




STATE OF CONNECTICUT
STATE DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION



TO: Directors of Special Education
Directors of Approved Private Special Education Programs
Directors of Regional Educational Service Centers
Connecticut Parent Advocacy Center

FROM: Bryan Klimkiewicz, Special Education Division Director 

DATE: March 25, 2019

SUBJECT: Individual Education Program Document Revision Process

The Connecticut State Department of Education is currently in the process of revising the State's individualized education program (IEP) document, an essential component to the provision of a free and appropriate public education to students with disabilities. The IEP document is the official record of a planning and placement team's decisions regarding a student's special education eligibility identification and program. As federal and state requirements have changed over the years, the document currently in use in the state has required several updates since its origination. As a result, the Bureau of Special Education (BSE) has determined that a more holistic revision of the IEP document is warranted. Our goal is to design an IEP document that is less complicated for practitioners to use and easier for parents and students to understand.

Since July 2018, the BSE has undertaken several activities related to this important work. In addition to establishing an internal team to lead the revision process, the main focus of the BSE has been to seek stakeholder input regarding the strengths and weaknesses of the current IEP document. Opportunities for feedback included a survey of special education directors, regional meetings for parents, teachers, and related services personnel, and input from students and the State Advisory Council for Special Education. The feedback we received has informed the development of a draft revised IEP document. The BSE internal team also completed a review of statutory and regulatory requirements and conducted reviews of IEP documents used in other states.

Finally, the BSE formed an external stakeholder advisory group of 22 members representing various perspectives (see members below). To date, this group has met three times to provide comment on the current document as well as feedback on a draft revised IEP document. The input from this group will be critical in the development of a new IEP document. There are two additional meetings with the advisory group scheduled for this spring. Upon completion of the revision process, the revised draft IEP document will be made available for public comment. Following the public comment period, the BSE will continue to engage with stakeholders to design an implementation plan.

If you would like to provide input on the State's current IEP document, please use the following link:

[IEP Document Survey](#)

External Stakeholder Advisory Group	
Name	Role
Dawn Abrahamson	Pre-K Special Education
Erin Berthold	General Education Teacher
Angela Bucherri-Duran	Special Education Teacher
Patricia Buell	Superintendent
Tom Cosker	State Advisory Council-Parent
Leander Dolphin	Board Attorney
Scott Esson	Special Education Teacher-APSEP
Bet Gailor	Parent Attorney
Molly Grabowski	Physical Therapist
Jane Hampton-Smith	CPAC
Deborah Hultgren	Retired Special Education Director
Corey Jackson	Principal
Erin McGurk	Curriculum/Instruction
Kim Mearman	Director of Pupil Services
Stacie Melendez	Supervisor of Special Education
Sarah Moon	Speech and Language-IEP Trainer
Steven Proffitt	IEP Trainer
Maria Ramos	Parent
Patricia Sullivan	School Psychologist
Donna Sweeney	Occupational Therapist
Julie Swanson	Parent Advocate
Missy Wrigley	Secondary Transition