

Special Education Update

East Central Indiana Special Services.....January 7, 2021

Reminders.....

- Please complete the alternate assessment training if you have not already done so (see below).
- Please make sure to finalize and distribute copies of IEPs. Several case conferences were held in December, but the East Central office has not yet received a copy.
- Please remember to submit a data entry sheet with each finalized IEP to your school data person. Also, please make sure that the information on the data entry sheet matches what is actually in the student's IEP. Errors were found on several data entry sheets that led to conflicts for the December 1 child count.
- Please send a quick email to OT, PT, and DHH staff when a student that you share is going to be out of school due to quarantine or illness. This will allow them to plan in advance with the student's parent to provide virtual services rather than that student missing a therapy session.

Thanks for all you do!
Liza, Mort, and Lisa

REQUIRED TRAINING For ALL Special Education Teachers and Administrators Regarding the Alternate Assessment

Please review the following three documents and video. Once you have done so, please complete the Google form so that I can document your participation in these training activities. Please do so no later than **January 8, 2021**.

1. Criteria for Determining Participation in the Alternate Assessment in Lieu of the General Education Assessment Participation Guidelines <https://www.doe.in.gov/sites/default/files/assessment/indiana-participation-guidance-updated-091219.pdf>

2. Alternate Assessment Participation Decision Flowchart
<https://www.doe.in.gov/sites/default/files/assessment/indiana-alternate-assessment-participation->

[decision-flowchart-final-3-28-18.pdf](#)

3. Participation Decision for Indiana's Alternate Assessment Frequently Asked Questions

<https://www.doe.in.gov/sites/default/files/assessment/indiana-alternate-assessment-participation-guidance-faq-final-6-22-2020.pdf>

4. 2020-2021 Alternate Assessment Participation Webinar 2020-2021 [video](#)

5 Google Form to document you have completed these requirements

<https://forms.gle/nwxwffjSnJF3joyd6>

Last in the Series -- Breathe!

Breath Series Episode 8 "4 - 7 - 8 Breathing"




Secondary Level Teachers - Transition IEP Audit Preparation

Please use the IEP Compliance and Quality Review Checklist (see below) to do a self-check of ALL your transition IEP's between now and Spring Break. This checklist may also be found on the frequently used forms Padlet under IEP Tools on the East Central website. Please contact Lisa for assistance and support if there is anything you are unsure of. Over the next month, Lisa will be using this review checklist as she completes your IEP reviews. She will send you the completed rubric with the correction notes on the IEP so that you compare your self-check with what she has listed.

****Elementary teachers**, you ALSO can use this tool...there are only a few sections that wouldn't apply to you. You can ignore the post secondary 'outcomes/Transition' section- Items numbered 13-18. All other indicators are things that apply to your IEP writing as well.



IEP ECISS Checklist.pdf

 [Download](#)
455.9 KB

Free "Focus on Inclusion" Conference – THIS IS GOOD STUFF! TRY TO ATTEND AT LEAST ONE SESSION!

[Focus on Inclusion](#) is going virtual! Administrators and educators have been working endlessly to provide the best for Indiana students. To show our appreciation the Indiana IEP Resource Center is providing a week of professional learning for FREE! Focus on Inclusion Week will take place from February 1 – 5, 2021. Each day, with the exception of Friday, we will offer three sessions. Feel free to join us for all or select the topics and times that work best within your busy schedule. If you are unable to view the live sessions, the recordings will be available to registrants up to two weeks following the event.

Text-to-Speech Update for State Assessments

Text-to-Speech is now available for students in grades 3-12 for all items on state assessments!

Reminder: If a student does not currently use Text-to-Speech as a daily accommodation, it should **not** be considered for use on state assessment. Accommodations utilized for testing should also be utilized on a routine basis by the student.

If a student DOES utilize Text-to-Speech as a daily accommodation, the case conference committee may consider Text-to-Speech for state assessment using the following guidance document. [Guidance Regarding Read Aloud for Students in Grades 3-12](#)


This completed document must be attached to the student's IEP.

In the Indiana IEP program, the Text-to-Speech accommodation appears at the bottom of the assessment accommodations list for every student beginning in 2nd grade, which is when the testing accommodations are considered for 3rd grade.

The DOE has developed a notice to parents of students in grades 3-5 that is being sent out by the East Central office regarding this change as this accommodation was just added for these grade levels. A copy of the letter is below for your review.



Notice Regarding Statewide Assessments.pdf

 [Download](#)
163.3 KB

Update: Accessibility and Accommodations Guidance Updated

IDOE has updated the "[Accessibility and Accommodations Guidance for the 2020-2021 School Year](#)" guidance to reflect the changes to text-to-speech (TTS) and human reader accommodations for grades three through five adopted by the Indiana State Board of Education in November. Guidance for assigning TTS or a human reader on state assessments for the 2020-2021 school year are located in Appendix A of the Accessibility and Accommodations Guidance. Contact [OSA](#) with any questions regarding these updates.

Assistive Technology Training - GET ON BOARD!

If you are not using Text-to-Speech, Speech-to-Text, Word Prediction, or other built in or free assistive technology tools with your students, I urge you to learn how to use these programs so that you can share them with your students, their general education teachers, and parents. Here are a few resources for you to get started!

4 Built-in Google Docs Features You Must Know!



Free Assistive Technology Training

[INDATA](#) hosts [PATINS](#) for a new webinar, **Assistive Technology Tools and Supports for Remote Learning**. Join three PATINS Specialists, Kelli Suding, Jena Fahlbush, and Lisa Benfield, on **January 19, 2021 from 9:00 am - 2:00 pm EST**. This **free** training will **educate participants about assistive technology tools** that can increase the independence of individuals with disabilities during **online learning**. Designed for anyone interested in learning about assistive technology (AT) tools and supports for remote learning for individuals with disabilities. Individuals with disabilities, educators, parents, students, and professionals can benefit from this training content.

Alternate Assessment Test Administrator Training

I AM Test Administrator Training is required for new I AM Test Administrators as well as for those who completed the training in 2020 but did not administer the assessment due to COVID related school closure/test cancellation.

[Registration](#) for this training is available via the I AM Portal. This thirty-minute training will take place on **March 3, 2021 at 3:30 PM EST**.

As a reminder, all I AM Test Administrators must also complete the Online I AM Test Administrator Certification Course, which is available on the I AM Portal beginning January 25, 2021. Questions regarding registration can be communicated to the Indiana Assessment Help Desk.

