

State Performance Plan

Indicator 7: Preschool Outcomes



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 7, the OSE created the following resources designed to engage stakeholders and build capacity in data analysis, evaluating progress in meeting New York State targets, the consideration of existing improvement activities, and the development of potential new improvement activities:

Resource Links

[Indicator 7: Preschool Outcomes Handout](#)

A summary of the data used to measure this Indicator and existing improvement activities.

[Introduction and Measurement Description](#)

An overview of frequently used terms and explanation of the Indicator 7 measurement.

[Trends and Comparisons](#)

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.

[Improvement Strategies](#)

An explanation of existing improvement activities and presentation of potential new activities to promote outcomes in this Indicator.

[Target Setting 7A1](#)

[Target Setting 7A2](#)

[Target Setting 7B1](#)

[Target Setting 7B2](#)

[Target Setting 7C1](#)

[Target Setting 7C2](#)

Presentation of NYSED's proposed Indicator 7 targets and methodology used to establish targets.

[Closing](#)

Additional resources to provide feedback and to evaluate school district performance on this Indicator.

Soliciting Public Input

Virtual Stakeholder Meetings

Five virtual stakeholder meetings were held for Indicator 7. Meetings occurred both during the day and in the evening to accommodate different schedules. A total of 64 stakeholders participated in the meeting, including 6 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 target-setting and improvement activities, what activities could be installed, maintained, or strengthened to address improvements in preschool outcomes, whether the proposed SPP targets for the Indicator 7 sub-indicators were rigorous but attainable and any other feedback participants had regarding Indicator 7.

Online Survey

Between October to November 2021, a total of 42 stakeholders completed the online survey for Indicator 7. The Indicator 7 online survey sought stakeholder feedback to evaluate the effectiveness of existing improvement activities in making progress toward preschool outcomes, whether participants supported potential new improvement activities, and whether the proposed SPP targets for the Indicator 7 sub-indicators were rigorous but attainable.

Themes of the stakeholder feedback received in the virtual meetings and online surveys on Indicator 7 included:

- There is significant regression in student skills due to the impact from the pandemic as many families and staff are in survival mode and/or dealing with exposure to trauma.
- The lack of service availability, including transportation, due to provider shortages will impact the ability of students to receive the recommended services and demonstrate improvement.
- More training and additional resources are needed to address the significant increase in the behavioral needs of students.
- Some students will not reach age-appropriate milestones due to their disability.

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 target-setting and/or 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 7 progress with stakeholders is reflected in NYSED's 2020-2025 SPP/APR targets and 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 7

Nov. 8th 1:00 – 3:30 PM

Nov. 8th 6:00 – 8:30 PM

Nov. 10th 1:00 – 3:30 PM

Nov. 16th 6:00 – 8:30 PM

Nov. 19th 9:00 – 11:30 AM

A total of 64 stakeholders participated in the meetings, including 6 parents.

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

A total of 42 stakeholders completed an online survey, including 18 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 7 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 preschool outcomes. 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 student outcomes and meeting Indicator 7 objectives.

Improvement Strategies Presented:

Existing Improvement Activities to Improve Indicator 7 Outcomes: the OSE presentation included a summary of the updated Prekindergarten early learning standards; overview of the activities of the Birth to Five Renewal grant; and the OSE Educational Partnership targeted professional development resources to improve preschool outcomes in New York State.

Potential New Improvement Strategies to Improve Indicator 7 Outcomes: the OSE presented four potential new improvement activities for stakeholder consideration. This includes requiring tests/assessments normed for three- and five-year-old children to be used for entry and exit evaluations; requiring the same test/assessment to be used for entry and exit evaluations; reporting all children for the year the school district is to report and not a student sample; and offering enhanced training on the preschool outcome reporting process.

Stakeholder Feedback on Improvement Strategies:

Participants of the online survey were asked to rate the effectiveness of the existing improvement activities to increase Indicator 7 outcomes. When asked to rate effectiveness on a scale of 1-5, all existing improvement activities rated “5” most frequently for the highest effectiveness rating.

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

1. Requiring tests/assessments normed for 3- and 5-year-old students;
2. Requiring the same test/assessment to be used for entry and exit evaluations; and
3. Offering enhanced training on the preschool outcome reporting process.

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

- Current rating scale is subjective, vague, and uninformative. There is a need for additional assessments that are developmentally appropriate.
- Develop a common identifier for children in the Early Intervention Program (EIP) to evaluate outcomes from EIP to preschool services.
- Suggest a federal moratorium on setting the goals to improve over the baseline for at least the next two years and instead use the NYS Resource Guides for School Success (NYS Early Learning Standards) to rate progress.
- Include 3–5-year-olds in district Response to Intervention efforts.
- Provide training in specially designed instruction and social emotional learning for preschool children.
- Provide funding for conducting functional behavioral assessments.
- Committee on Special Education/Committee on Preschool Special Education need additional training.
- Survey school district staff to determine the level of understanding on the reporting requirements.

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 increase preschool outcomes and meet performance objectives for Indicator 7 in the 2020-2025 SPP/APR.

