Transition to the Child Outcomes Summary (COS) Tool for 2019-2020

In accordance with the regulations in the Individuals with Disabilities Education Act (IDEA), the United States Department of Education requires every state to develop a State Performance Plan and Annual Performance Report (SPP/APR) to demonstrate the effectiveness of the state’s special education programming. The New Jersey Department of Education (NJDOE), Office of Special Education (OSE), is transitioning to the use of the Child Outcome Summary (COS) tool to replace the Battelle Inventory as the state’s measure of growth for preschoolers with disabilities on the SPP/APR.

Within the SPP/APR, there are 17 performance indicators, one of which measures preschool outcomes for preschool students with disabilities. The NJDOE has historically utilized the Battelle Developmental Inventory for this measure, requiring a representative cohort of districts to administer the inventory each year to entering and exiting preschoolers with Individualized Education Programs (IEP). Going forward, in order to maximize instructional time and capture a comprehensive representation of the child, the OSE has selected the COS tool for this outcome measure. The COS tool is successfully used by other states for reporting on preschool outcomes in the SPP/APR and the OSE believes this will be a more efficient and effective measure of data collection mechanism for New Jersey.

Districts will be notified each spring if they are selected to participate in the cohort of districts for the upcoming school year. OSE anticipates engaging one cohort of about 60 school districts per year, with the first cohort to be determined in the next month. If your school district is chosen, you will receive a letter from the OSE indicating the selection and next steps to follow, including regional training dates.

Should you have any questions or concerns, please contact Alexis Ziegler, Acting 619 Coordinator, at alexis.ziegler@doe.nj.gov or call (609) 376-3737.

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