

State Performance Plan

Indicator 11: Child Find



Description of Stakeholder Engagement Activities & Results:

The New York State Education Department (NYSED) is currently developing the State Performance Plan/Annual Performance Report (SPP/APR) for the new six-year cycle for federal fiscal year (FFY) 2020-2025. NYSED obtained stakeholder input using two central approaches:

- Broad public engagement and input through online surveys between October and November 2021; and
- Virtual meetings with stakeholder groups in November 2021.

The Office of Special Education (OSE) created a [Stakeholder Involvement](#) webpage with SPP/APR resources to promote feedback and engagement. This included a message from New York State Board of Regent member, Regent Cea, about the [SPP Stakeholder Meetings](#), an [SPP Stakeholder Invitation Letter](#), [At-a-Glance State Performance Plan Summary of Indicators 1-17](#), [Getting to Know New York's SPP/APR Handout](#), and SPP/APR FFY 2020-2025: [General Overview Presentation](#).

For Indicator 11, the OSE created the following resources designed to engage stakeholders and build capacity in data analysis, evaluating progress in meeting compliance requirements, the consideration of existing improvement activities, and the development of potential new improvement activities:

Resource Links
Indicator 11: Child Find – Handout <i>A summary of the data used to measure this Indicator and existing improvement activities.</i>
Introduction <i>An overview of frequently used terms.</i>
Measurement Description <i>An explanation of the Indicator 11 measurement.</i>
Statewide Data Trends and Comparisons <i>Past trend data of reported performance from New York State, comparable states, and national mean to evaluate New York State's progress in this Indicator.</i>
Improvement Strategies <i>An explanation of existing improvement activities and presentation of potential new activities to promote outcomes in this Indicator.</i>
Closing <i>Additional resources to provide feedback and to evaluate school district performance on this Indicator.</i>

Soliciting Public Input

Virtual Stakeholder Meetings

Five virtual stakeholder meetings were held for Indicator 11. Meetings occurred both during the day and in the evening to accommodate different schedules. A total of 66 stakeholders participated in the meeting, including 14 parents. The meetings included an overview of the SPP/APR and viewing of the pre-recorded webinar modules. Each session sought stakeholder feedback on what stood out to them about the trend data and how to use this data to evaluate New York State's progress with consideration of improvement activities, what activities could be installed, maintained, or strengthened to address improvements in Child Find outcomes, and any other feedback participants had regarding Indicator 11.

Online Survey

Between October to November 2021, a total of 32 stakeholders completed the online survey for Indicator 11. The Indicator 11 online survey sought stakeholder feedback to evaluate the effectiveness of existing improvement activities in making progress toward Child Find outcomes, whether participants supported potential new improvement activities, and whether other activities could be installed, maintained, or strengthened.

Themes of the stakeholder feedback received in the virtual meetings and online surveys on Indicator 11 included:

- The importance of training for both the CSE/CPSE, multidisciplinary evaluation programs (MDE), county CPSE representatives, and Early Intervention service coordinators.
- The challenges in New York State regarding the reimbursement rates not covering the actual costs of the evaluations.
- The lack of evaluators in certain regions, including bilingual evaluators and interpreters.
- A need for greater outreach to families to facilitate the evaluation process.
- The significant differences in Indicator 11 performance between New York City and the rest of the State.

Following the collection of stakeholder feedback from the online survey and virtual meetings, internal workgroups comprised of NYSED OSE and Information and Reporting Services reviewed stakeholder responses to identify where recommendations for improvement strategies could be amended to better align with the input received from parents, school administrators, educators, advocacy organizations, community members and other interested parties. The results of the OSE's incorporation of stakeholder feedback and evaluation of Indicator 11 progress with stakeholders will be reflected in OSE's development of improvement strategies as summarized further in this report.

