

Hot Topics in Special Education From My Perspective 2022-2023

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

1. Safety in Public Schools

- Educating children with disabilities during a pandemic
 - Child-related gun violence
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2. Homelessness

- Impacts on children and youth with disabilities
 - Educational barriers homeless children with disabilities are facing
 - A McKinney-Vento Council member serving as homelessness representative on the Panel
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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

- Eight components of general supervision
 - Three phases of monitoring
 - 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
 - Solutions for school leadership turnover
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6. Recruitment and Retention of Qualified Education Staff

- National education crisis
 - COVID-19 pandemic impacting school leadership retirement/leaving
 - Council involvement on strategies for recruitment and retention
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7. Mental Health Services

- Statistics of youth with mental health conditions
 - Mental health related to COVID-19
 - Solutions for schools
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8. Section 504 RE-Authorization

- History of the Office of Civil Rights (OCR)
 - Updating current regulations
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9. Individuals with Disabilities Education Act (IDEA) Re-Authorization

- Long overdue
 - Rethinking special education
 - Panel should be involved when State regulations are changed
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10. Keep the Main Thing the Main Thing

- A focus on infants, toddlers, children, and youth with disabilities
- Autism, Other Health Impairments (OHI), and Specific Learning Disabilities (SLD)
- Current issues and trends