



# New York State EDUCATION DEPARTMENT

Knowledge > Skill > Opportunity

## Office of Special Education News and Notes – August 2016

### **New York's 2016 Individuals with Disabilities Education Act (IDEA) Determination**

New York State received its 2016 Individuals with Disabilities Education Act (IDEA) determination from the U.S. Department of Education on June 28, 2016. The determination letter and corresponding documents can be viewed at: <http://www.p12.nysed.gov/specialed/spp/sect616home.html>.

### **Federal Guidance on Surrogate Parents and Unaccompanied Homeless Youth under the Individuals with Disabilities Education Act**

This federal guidance provides important information and questions and answers on the provision of consent for special education evaluations and services for unaccompanied youth who are homeless.

<https://www.nasdse.org/LinkClick.aspx?fileticket=Kck6yunXeEQ%3D&tabid=36>

### **Blueprint for Improved Results for Students with Disabilities**

#### ***Providing Research-Based Instructional Teaching and Learning Strategies and Supports for Students with Disabilities***

An essential principal for improved results for children with disabilities is for teachers to provide research-based instruction, learning strategies and supports. Teachers should have the knowledge necessary to provide

clear instruction in academic and social-emotional areas and to develop lesson plans that engage students with diverse needs, including allowing for multiple entry points and modes of engagement. Students should be taught strategies for self-regulated learning and their individualized need for assistive technology devices and services should be considered and accommodated. To ensure student success, teachers should engage in on-going assessment of students' understanding of lessons and provide instruction to meet students' needs.

For additional resources on these topics, see:

Assistive Technology Webinar

<http://www.p12.nysed.gov/specialed/publications/2016-memos/assistive-technology-webinar.html>

The Center on Technology and Disability (CTD)

<http://www.ctdinstitute.org/content/about-ctd>

Center for Evidence-Based Practices (CEBP)

<http://www.evidencebasedpractices.org/>

OSEP *Ideas That Work*

<https://ccrs.osepideasthatwork.org/teachers-academic/evidence-based-practices-instruction>

Harvard University Center on the Developing Child – *Executive Function and Self-Regulation*

<http://developingchild.harvard.edu/science/key-concepts/executive-function/>

IRIS Center – *Evidence-Based Practices*  
[http://iris.peabody.vanderbilt.edu/module/ebp\\_01/](http://iris.peabody.vanderbilt.edu/module/ebp_01/)

### **Least Restrictive Environment**

The Department is seeking public comment on its policy under discussion regarding Least Restrictive Environment prior to proposing regulations to the Board of Regents. Written comments on the proposed policy can be submitted by September 30, 2016 to the following [spedpubliccomment@nysed.gov](mailto:spedpubliccomment@nysed.gov).

Attention: Draft LRE Policy. For additional information regarding the policy under discussion, see

<http://www.p12.nysed.gov/specialed/publications/2015-memos/least-restrictive-environment-district-responsibilities.html>

### **Superintendent Determination for Graduation with a Local Diploma for Students with Disabilities**

The Department is seeking public comment on the Superintendent Determination for a Local Diploma for Students with Disabilities as approved by the Board of Regents in June 2016 through emergency action and scheduled for permanent adoption in September 2016. Comments may be submitted by August 22, 2016 to [nysedp12@nysed.gov](mailto:nysedp12@nysed.gov).

For additional information see

<http://www.regents.nysed.gov/common/regents/files/616p12a5revised.pdf> and

<http://www.p12.nysed.gov/specialed/publications/superintendent-determination-of-graduation-with-a-local-diploma.htm>

### **Mandate Relief and Other Policy Changes**

The State is accepting public comment on possible regulatory changes affecting special education programs and services regarding:

- minimum level of service requirements for the provision of consultant teacher services and resource room and corresponding caseload requirements;
- the maximum instructional group size requirement when students with disabilities

are grouped together for instruction in a resource room or for related services;

- specially-designed reading instruction; and
- State approval of State aid reimbursement for placement of students in approved private schools. For more information on these possible revisions and to provide comment see:

<https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/SpecialEducationMandateReliefProposals>

### **New York State Library Launches Summer Reading Program**

The New York State Library, partnering with 1,100 main public libraries and neighborhood branches statewide, launched "Summer Reading at New York Libraries," the 2016 New York State summer reading program. The free, annual program gives children the opportunity to access the vast resources of New York's public libraries to support their summer reading.

Summer reading programs help students build reading skills and prevent summer learning loss. Hundreds of libraries across New York are offering free summer reading programs; [find a participating library in your community here](#).



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