Stakeholder Meetings & Online Survey

Five virtual stakeholder meetings were held to discuss Indicator 11

Nov. 3rd 9:00-11:30 AM

Nov. 10th 9:00-11:30 AM

Nov. 10th 6:00-8:30 PM

Nov. 18th 1:00-3:30 PM

Nov. 18th 6:00-8:30 PM

A total of 66 stakeholders participated in the meetings, including 14 parents.

An online survey was published to collect stakeholder feedback over a six-week period.

A total of 32 stakeholders completed an online survey, including 17 parents.

NYSED values its partnership with parents and other key stakeholders in our ongoing efforts to improve outcomes for students with disabilities throughout New York State. Thank you to all who participated in a meeting or survey.

Feedback on Improvement Strategies

Following the evaluation of Indicator 11 trend data (past targets and performance), stakeholder presentations included a description of improvement strategies with requested feedback on what activities should be considered, maintained, or strengthened to address improvements in Child Find. The presented information and solicited feedback from a variety of stakeholders, including parents and educators, is intended to increase capacity to support activities around improving Indicator 11 outcomes.

Improvement Strategies Presented:

Existing Improvement Activities to Improve Indicator 11 Outcomes: the OSE presentation included a summary of school district verification and follow-up reviews; targeted monitoring of New York City School District's compliance assurance plan; Chapter 429 of the Laws of 2017 making school districts approved preschool evaluators without needing to submit an application to NYSED; early childhood transition materials including a *Resource to Special Education Support Services* and the Memorandum of Understanding with the Department of Health (DOH) regarding the Early Intervention Program (EIP) and Preschool Special Education Program; promotion of the "Learn the Signs. Act Early" campaign; and the OSE Educational Partnership targeted professional development resources to improve early childhood transition in New York State.

Potential New Improvement Strategies to Improve Indicator 11 Outcomes: the OSE presented six potential new improvement activities for stakeholder consideration. The first three focus on professional development, training, and guidance and include: requiring school districts with low Indicator 11 performance to conduct a root cause analysis with the OSE Partnership; developing a CPSE training module on proper data reporting and effective processes; and updating OSE guidance on initial evaluation requirements. The other three include: expanding the Indicator 11 data collection sample size by increasing the frequency of district reporting and/or the sample of students for reporting districts; updating the NYSED and DOH early childhood transition guidance; and repealing the requirement that the parent(s) select the preschool evaluator and replace it with the requirement that the school district, after providing the parent(s) with a list of approved evaluators, consult with the parent(s) regarding the selection of an evaluator who can provide a timely evaluation of the preschool child.

Stakeholder Feedback on Improvement Strategies:

Participants of the online survey and virtual meetings were asked to rate the effectiveness of the existing improvement activities to improve Indicator 11 outcomes. When asked to rate effectiveness on a scale of 1-5, the existing improvement activities rated "3" most frequently for moderate effectiveness except that targeted monitoring of NYC DOE's compliance assurance plan received a rating of "4" for more effective.

Both online survey participants and virtual meeting participants were asked whether they support the OSE potential new improvement activities for Child Find and to rank them in order of importance. Stakeholders supported all potential new improvement activities with the greatest support for:

1. Updating the NYSED and DOH 2005 Transition guidance for parents and families;
2. Updating OSE guidance on initial evaluation requirements;
3. Developing a CPSE training module on proper data reporting and effective processes; and
4. Requiring low performing school districts to conduct a root cause analysis with the OSE Partnership.

In addition to the improvement activities presented, stakeholders provided the following for consideration:

- Additional funding is needed for preschool evaluations.
- Training for parents, the CPSE, and the County is important and needed.
- Greater collaboration between the EIP and NYSED to assist in early childhood transition.
- Require districts to conduct more preschool evaluations.

Stakeholder responses will be used by the OSE to identify priority areas for improvement and assist in the development of the strategies that will be implemented to promote Child Find and meet performance objectives for Indicator 11 in the 2020-2025 SPP/APR.