

Current Issues in Special Education From My Perspective 2025

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

1. Special Education General Supervision

- Advisory Panel members should have a basic knowledge of special education general supervision.
- There has been recent guidance from OSEP reviewing the 8 components of general supervision.
- Understanding SEA and LEA responsibilities under IDEA, relating to the Panel.

2. Children Experiencing Homelessness

- Impacts on children and youth with disabilities experiencing homelessness.
- Service barriers children experiencing homelessness are facing.
- Rely on the McKinney-Vento Advisory Panel member.
- Discuss and know the data of children who are homeless and IDEA eligible.

3. Safety in Public Schools

- Increased violence in public schools/ mass shootings.
- Children need to feel safe in order to learn.
- Relating to Maslow's hierarchy of needs/feeling safe.

4. Office of Special Education Programs (OSEP) Differentiated Monitoring Support (DMS) 2.0

- Understanding DMS and responsibilities of the Panel.
- Role of Advisory Panel.
- Correcting non-compliance – Panel has a duty to provide advice and recommendations.

5. Leadership in Special Education

- SEA & LEA leadership is the number one variable for school districts' success, including student success.
- Increased shortages of special education leadership.
- Many school leaders do not have experience and knowledge of special education.

6. Recruitment and Retention of Qualified Education Staff

- National education crisis of lack of qualified teachers and related services.
- Trend of school leadership retirement and leaving the profession.
- The Panel can provide advice for recruitment and retention efforts in the State.

7. Mental Health Challenges

- Mental health challenges increasing in public schools.
- Review data of youth with mental health conditions.
- Need for professional development around mental health issues.

8. Changes at the Federal Level

- Understanding new federal educational priorities.
- Federal funding and the impact at the SEA/LEA level.
- Review changes at the federal level.

9. Individuals with Disabilities Education Act (IDEA)

- Be familiar with IDEA requirements.
- Panel should be involved when State special education regulations are changed.

10. Advisory Panel/Interagency Coordinating Council Communication/Collaboration

- Establish a membership link between the Advisory Panel/ICC.
 - Finding common priorities and creating a seamless system in special education.
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