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**Indicator 8 District Reflection**

**For Special Education Indicator 8: Parent Involvement**

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

The South Dakota Office of Special Education Programs (SEP) is required by the U.S. Department of Education to survey parents of children receiving special education services. SEP must report the collected survey data in Indicator 8: Parent Involvement on the annual State Performance Plan (SPP).

**Directions for completing the Indicator 8 District Reflection:**

* For districts that did not meet the **RESPONSE RATE** target, complete the “District Response” under that section.
* For districts that did not meet the **PARENT INVOLVEMENT** target, complete the “District Response” for one area under that section. Completing more than one area is optional.
* E-mail district responses to Stacy.Holzbauer@state.sd.us.

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**RESPONSE RATE**

When reviewing district survey response rate, consider the following questions and reflect on current district processes:

* *What is the district policy regarding distribution of surveys to parents?*
* *How does the district train staff on the purpose of the survey and the importance of distributing it?*
* *How does the district distribute the paper survey to parents?*
* *How does the district distribute the on-line survey link to parents?*
* *What are the methods for monitoring survey participation?*
* *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 and disability?*

**District Response: How will the district improve their SD Parent Survey response rate this school year?**

**PARENT INVOLVEMENT**

When reviewing district survey results in the below four areas, consider the following questions:

1. Individual Education Plan (IEP) – Reflect on current district processes:

* *What are the district methods for gathering parent input before, during, and after IEP meetings?*
* *How does the district encourage parents to participate in writing their child’s IEP?*
* *How does the district ensure that IEPs are carried out as discussed and written?*

**District Response: How will the district improve IEP input/involvement this school year?**

2. Communication – Reflect on current district processes:

* *How does the district distribute and explain the Parental Rights and Procedural Safeguards to parents?*
* *How do teachers and administrators make themselves available and approachable for parent questions/concerns?*
* *What are the methods and timelines for communicating annual IEP goal progress to parents?*
* *How does the district ensure that teachers are writing documents with wording/explanations that parents can understand?*

**District Response: How will the district improve communication with parents this school year?**

3. Information – Reflect on current district processes:

* *How does the district ensure that parents understand their options if they disagree with a school decision?*
* *What information does the district give parents about organizations that offer support for parents of students with disabilities?*
* *What is the district process for providing information to parents and* *students regarding transition planning (post-secondary school, employment and/or independent living, adult service agencies)?*

**District Response: How will the district improve information distribution to parents this school year?**

4. Partnership – Reflect on current district processes:

* *How does the district ensure that parents feel like they 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?*
* *What support or training is offered to parents to better understand standards, behavior intervention, and supporting communication?*

**District Response: How will the district improve partnership with parents this school year?**