15)
- ◆ Attendance data/rates
- ◆ Reintegration data/rates

This first stage is intended to determine which outcomes and indicators will be collected. After determining the outcomes/indicators, the next stage will identify specific measurement tools to help create baseline data and support future target indicators. That information will then be published on the future on-line system.

We invite you (or your representative) to participate in this exciting endeavor with ISBE. During this first meeting, we will further review this concept and discuss potential time commitments for the project.

This first meeting will be held in Peoria just before the Special Education Directors Conference. Kiefer School, which is near the Peoria Civic Center, has been kind enough to offer meeting space.

DATE: Wednesday, August 5<sup>th</sup>

TIME: 10:30 am to 12:00 pm

PLACE: Kiefer School, 2130 N. Knoxville, Peoria, IL 61603

PHONE at Kiefer: (309) 697-4555

Please respond to this e-mail if you intend to join us.

If you are not able to attend this meeting but want to be informed of future meetings and/or the progress of the group, let us know.

Paul Nijensohn  
Sarah Sebert