

# Special Education Update

East Central Indiana Special Services.....February 7, 2022

Just in case.....reminders for several things.....

ACRs:

- The best plan to prevent overdue ACRs is to schedule them for a date that is at least 1 month prior to the IEP's expiration date. This should give you plenty of time to reschedule the meeting, if needed, due to staff or parent illness/quarantine.
- Please plan to have all ACRs coming due in August 2022 completed by May 15th of this school year. Start planning now so you don't hold these meetings during testing windows or have to hold a significant number of conferences all at once this spring.

State Testing:

- Please make sure to get rid of those pesky blue envelopes in IIEP! Accommodations for state testing are only uploaded for the student into TIDE from finalized IEPs with green check marks.
- Remember that accommodations for state testing also need to be utilized on a regular basis for a student. As an example, don't click on "Word prediction via a non embedded software program" as an accommodation for ILEARN if the student isn't already using a word prediction software program on a regular basis.
- Do not check as an accommodation for state testing that text is read aloud for ALL items including reading comprehension without inviting Mort/Lisa/Liza to the case conference to walk the team through the process for determining if this is an appropriate option for the student.

Diploma vs Certificate Track

- This decision is not made without new evaluation data. If considering this as an option for a student, please invite your school psychologist/diagnostician to the student's case conference to discuss a reevaluation.

Transitioning from Building to Building

- It's also time to start planning those transition conferences for students moving from one building to the next. Please make sure to work with the special education teacher at the "next" school in your district to develop a plan for how to accomplish this. We want all IEPs for students moving on to a new building to have an agreed upon plan for services for the upcoming school year.

## CPI Training Dates for Remainder of School Year

All staff in need of initial CPI certification or recertification will need to participate in a full day of training as well as complete about 2.5 hours of online coursework prior to the in person training. These trainings are being held monthly at the East Central Educational Service Center, 705 W 21st Street, in Connersville from 9 AM-4 PM. Lunch will be on your own. Please wear closed-toe shoes and comfortable clothing. The online modules will be emailed to participants 2 weeks prior to their in-person training.

Registration links:

March 3: <https://forms.gle/MjfDaxRtFJxNWwt2A>

April 7: <https://forms.gle/cMA63zGCUZ3NwP6u8>

May 19: <https://forms.gle/mqSqrH65wEVLREtf9>

When registering, please list Liza Bates, [liza.bates@eciss.org](mailto:liza.bates@eciss.org), as the billing contact for this training.

## Speech-to-Text in Google Docs

Setting up speech-to-text in Google Docs is very easy. If you haven't already explored this option and taught it to your students, do so today! It is super easy and such a powerful tool for our students with writing difficulties.

<https://support.google.com/docs/answer/4492226?hl=en#zippy=%2Ctype-with-your-voice>

## Text-to-Speech for Google Chrome

Many of our schools have added "Read & Write" to student devices so that they have the ability to use this add-on for text-to-speech. If your school has done so, students will have a purple puzzle piece icon in their list of extensions in the upper right hand corner of their screen next to their Google account icon/picture. If your school has not done so and you wish to use this tool for one or more of your students, please contact your tech coordinator and ask about adding it to their device. Here is info about this tool: <https://chrome.google.com/webstore/detail/readwrite-for-google-chrome/noeonmfapjbbkmdafoankkfajkcphgd?hl=en-US>

It is very simple to use and makes most any written text accessible to our students with reading difficulties. Check it out if you don't use it already. Teacher accounts are free and come with all of the bells and whistles, too!

## Secondary Transition Information Sessions

Join IDOE's Office of Special Education and the Indiana Secondary Transition Resource Center (INSTRC) for Topical Tuesdays, held the second and fourth Tuesday of every month from 2:30 to 4:30 p.m. ET. February's Topical Tuesdays will begin Tuesday, February 8 and will feature the topic *Postsecondary Goals*. Each monthly topic is based on the various components of secondary transition and time will be allotted for additional related questions. Registration is not required, and you can join using this [link](#). Contact the [Office of Special Education](#) with any questions.

## Supporting Positive Behaviors for Students with Autism Webinar

Creating structure in your classroom environment through physical design, routines, visuals, positive feedback and reinforcement can support positive behaviors for all students, especially students with autism. In this session, we'll explore ways to engage your students with autism through the structure of your space and instruction using the principles of Universal Design for Learning. Attendees will leave with use-it-tomorrow ideas for improving student behavior and access to learning!

### Dates & Times Available:

2/16/2022 @ 11am ET

3/23/2022 @ 3pm ET

[Register for this training](#)