

Indicator 8: Parent Involvement

Overview

Updated June 2026

Why is the SD Parent Involvement Survey needed?

The South Dakota Office of Special Education Programs (SEP) is federally required by the U.S. Department of Education to survey parents of children receiving special education services under the Individual with Disabilities Education Act (IDEA). The SD Parent Involvement Survey is SD's survey tool for collecting parent feedback. SEP must report the collected survey data in Indicator 8: Parent Involvement on the annual federal State Performance Plan (SPP).

The SD Parent Involvement Survey gives parents of students with disabilities the opportunity to provide anonymous input to help guide efforts to improve services and results for children and families in South Dakota. Parents' responses are very important to SEP. The survey results will be summarized for the state as a whole and broken out by individual school district. A summary of district-wide data will be provided to each school district to assist in improving district and state-wide facilitation of positive parent involvement. Written survey comments will be reviewed only by the South Dakota Department of Education (SD DOE).

What is Indicator 8: Parent Involvement?

Indicator 8 Overview: Indicator 8 is a results indicator on the federally required State Performance Plan (SPP). Indicator 8 measures the percentage of parents with a child receiving special education services who report that schools facilitated parent involvement as a means of improving services and results for children with disabilities.

Indicator 8 Goal: The goal of Indicator 8 is to improve services and results for students with Individual Education Programs (IEPs) by facilitating positive parent involvement.

Indicator 8 Measurements: Indicator 8 measures two items: Parent Involvement Score and Response Rate.

What is the "Parent Involvement Score" measurement and target?

Parent Involvement Measurement: The Indicator 8 Parent Involvement Score/Percent = [(# of respondent parents who report schools facilitated parent involvement) divided by the (total # of respondent parents of children with disabilities)] times 100.

Parent Involvement Target: SEP and district targets are outlined in SEP's annual SPP.

What is the “Response Rate” measurement and target?

Response Rate Measurement: The Indicator 8 Response Rate Percent = [(# of respondent parents) divided by (# of parents to whom the surveys were distributed as determined through the previous school year Child Count)] times 100.

Response Rate Target: The district target response (% of district parents who responded) is 20.00%.

What is the distribution process for the SD Parent Involvement Survey?

SEP surveys South Dakota parents via the SD Parent Involvement Survey. SEP provides the online survey in English and Spanish to all South Dakota school districts. Districts who wish to print paper versions in English, Spanish, or Karen may request PDFs of their district surveys and envelopes from SEP. Districts distribute the surveys throughout the school year to every parent of children receiving special education services in their districts, including out of district placements. If a parent has more than one child receiving services, they need to fill out a survey for each child separately. Collecting survey responses at in-person Individual Education Program meetings produces the best response rates. Districts should make every effort to encourage survey participation across all student demographic groups.

What is the distribution timeline for the SD Parent Involvement Survey?

July	Previous School Year: SEP provides districts with their parent survey results from the previous school year. Districts review the data at staff meetings and teacher in-services. SEP contacts districts under the 20.00% Response Rate target OR under the Parent Involvement Score target threshold to request completion of the enclosed <i>District Reflection</i> .
August	Upcoming School Year: SEP provides districts with a new on-line survey link and resources for districts to distribute during the upcoming school year.
September through May 31	Districts distribute and collect the online Parent Survey from parents of every child receiving special education services in the district. Districts who wish to print paper versions may request PDFs of their district surveys and envelopes from SEP.
April	SEP contacts districts with to-date survey response rates below 20.00%.

What if I have more questions?

For further questions regarding Indicator 8, please:

- Visit Indicator 8 resources at the [SD State Performance Plan website](#)
- Contact Stacy Holzbauer, SEP Program Specialist, at Stacy.Holzbauer@state.sd.us

Indicator 8: Parent Involvement

District Reflection

This District Reflection is available for districts personnel to stimulate thinking and discussion regarding key factors in facilitating positive parent involvement as a means of improving services and results for children with disabilities.

Directions for completing this District Reflection:

- **RESPONSE RATE:** For districts below the 20.00% target on Response Rate, answer the questions under “Response Rate” on page 3.
 - **PARENT INVOLVEMENT SCORE:** For districts below the target threshold on Parent Involvement Score, identify one scale (IEP, Communication, Parent Rights, Partnership, or Resources) to improve. Answer all questions under that scale on page 4. Completing more than one scale is optional.
 - E-mail completed District Reflection (just questions/answers for chosen section is sufficient) to Stacy.Holzbauer@state.sd.us.
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RESPONSE RATE

- What is the district policy regarding distribution of the survey (on-line or paper) to parents?
- How does the district train staff on the purpose of the survey and the importance of distributing it?
- How does the district explain the purpose and importance of the parent survey to parents?
- How does the district encourage survey participation across all student demographic groups, including race/ethnicity, disability, and grade?
- What are the district methods for monitoring or tracking survey response rate?
- How will the district improve their Parent Survey Response Rate **this upcoming school year**?

PARENT INVOLVEMENT SCORE

Identify ONE scale to improve. Completing more than one scale is optional.

1. Individual Education Program (IEP)

- What are the district methods for gathering parent input before, during, and after IEP meetings?
- How does the district ensure that IEPs are carried out as discussed and written?
- What are the methods and timelines for communicating annual IEP goal progress to parents?
- How will the district improve IEP input/involvement with parents **this upcoming school year**?

2. Communication

- How do teachers and administrators make themselves available and approachable for parent questions and concerns?
- How does the district ensure that teachers are writing documents with wording and explanations that parents can understand?
- How will the district improve communication with parents **this upcoming school year**?

3. Parent Rights

- How does the district distribute and explain the Parental Rights and Procedural Safeguards to parents?
- How does the district ensure that parents understand their options if they disagree with a school decision?
- How will the district improve staff and parents' understanding of parent rights **this upcoming school year**?

4. Partnership

- How does the district ensure that parents are treated as an equal partner with professionals in planning their child's special education program?
- What professional development does the district provide to district personnel centered on family engagement, parent involvement, or communicating with parents?
- How will the district improve partnership with parents **this upcoming school year**?

5. Resources

- What information does the district give parents about organizations and training that offer support for parents of students with disabilities?
- What is the district process for providing information to parents and students regarding Transition Planning (future employment, education, independent living, or adult service agencies)?
- How will the district improve distribution of resource information to parents **this upcoming school year**?