

Hot Topics in Special Education From My Perspective 2020 - 2021

The following are current Hot Topics in special education that could impact the work of the State Special Education Advisory Panel

1. COVID-19 and Virtual Education

- Educating children with disabilities during a pandemic
 - Civil rights issues for children with special health care needs
 - COVID-19 has led to unmet needs
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2. Recruitment and Retention of Qualified Education Staff

- National education crisis
 - Lack of General and Special Education Teachers, Administrators, and related services
 - Impacted by COVID-19
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3. Recovery Services

- Recouping skills lost during COVID-19
 - Impacts on children
 - Extended school year
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4. Office of Special Education Programs (OSEP) Differentiated Monitoring Support (DMS) 2.0

- On-site visits from OSEP
 - Panel could be interviewed by OSEP
 - Correcting non-compliance – Panel function
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5. Leadership in Special Education

- Leadership is the number one variable for school districts' success
 - Shortages in school districts & State leadership
 - COVID-19 pandemic impacting school leadership retirement/leaving
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6. Mental Health Services

- Lack of services and expertise
 - COVID-19 related
 - Physical and mental health need to be addressed
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7. Homelessness

- Impacts on children and youth with disabilities
 - Some children with disabilities are also experiencing homelessness
 - A homeless representative on the Panel
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8. Individuals with Disabilities Education Act (IDEA) Re-Authorization

- Long overdue
 - Rethinking special education
 - Panel involved when State regulations are changed
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9. Dyslexia

- Addressing needs of children with Dyslexia
 - Covered under Learning Disability/Other Health Impairment (LD/OHI) categories
 - Addressed at legislative sessions
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10. Keep the Main Thing the Main Thing

- A focus on infants, toddlers, children, and youth with disabilities
 - Every child with a disability receiving Free Appropriate Public Education (FAPE)
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