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Bureau of Special Education Support FY'24 Memo #26

Date: March 11, 2024

To: Superintendents of Schools
Administrators of Special Education

From: Office of the Commissioner of Education

Division of Learner Support
Bureau of Special Education Support

RE: FY24 (2023-2024) Annual Special Education LEA Determinations

The New Hampshire Department of Education (NHED), Bureau of Special Education Support (Bureau) is writing with information relative to the Bureau's annual Special Education LEA Determination for all Local Education Agencies (LEAs) for 2023-2024 (FY'24).

All LEAs will receive their 2023-2024 Special Education LEA Determinations and their IDEA Part B Indicator Data Confidential Dashboards on Tuesday, April 2, 2024.

As announced at Information Day on October 6, 2023; the Director's Call on October 19, 2023; and at the listening sessions on October 18 & 25, 2023 and November 3, 6, & 9, 2023 the following changes have been made and are in effect for the 2023-2024 LEA Determinations:

- Individual Section Results Scale: Per recommendations from the Federal Office of Special Education Programs (OSEP) and guidance from federal technical assistance centers that enhanced rigor for LEA Determinations is one way that states can aim to improve student outcomes the Bureau has made changes to the individual section results scales:

Individual Section Result	Previous Scale	Current Scale
Meets Requirements	00.00% – 38.00%	00.00% – 30.00%
Needs Assistance	38.01% – 65.00%	30.01% – 60.00%
Needs Intervention	65.01% – 85.00%	60.01% – 85.00%
Needs Substantial Intervention	85.01% – 100.00%	85.01% – 100.00%

- One-Point Option: In response to feedback from LEAs the Bureau has added a one-point option to relevant results Indicators for LEAs whose performance exceeded the State's performance but did not meet the state target.
- Removal of Trend Data Analysis: For the data points in the Compliance Section that were using a trend data analysis the Bureau found that LEAs could be held accountable for one lower-scoring year of performance for up to five years. The Bureau has switched to only using the most current year of data for Indicators 4b, 9, 10, 11 and 12 in the Compliance Section.
- Indicator 4a: The Bureau is adding Indicator 4a to the Compliance Section. The addition of Indicator 4a will provide more additional information regarding prevalence of suspension/expulsion at the LEA level.

The 2023-2024 LEA Determination includes a summary that outlines the LEA's data and score for each data point in each section as well as each section result. Each results section result is determined by the percent of points received by the district in that particular section and the overall LEA Determination is established by the combination of section results as outlines in the summary. The summary also includes the LEA's previous Determinations for reference. Each individual section (Results, Assessment, Compliance, and Other Factors) describes each specific data point with data source and includes the scoring rubric, State Target, State Data, LEA Data, and LEA Score.

Included with LEA Determinations this year, and going forward, will be IDEA Part B Indicator Data Confidential Dashboards. These confidential, static dashboards provide trend data for the majority of the IDEA Indicators to districts to support the understanding and use of their own unsuppressed data and data trends as the publicly reported IDEA data is often suppressed for small cell sizes. These dashboards include the federal definition and calculation, district source data counts to clearly show how the district data was determined, and state and district data compared to state targets over time in chart form and as a data visualization.

Should you have questions, or need further clarification, please contact Lexie Ferraro at Alexandra.m.Ferraro@doe.nh.gov or (603) 271-3750.