Focused Monitoring Selection

Illinois State Board of Education
Special Education Services

2014-2015 Webinar for LEAs
The Individuals with Disabilities Education Act (IDEA) states ...

“The primary focus of State’s monitoring activities must be on improving educational results and functional outcomes for all children with disabilities ...”

34 CFR 300.600(b)(1)
Therefore, the Office of Special Education Programs (OSEP) requires each state to ...

Have a **monitoring** system that -

- Monitors the implementation of IDEA by local education agencies.
- Corrects noncompliance within **12 calendar months** of identification of findings.
- Enforces requirements in accordance with IDEA.
What is Focused Monitoring?

Focused monitoring is a process that purposefully selects a Performance Indicator to examine for compliance/results while not specifically examining other areas to maximize resources, emphasize important variables, and increase the probability of improved results.
Focused Monitoring is NOT -

- designed in isolation,
- an investigation of all IDEA regulations,
- cyclical, or
- only about the on-site visit
“Begin with the end in mind.”

~ Stephen Covey,
*The 7 Habits of Highly Successful People*
“The End” being Evidence of Change …

Effective Improvement Plans lead to

- Improved educational results and functional outcomes for students with disabilities,
- Data-driven results,
- 100% compliance, and
- Systemic change.
Compliance with IDEA results in Free Appropriate Public Education (FAPE) in the Least Restrictive Environment (LRE) for improved academic outcomes for students with disabilities having an IEP.
Focused Monitoring in Illinois is ...

- Centered around Critical Performance Indicator 5A of the State Performance Plan (SPP)
- Addresses the educational environment of students with disabilities

Focused Monitoring in Illinois Spotlights ...

SPP Indicator 5A, FAPE in the Least Restrictive Environment:

- The percent of students with disabilities having an IEP, ages 6 through 21, inside the regular (general) education setting 80% or more of the school day.
- Measurable and Rigorous Target for 2013-14 was 52.00% for 5A.
What is the basis for focused monitoring selection?
Selection Is Based on Performance within the Enrollment Group

Educational Environment

- The focused monitoring district selection process utilizes school data from the state’s Funding and Child Tracking System (FACTS). Districts are selected for a focused monitoring review based on their ranking within their enrollment range. Those districts in each group with the lowest percentage of students inside the general education setting 80% or more of the school day receive an on-site review.
### Grouping of Illinois School Districts ...

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Group</th>
<th>Like Group (Size/Type)</th>
<th>District Enrollment Range</th>
<th>Number of Districts</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Group 1</td>
<td>Small Elementary Districts</td>
<td>Less than 284</td>
<td>93</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Group 2</td>
<td>Medium Elementary Districts</td>
<td>284 – 1,881</td>
<td>188</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Group 3</td>
<td>Large Elementary Districts</td>
<td>More than 1,881</td>
<td>95</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Group 4</td>
<td>Small Unit Districts</td>
<td>Less than 546</td>
<td>96</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Group 5</td>
<td>Medium Unit Districts</td>
<td>546 – 1,907</td>
<td>194</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Group 6</td>
<td>Large Unit Districts</td>
<td>More than 1,907*</td>
<td>97</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Group 7</td>
<td>High School Districts</td>
<td>All districts included</td>
<td>101</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Total</strong></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td><strong>864</strong></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

* Large Unit District data does not include City of Chicago School District 299 data
Process of Selection

- Districts are ranked based on the percentage of students receiving special education services in the general education setting for 80% or more of the day.

- Districts whose data is below the Measurable and Rigorous Target (52.00%) may be selected for an on-site visit.

- Districts’ data is compared to other districts of like size/type.
## 2014-2015 Districts Selected

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Group</th>
<th>Number of Districts</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Small Elementary</td>
<td>1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Medium Elementary</td>
<td>2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Large Elementary</td>
<td>2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Small Unit</td>
<td>1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Medium Unit</td>
<td>2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Large Unit</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>High School</td>
<td>7</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Total</strong></td>
<td><strong>18</strong></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
What are the Steps in the Focused Monitoring Process?

- ISBE Selection
- Written Notification of Selection
- Selection of the District’s Leadership Team
- Participation in this Webinar
- Focused Monitoring District Training
- Confirmation of the Public Forum
- Pre-visit Activities
- On-site Review
- Final Report
- Corrective Action Plan and Progress Report (if needed)
- Evidence of Correction and Change
Pre-visit Data Analysis ...

Educational Environment Quantitative Data

| Building/School (if applicable) | Grade Level | Disability | Race |

School Culture Qualitative Data

| Staff Survey | Special Education Policies/Procedures | Home/School Collaboration | Description of Alternative Placements |

Potential Hypothesis for Pre-Visit Data Analysis
Focused Monitoring includes ...

- Quantitative – Statistical results for validation
- Qualitative – On-site data collection through inquiry
Selected District Training Agenda

- Welcome
  - Introduction of ISBE staff
  - Brief Overview
- Using Data for Educational Improvement
- Panel Discussion
- Process
- Wrap-up
Focused Monitoring District Training

North:  October 29, 2014 - 9:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m.
Location:  Crowne Plaza – Lombard/Downers Grove
1250 Roosevelt Road
Glen Ellyn, Illinois 60137

Central: November 5, 2014 - 9:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m.
Location: Crowne Plaza – Springfield
Lincoln Room – 3rd Floor
3000 South Dirksen Parkway
Springfield, Illinois 62703

South: November 6, 2014 - 9:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m.
Location: John A. Logan College – Building H, Room 127/128
700 Logan College Road
Carterville, Illinois 62918
Wrap-up

- Appeals must be made by October 10, 2014 and include supporting documentation.
  - Even if an appeal is requested, attendance at the training is still required.
- Appeals will not be granted if a district -
  - Submits inaccurate data to ISBE, or
  - Disputes the process and measures used to select districts.
- A copy of the Webinar will be available at

Contact Information

Illinois State Board of Education
Special Education Services

Toll Free: 866/262-6663
Springfield: 217/782-5589
Chicago: 312/814-5560