



LESSONS LEARNED FROM FOCUSED MONITORING

One of our local districts recently participated in a Focused Monitoring On Site Review with the Office of Special Education. This visit included file reviews and staff interviews. The purpose of the visit was to evaluate district policies and procedures, how the needs of at risk learners are met, and finally compliance in IEP development and implementation. There were many strengths noted in the district including: 1) participation with Instructional Consultation Teams, 2) timely IEPs and Reevaluations, 3) strong PLAAFP statements, and 4) comprehensive evaluation reports. Along with these strengths, there were also some areas in which student and district level correction was needed. Any student level corrections are in the process of being addressed right now. District level corrections will be addressed through a corrective action plan and professional development opportunities in the fall. Any professional development that is provided will be available countywide because these areas of need are not unique to this one district.

Priority areas for correction and professional development will include:

- 1) Having documentation of participation from ALL required team members (general education teacher, special education teacher/provider, district representative, and person able to interpret instructional implications of evaluation results) on all REEDs and IEPs. If one person is serving multiple roles their name must be listed with each role that they are serving.
- 2) Becoming more specific in how Supplemental Aids & Services are written, implementing the Supplemental Aids & Services, and then consistently documenting the provision of Supplemental Aids & Services.
- 3) Ensuring that IEP goals are measurable and observable, including the procedure with which the student's progress will be evaluated.

Please stay tuned for more information in the fall on updated guidance and professional development opportunities for these priority areas. If you are interested in learning more or assisting in the development of guidance or professional development in any of these areas please contact Renee Thelen at rthelen@ioniaisd.org.

PARENT ATTENDANCE

Please be advised that there are some issues with parent attendance in instances where the IEP is published after the date of the meeting. Due to nightly uploads from the student information system into Illuminate there can be an information override which can cause a parent that was previously checked as being in attendance to then default to not being in attendance. As always, please double check the pdf version of the IEP to ensure that all information is accurate prior to publishing.

THANK YOU!

I'd like to extend a huge thank you to our Illuminate User Group members! This group works very hard to relay the questions, concerns, and suggestions of our Illuminate users countywide. They attend monthly meetings and share information learned at those meetings with their colleagues. If your building currently does not have representation on the Illuminate User Group and you're interested in getting involved please contact your local district special education coordinator.

I'd also like to thank our Illuminate users countywide! As the system evolves to meet our changing needs we're constantly being challenged with learning new things. I appreciate everyone's patience and understanding as we do our best to stay on top of these changes and provide guidance when needed. Thank you and have a great summer!