Program Improvement Updates

Annual IDEA Determinations – Issued November 2nd

As part of OSPI's ongoing efforts to improve outcomes for students with disabilities, notifications of Local Educational Agencies (LEAs) Annual Determination levels for the 2025–26 school year were issued on November 2, 2026, to each school district, charter school, and Educational Service Agency (ESA) in the state. These notifications were sent via email to the LEA's superintendent, special education administrator, and regional Educational Service District (ESD) special education administrator.

The notifications summarized the LEA's performance on implementation of Part B of the Individuals with Disabilities Education Act (IDEA) under specific criteria for the time period beginning July 1, 2025, and ending on June 30, 2026 (school year 2025–26). IDEA details four categories for both the state and LEA determinations. The level of determination may be:

- Meets the requirements and purposes of IDEA;
- Needs assistance in implementing the requirements of IDEA;
- Needs intervention in implementing the requirements of IDEA; or
- Needs substantial intervention in implementing the requirements of IDEA.

IDEA also identifies specific technical assistance and/or enforcement actions that the State must take under specific circumstances for LEAs that are not determined to meet requirements.

LEAs have until November 30, 2026, to request a reconsideration if the LEA believes that its 2025–26 determination level is incorrect due to OSPI error. In December, the determinations will be considered final and will be posted to OSPI's website.

The November 2, 2026, determination notifications also included important information about upcoming changes to the determination calculation process:

1) **Criteria 3 - Timely and Accurate Data:**
   a) Beginning with these Determinations, Criteria 3 includes the timeliness and accuracy of the Secondary Transition IEP Components report.
   b) Beginning with these Determinations, the calculation for Criteria 3 (Timely and Accurate Data) will be based on a point system. LEAs will earn up to two points per required report. One point will be awarded if the report was submitted by the required due date. A second point will be awarded if the report contained accurate data or the LEA promptly responds to OSPI requests for additional clarification or information. The LEA's total score for Criteria 3 will be the total number of points earned by the LEA divided by the total points possible multiplied by 100.
2) **Criteria 4.1 - Indicator B-13 (Secondary Transition IEP Components):** Because the Secondary Transition IEP Components report was first implemented as an annual report in June 2025, OSPI used the 2024–25 and 2025–26 reporting years to establish and calibrate

the measure in collaboration with ESDs and LEAs. As a result, Level 3 and Level 4 criteria were not applied to the 2024–25 Determinations. For these 2025–26 Determinations, Level 3 criteria has been applied. Beginning with the 2026–27 Determinations, the full range of Levels 1–4 will apply.

If you have any questions about the LEA determination process, contact WISM@k12.wa.us, or attend one of our weekly office hours described below.

OSPI Special Education Data, Fiscal, and Program Office Hours

Please join us if you have questions or would like to talk about any topics related to Program Improvement, including, but not limited to:

- Correction of non-compliance (EGMS Form Package 442);
- Disproportionality and significant disproportionality;
- Coordinated Early Intervening Services (CEIS) and Comprehensive Coordinated Early Intervening Services (CCEIS);
- WISM Systems Analysis reviews (including onsite visits, virtual/desk reviews, and self-assessments);
- The new special education parent survey; and
- Annual determinations.

Special Education Data, Fiscal, and Program office hours will be held from 1–1:30 pm every Wednesday using the following link: Special Education Data, Fiscal and Program Office Hours 2026–27.

During these office hours, participants can chat about current issues and ask questions.

If you have any questions regarding these office hours, please contact the WISM team or the special education data team.