Responses on Indicator 7 Targets:

Indicator 7A1 Target Setting: NYSED proposed the following targets for Indicator 7A1:

Baseline FFY 2008	FFY	2020	2021	2022	2023	2024	2025
83.80%	Target >=	88%	88%	88.25%	88.5%	88.75%	89%

There was not a majority agreement (over 50% of responses) for any of the three target feedback choices (too high, too low, or just right) as feedback was divided. Although not a majority of response, the most frequent response from stakeholders (46.15%) was that the proposed targets were “too high.” In response to the divided feedback, NYSED will not revise the SPP 2025 Indicator 7A1 target of 89% but will instead incorporate stakeholder feedback by changing the phase-in to this target by amending the 2020-2024 proposed targets given concerns that improvement may continue to be impacted by COVID-19.

NYSED proposed Indicator 7A1 targets are revised with the following reflecting the final targets:

Baseline FFY 2008	FFY	2020	2021	2022	2023	2024	2025
83.80%	Target >=	87%	87%	87.50%	88%	88.50%	89%

Indicator 7A2 Target Setting: NYSED proposed the following targets for Indicator 7A2:

Baseline FFY 2008	FFY	2020	2021	2022	2023	2024	2025
55.40%	Target >=	40.00%	43.50%	46.50%	49.50%	52.50%	55.50%

While there was not a majority agreement (over 50% of responses) for any of the three target feedback choices (too high, too low, or just right), the response of targets being “too high” was close with 49.35% of participants choosing this option. NYSED selected the proposed targets to ensure that the 2025 target demonstrated improvement over the 2008 baseline. Following development and implementation of potential new improvement strategies, to offer greater consistency in how outcome data is considered and reported, a revision to the existing baseline and targets may be warranted. At this time, NYSED will incorporate stakeholder feedback by amending the 2020-2024 proposed targets.

NYSED proposed Indicator 7A2 targets are revised with the following reflecting the final targets:

Baseline FFY 2008	FFY	2020	2021	2022	2023	2024	2025
55.40%	Target >=	40.00%	40.00%	40.50%	45.50%	50.50%	55.50%

Indicator 7B1 Target Setting: NYSED proposed the following targets for Indicator 7B1:

Baseline FFY 2008	FFY	2020	2021	2022	2023	2024	2025
85.30%	Target >=	89%	89%	89.25%	89.5%	89.75%	90%

Most stakeholders (52.56% of received responses) agreed that the Indicator 7B1 proposed recommended targets were “just right.” **The New York State 2020-2025 SPP/APR will reflect the proposed Indicator 7B1 targets as the final targets.**

Indicator 7B2 Target Setting: NYSED proposed the following targets for Indicator 7B2:

Baseline FFY 2008	FFY	2020	2021	2022	2023	2024	2025
55.30%	Target >=	41.00%	43.50%	46.00%	48.50%	52.00%	55.50%

A majority of stakeholders (51.32% of responses received) provided feedback that the proposed Indicator 7B2 targets were “too high.” NYSED selected the proposed targets to ensure that the 2025 target demonstrated improvement over the 2008 baseline. Following development and implementation of potential new improvement strategies, to offer greater consistency in how outcome data is considered and reported, a revision to the existing baseline and targets may be warranted. At this time, NYSED will incorporate stakeholder feedback by amending the 2020-2024 proposed targets.

NYSED proposed Indicator 7B2 targets are revised with the following reflecting the final targets:

Baseline FFY 2008	FFY	2020	2021	2022	2023	2024	2025
55.30%	Target >=	40.00%	40.00%	40.50%	45.50%	50.50%	55.50%

Indicator 7C1 Target Setting: NYSED proposed the following targets for Indicator 7C1:

Baseline FFY 2008	FFY	2020	2021	2022	2023	2024	2025
82.80%	Target >=	87%	87%	87.25%	87.5%	87.75%	88%

Most stakeholders (52.56% of received responses) agreed that the Indicator 7C1 proposed recommended targets were “just right.” **The New York State 2020-2025 SPP/APR will reflect the proposed Indicator 7C1 targets as the final targets.**

Indicator 7C2 Target Setting: NYSED proposed the following targets for Indicator 7C2:

Baseline FFY 2008	FFY	2020	2021	2022	2023	2024	2025
63.20%	Target >=	43.00%	49.00%	52.60%	56.25%	59.90%	63.50%

A majority of stakeholders (58.44% of responses received) provided feedback that the proposed Indicator 7C2 targets were “too high.” NYSED selected the proposed targets to ensure that the 2025 target demonstrated improvement over the 2008 baseline. Following development and implementation of potential new improvement strategies, to offer greater consistency in how outcome data is considered and reported, a revision to the existing baseline and targets may be warranted. At this time, NYSED will incorporate stakeholder feedback by amending the 2020-2024 proposed targets.

NYSED proposed Indicator 7C2 targets are revised with the following reflecting the final targets:

Baseline FFY 2008	FFY	2020	2021	2022	2023	2024	2025
63.20%	Target >=	43.00%	43.00%	43.50%	50.50%	57.50%	63.50%