



**Looking Ahead in Support
of Students with Disabilities**
ASE Annual Conference
Russell Johnston, PhD
June 11, 2018





Today's Topics

1. Thank you
2. Grants
3. Making Money Matter (M3)
4. Equitable services and proportionate share
5. MA IEP Improvement Project
6. Significant disproportionality
7. Office of Approved Special Education Schools restructuring
8. Some changes to indicator data
9. BSEA rules revision
10. Guidance documents
11. ED Boarding



Thank you

- Participation in regional special education meetings
- School visits
- Commitment



Grants

- Grant 274 (professional development) not available for FY19
- Possible grant funding for IEP improvement efforts
- Grant 262 (early childhood special education) returning to DESE
- Upcoming webinar on Grants 240 and 262--June 21 and 22
- More information
 - 781-338-6230 (hotline)
 - www.doe.mass.edu/federalgrants
 - federalgrantprograms@doe.mass.edu



Making Money Matter (M³)

- In FY19, districts required to participate in M³ are those with:
- 2017 special education determination level of *Needs Technical Assistance (NTA)*, *Needs Intervention (NI)*, or *Needs Substantial Intervention (NSI)*; **AND**
 - One or more schools serving grades 3-8 with 2017 MCAS English language arts (ELA) and/or mathematics achievement percentiles 1-10, and/or one or more high schools serving grades 9-12 only with 2017 accountability percentiles 1-10.



Equitable services and proportionate share

- OSEP finding regarding how DESE withholds funding for new and expanding charter schools
- Requirement to recalculate Grant 240 for proportionate share
- Annual recalculation going forward
- Letter coming this week



Equitable services and proportionate share

- Revising proportionate share advisory
- Need to calculate proportionate share for Grant 262 starting FY19



Equitable services and proportionate share

- Establishment of ombudsperson for proportionate share
- Email address: IDEAequitable.services@doe.mass.edu
- [June 8 letter of explanation](#)



MA IEP Improvement Project

- AnLar--partner vendor
- Research phase; thank you for your participation
 - Approximately 2,600 survey responses from professionals
 - Approximately 4,000 survey responses from parents
- Next phase: Identify development partner



MA IEP Improvement Project

- “Is Special Education the Right Service?” (ISERS) update
- Thank you to special education directors who have volunteered their assistance
- Aligning ISERS with MA IEP Improvement Project



Significant disproportionality

- Expecting delay in enforcement from OSEP, not confirmed
- When implemented, DESE will start with higher thresholds for disproportionality and build upon districts' successful efforts at reduction
- Guidance memo likely this summer
- Earliest fiscal impact will be FY20



Significant disproportionality

Coordinated Early Intervening Services

- “Services to help children who need additional academic or behavioral support to be successful in school. They can include professional development and educational and behavioral evaluations, services, and supports”
- Can be voluntary or mandatory (comprehensive)
- Voluntary--Up to 15% of IDEA funds
- Mandatory comprehensive--Required 15% of IDEA funds



Office of Approved Special Education Schools

- Restructured teams
- Liaisons will handle all matters related to approved schools
- Go live date--June 13
- Letter coming soon with link to list of liaisons assigned to specific schools



Indicator data collection update

- Public School Monitoring team will collect data for Indicators 11, 12 and 13 through Tiered Focused Monitoring (TFM)
 - Indicator 11--Child Find
 - Indicator 12--Effective Transition (early childhood)
 - Indicator 13--Effective Transition (secondary)
- All findings and corrective action will be handled through TFM



Indicator data collection update

Questions or feedback about Tiered Focused Monitoring?



BSEA rules revision

- DESE and BSEA responding to compliance monitoring from OSEP
- Watch for upcoming public notice
- Likely topics:
 - Extension of timelines
 - Expedited hearings
 - Alignment with DESE's complaint management system



Guidance documents and regulations

1. [LEA assignment regulations guidance](#) and appendices
2. Upcoming--Guidance on allowable costs for IDEA funds
3. Upcoming--Guidance on dually identified EL and SWD
4. Upcoming--Guidance on early childhood transition
5. June BESE meeting regulation considerations:
 - Accountability and assistance regulations
 - LOOK Act regulations
 - History and social studies standards



Emergency department (ED) boarding

- Your experiences?
- Improvements underway
- Volunteer outreach



THANK YOU

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