

PENNSYLVANIA DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION
OFFICE OF ELEMENTARY AND SECONDARY EDUCATION

June 12, 2023

PENN*LINK

TO: School District Superintendents
School District Special Education Directors
School District Business Managers
Intermediate Unit Executive Directors
Intermediate Unit Special Education Directors
Intermediate Unit Business Managers
Charter School Executive Directors
Charter School Special Education Directors
Charter School Business Managers
Approved Private School Directors
Approved Private School Special Education Directors
Approved Private School Business Managers

FROM: Carole L. Clancy, Director
Bureau of Special Education

SUBJECT: Survey of Parents of Students with Disabilities

Pennsylvania's State Performance Plan requirements under the Individuals with Disabilities Education Act of 2004 include collecting and reporting data on the involvement of families in special education programs. Specifically, states must report annually to the U.S. Department of Education's Office of Special Education Programs (OSEP) and the public on State Performance Plan Indicator 8 which is the: "percent of parents with a child receiving special education services who report that schools facilitated parent involvement as a means of improving services and results for children with disabilities."

Like many other states, Pennsylvania is collecting this data through a large-scale survey. Pennsylvania reports results of the survey to OSEP in its State Performance Plan/Annual Performance Report. This report is posted on the Pennsylvania Department of Education (PDE) and the Pennsylvania Training and Technical Assistance Network (PaTTAN) websites. Reporting on local educational agency (LEA) performance is done through the Special Education Data Reports on the PennData website.

To ensure that parents from every LEA in the commonwealth are included in the survey, PDE developed a sampling plan that was approved by OSEP. Under this sampling, each year PDE collects data from a representative sample of parents in approximately one-fifth of the LEAs in the Commonwealth. In addition, not all parents will receive the survey as it is a sample within each LEA. The LEAs in this year's sample are listed below. Parents receiving the survey were selected from PA Special Education Data using a stratified random sample of school age students in each LEA. Surveys will be mailed directly to the parents from Leader Services in the next few weeks.

The survey being used was developed by the National Center for Special Education Accountability Monitoring under a grant awarded to that center by OSEP. The survey can be

viewed at [Leader Services-Parent Survey](#). Additional information about the survey can be found on the PaTTAN website at [PA Indicator 8 Information](#).

A letter that accompanies the survey assures parents that their responses will be confidential. Parents may direct questions about the survey to the Special Education Consult Line at 800-879-2301. Should parents contact LEA personnel about the survey, we ask that your staff encourage them to participate in the survey process.

At this point, LEAs do not need to take any specific action. However, if you wish to alert your families to watch out for the surveys, this may serve to facilitate and encourage participation. Please keep in mind that questions regarding this PENN*LINK may be addressed to Barbara Mozina, Special Education Adviser, at bmozina@pa.gov.