

The following questions were submitted to District Administrators by ICEA after special education teachers were notified that additional IEPs were tagged by the Department of Education because they are not in compliance and need to be fixed by October 1, 2016. This issue remains a top priority for ICEA.

Questions submitted by ICEA to Director Carmen Dixon (and team) are in black text. Questions were submitted on Thursday, September 8.

The answers provided are in blue text. Answers were provided on Friday, September 9.

How many IEPs (District wide) were identified and need to be fixed by October 1?

The DE noted 85 individual IEP citations and GWAEA noted 11 individual IEP citations that had errors in one or more of the original areas of noncompliance. Of those 96 individual IEP citations, 57 individual IEP citations are required to hold new IEPs by October 1st.

Of the remaining 39 individual IEP citations 23 individual IEP citations need to be corrected. Below, please find a breakdown of the 39 cited and the actions which have been or need to be completed:

- 15 of the individual IEP citations listed insufficient FBAs/BIPs due by October 31st
- 8 of the individual citations listed the need to address course of study to fully address projected needs and targeted graduation date, reflects needs, and can be achieved by the individual this is due by annual review date of individual IEP
- 8 of the individual IEP citations listed the students have either graduated, moved out of the district or are attending school outside of the district (residential etc...)
- 6 of the individual IEP citations listed no GWAEA staff in attendance and were not a required member of the IEP team therefore the DE has approved the IEP meeting occur at the annual review date of the IEP
- 2 of the individual IEP citations listed were due to a teacher not submitting the IEP prior to leaving for the summer both were submitted in the summer and now are validated

How many of the IEPs that have to be re-done by October 1 are ones that would have been completed prior to October 1 (the DE deadline) as a part of the normal IEP process? 7

When did the District know about these? When did the DE/AEA inform the District?

The District was given the Iowa Department of Education Accreditation Report on June 14, 2016. On July 25th a meeting was held with Tina Hoffman and Tracy Liebermann GWAEA Regional Administrators, Julie Jensen DE Communication Liaison, Jane Fry, ICCSD HR Assistant Superintendent, Amy Kortemeyer, ICCSD Assistant Superintendent where Tina and Tracy agreed to create a comprehensive spreadsheet to include a convergence of students with individual IEP citations noted in the Iowa of Department of Education Site Visit report, IEP revaluation meetings, and GWAEA IEP citations that had errors in one or more of the original areas of noncompliance. The District received this list on August 24th, 2016. The Special Education Department created building lists and sent to building principals on September 1st.

Will teachers be paid for the work they do outside of the contract day? Will there be subs provided by the District for IEPs that are due by Oct 1?

Substitute teacher will be hired to provide time for teachers to complete the rewrites of IEP's. As much as possible, please schedule IEP re-evaluation meetings during contract or conference time. IEP meetings not able to be scheduled during contract time teachers will be reimbursed at their hourly rate. This must be pre-approved by the building administrator and Director of Special Education. For those teachers who are approved to hold IEP meetings outside of the contract day will be given a code to use when clocking in and out of Timeclock Plus.

If there are IEPs that are due by Oct 1, and the student is up for their 3-year eval, will the teacher will have to do the IEP now and the 3-year eval at the later "due" date?

If the student's reevaluation IEP due date is the near future the team may decide to hold the reevaluation meeting now. If the reevaluation IEP is later in the school year the team may chose to wait and hold the reevaluation due date at a later time.

When will the ICCSD/AEA PD and training sessions involving Spec Ed teachers be held? Will they be before October 1?

GWAEA provided professional learning to special education teachers on writing and implementing IEPs that align to AEA and state expectations. The training was videotaped in order to allow teachers unable to attend on the 18th to view the training prior to September 1st.

Additional professional learning is required for special education teachers on conducting behavior assessments and develop aligned Behavior Intervention Plans (BIPs) based on Functional Behavior Assessments(FBAs), and professional learning is required for all secondary special education staff and administrators' related to course of study and targeted graduation. I have requested professional development from the GWAEA to address these citations. GWAEA has not yet confirmed this request but will be discussed at Monday's meeting.

The teachers want to do the IEPs correctly. The AEA is now the group that verifies whether they are correct or not. When will the special ed teachers and the AEA specialists be in the same room to talk through these issues?

The special education teachers ICCSD Special Education IDss and GWAEA staff (Special Education Consultant, Social Worker and/or School Psychologist) attend weekly PLC meetings at each building and will allow them time to collaborate and learn best practice.

Are we confident that teachers know exactly what the mistakes on the IEP were/are, and confident that the teachers know how to remedy those mistakes? If they are not confident about this, who do they contact?

The special education department has been generating a list of questions teachers have regarding specific citations. These questions will be posed to GWAEA Regional Administrators and DE Communication Liaison during Monday (September 12) morning's meeting.

Can teachers with IEPs to complete because of the DE's citations be excused from their weekly PLC so that they can work on the IEPs?

As stated above, PLCs are an opportunity for teachers to collaboratively work through these citations and be updated on appropriate practices etc... If needed, teachers who have students on their caseload with individual IEP citations may use PLC time through the first of October.

What is the role of the special ed coaches? Generally, and specifically in this process.

The Special Education Instructional Design Strategist role is to provide ongoing coaching, modeling and support to special education teachers in writing compliant IEP aligned with the state and federal guidelines to identify and delivery instructional practices which are matched to student need and to ensure accelerated growth. (Please see attached PLCs role and function-including GWAEA/IDS roles.)