



State of Arizona
Department of Education

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Superintendent of
Public Instruction

Special Education Monitoring Alert



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Alert to Special Education Directors:

State General Supervision and Monitoring System Changes

The Arizona Department of Education, Exceptional Student Services, (ADE/ESS) receives ongoing technical assistance from the Office of Special Education Programs (OSEP) and the National Collaborative for Systemic Improvement (NCSI). OSEP and NCSI provide guidance related to the ESS monitoring process, the State Performance Plan/Annual Performance Report (SPP/APR), and the State Systemic Improvement Plan (SSIP).

As a result of recent technical assistance provided by OSEP related to general supervision requirements of monitoring and the SSIP, ESS will begin implementing a cycle-based monitoring framework in the 2017–2018 school year. Monitoring activities will take place in year 4 of the six-year monitoring cycle, with technical assistance (TA) provided in all other years. All public education agencies (PEAs) will receive written notification of their assigned cycle years by March 31, 2017.

Monitoring activities will continue to be differentiated based on the ESS Risk Analysis Tool. This tool has been revised to align to the SPP/APR, reflecting the importance of indicator data and outcome-driven general supervision. Monitoring activities will also be aligned with and include state systemic improvement plan (SSIP) activities for identified PEAs.

During monitoring cycle years 1, 2, 3, 5, and 6, ESS program specialists will schedule at least one yearly site visit with all schools on their assigned caseloads to review data using the Risk Analysis Tool. Additionally, program specialists will focus on the three State Performance Plan (SPP) indicators for which OSEP requires 100% compliance and which will be components of the Risk Analysis Tool: **Indicator 11** – 60-day timeline for initial evaluations; **Indicator 12** – In-by-three, and; **Indicator 13** – High school transition.

During these annual site visits, program specialists will act as your sources for training, technical assistance, additional resources, and collaboration in an ongoing effort to support improvement for all student outcomes. Please note that the program specialists will not be monitoring your program during these yearly site visits—instead they'll focus on the three indicators. In an effort to meet State-required targets and improve student outcomes, these visits will focus on

collaborative problem solving to improve and sustain compliance and student outcomes in schools.

The change in Arizona's monitoring system and SSIP occurred following guidance provided by OSEP and NCSI, as well as analysis of data and consideration of feedback from all stakeholders. ESS believes that these changes will improve the balance between compliance and Results-Based Accountability (RBA) and will allow the State to continue to meet the IDEA general supervision mandate.

ESS is excited by the enhanced support program specialists will provide to you and your schools and expect improved outcomes as a result of this increased collaboration!