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Washington Office of Superintendent of
PUBLIC INSTRUCTION
Special Education

Special Education Update

June 2024

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Special Education Updates

End of Year Wrap Up — Assistant Superintendent of Special Education, Dr. Tania May



Dr. Tania May - End of Year Wrap Up video

Watch this video for an end-of-the-year legislative wrap up from Assistant Superintendent of Special Education, Dr. Tania May.



The Legacy of Juneteenth

Commemorating the emancipation of enslaved African Americans in the United States, has left a profound legacy that continues to impact the field of education. Celebrated on June 19th, Juneteenth marks the day in 1865 when the last enslaved people in Texas were informed of their freedom, two and a half years after the Emancipation Proclamation. This historical milestone underscores the importance of equity and justice in education. By acknowledging and teaching the significance of Juneteenth, educators can foster a deeper understanding of the struggles for freedom and civil rights, promote inclusive curricula, and inspire a commitment to eliminating racial disparities in educational opportunities and outcomes. The legacy of Juneteenth thus serves as a catalyst for ongoing efforts to create a more equitable and just educational system for all students.



Pride Month

Pride Month, celebrated every June, is dedicated to honoring the LGBTQ+ community and commemorating the Stonewall Riots of 1969, which were pivotal in the fight for LGBTQ+ rights. It involves various events such as parades, marches, and festivals, aiming to promote equal rights, celebrate diversity, and recognize the contributions and struggles of LGBTQ+ individuals. Pride Month also serves as a platform to raise awareness about ongoing issues faced by the community and to advocate for a more inclusive and accepting society. Resources and more information on Pride Month can be found at the [Library of Congress](#). To learn more about advocating for LGBTQ+ students with disabilities use [this resource](#) that is a guide for educators and parents/guardians on supporting LGBTQ students with an IEP or 504 plan produced by the Human Rights Campaign, The National Association of School Psychologists, The National Association of School Principals, The National Center for Lesbian Rights, and the National Education Association.

N.D. v. Reykdal Update: 9th Circuit Court Ruling

On Thursday, May 23, 2024, the 9th Circuit Court of Appeals issued a ruling relating to a preliminary injunction in *N. D. v. Reykdal*. The 9th Circuit concluded that the availability of adult-education programs triggers an obligation under the IDEA to provide special education services to 21-year-old students eligible for special education through their 22nd birthday. You can [read the full opinion on the 9th Circuit Court's website.](#)

This is the right decision for students, and OSPI remains in support of this policy change. OSPI will not be seeking an appeal or a stay. We will be working with the Legislature, however, to reconcile our state law which, per the 9th Circuit's ruling, is now in conflict with the IDEA.

School district partners are identifying 21-year-old students currently receiving services and preparing to hold Individualized Education Program (IEP) team meetings to discuss whether the student is on track to graduate with a diploma or age out, and whether the IEP team believes the student requires additional services over the summer or into the 2024–25 school year, until their 22nd birthday.

We are working closely with the Attorney General's Office to understand the full implications of the ruling, and we will share additional guidance about next steps with school districts to support IEP team discussions as soon as possible.

Multi-Tiered System of Supports (MTSS) Integrated Conference – Registration Open!

Washington Association of School Administrators (WASA) and the Office of Superintendent of Public Instruction (OSPI) are excited to announce the 2024 Integrated MTSS Conference. This year's conference ***Empowering Excellence: Co-Designing Systems through Instructional Leadership*** will be held on the campus of Washington State University (WSU) in Pullman **July 31–August 2**.

With our theme of ***Empowering Excellence: Co-Designing Systems through Instructional Leadership*** the focus of the conference will be on best practices and approaches that address the strands listed below:

- **Family, Student & Community Engagement**
- **Reducing Restraint & Eliminating Isolation**
- **Student Well-being & Mental Health**
- **Tiered Academic Supports**

Day 1 will be organized with breakouts featuring job-alike teaming.

Days 2 & 3 will be geared toward **collaborative teams**.

Learn more about the conference and [register here](#). We encourage prompt registration as we expect this conference to fill quickly!



Fiscal and Data Updates

[Click here for this month's Fiscal & Data updates](#) on the following topics:

- End of Year Data Reporting for Students with IEPs
- OSPI Special Education Data, Fiscal and Program Office Hours
- Reminder from Student Engagement & Support: Enter Restraint and Isolation Data into Your Student Information System

Early Childhood Special Education (ECSE) Updates

[Click here for this month's ECSE updates](#) on the following topics:

- Unlocking Federal and State Program Funds to Support School Success
- Child Opportunity Index (COI)
- Hands & Voices: Off to a Great Start
- Update: Think Inclusive Four-Part ECSE Series is Now Available
- Professional Development Opportunities

Dispute Resolution Updates

[Click here for this month's Dispute Resolution updates](#) on:

- Office of Administrative Hearings – Updated Website

Tip from the Special Education Division



REPEAT: Gearing up for August: Start Planning for the Exchange of Student Records.

[Tip of the Month!](#)

Professional Development & Conferences

[Click here for professional development opportunities and resources](#) including:

- Free Virtual Learning Event from the PROGRESS Center
- Teaching Twice Exceptional Learners in Today's Classroom
- PBIS Reboot

Reminders!

This section includes hyperlinks to important information shared in previous monthly updates.

Inclusionary Practices Technical Assistance Network (IPTN) website is LIVE!

The IPTN recently launched its website, offering insights into its vision for improved access to rigorous instruction and enhanced postsecondary outcomes for all Washington state students. Explore our evolving [IPTN website](#) and reach out to [IPTN](#) for questions.



Special Education and Institutional Education Directory

The [Special Education and Institutional Education Directory](#) is posted on the OSPI website. The directory is updated monthly, on the first working day of every month. Submit changes to the [Special Education email](#).

Please note, that districts must update their contact information with the Special Education office to receive emails sent out from the Special Education office. Updating your district's

contact information in the Special Education and Institutional Education Directory does not update your district's information in EGMS or GovDelivery.

Got questions? Ask OSPI!

OSPI has launched a new publication that invites all Washington residents to ask OSPI questions directly and get answers publicly. Named, The Study Session, this publication is an opportunity for families and community members to engage with OSPI on all things public education. It is published once per month on the OSPI Blog. [Click to learn more about The Study Session](#), including how to submit questions.

ALL STUDENTS PREPARED FOR POST-SECONDARY PATHWAYS, CAREERS, AND CIVIC ENGAGEMENT.

Led by State Superintendent Chris Reykdal, OSPI oversees K-12 public education in Washington state. Our mission is to provide funding, resources, tools, data and technical assistance that enable educators to ensure students succeed in our public schools, are prepared to access post-secondary training and education, and are equipped to thrive in their careers and lives.

