

**Commissioner’s Advisory Panel for Special Education Services
February 25-26, 2016
Comfort Inn and Suites, East Greenbush, New York**

Thursday, February 25, 2016

AGENDA ITEM	KEY POINTS DISCUSSION/RECOMMENDATIONS	NEXT STEPS
Welcome and Get Organized	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ❖ Introduced new and existing members; ❖ Provided instruction on travel reimbursement; ❖ Reviewed agenda and materials; ❖ Reviewed dates and times for the remaining CAP meeting which is also held on Thursday (11:00 a.m. – 5:00 p.m.) and Friday (8:30 a.m. – 12:30 p.m.): June 2 and 3, 2016; ❖ Reminded members to place a hold on their calendars once they receive the 2016-17 meeting dates. 	SED staff will e-mail CAP members 2016-17 meeting dates
Minutes	A motion to accept the November 2015 minutes with amendment (correction to page three – second bullet point – change to student with autism) was made and seconded. Motion approved: Minutes approved.	SED staff will make changes as recommended to the November minutes
Public Comment	There was no public comment provided.	
Policy Updates	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ❖ SED staff provided policy updates and responded to member questions regarding: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Transition to Unified English Braille (UEB); • Technical assistance plan for Assistive Technology; • Testing Accommodations field advisory; • Office of Special Education’s new Newsletter; • Blueprint for Improved Results for Students with Disabilities; • Revisions to proposed preschool regulation in response to comments received; • Professional development and technical assistance updates on activities related to response to intervention (RtI); • Launch of Individualized Education Program (IEP) facilitation pilot; • Standards-based IEP’s; • State Systemic Improvement Plan (SSIP) baselines, targets, infrastructure enhancements, improvement activities and evaluation components; and • Upcoming United States Department of Education’s revised rulemaking regarding disproportionality. 	SED staff encouraged members to send blueprint resources
Information	Members shared information regarding issues and activities in each of their regions.	

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Sharing		
Least Restrictive Environment (LRE)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ❖ SED staff provided information and responded to member questions on LRE. ❖ Members engaged in small group discussion in which they: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Identified current practices impacting LRE data, barriers to education in the LRE and implementation of high quality inclusive practices; and • Provided recommendations to address those issues. ❖ A summary of comments from the small group discussions was shared with members. 	
Workforce Innovation and Opportunity Act (WIOA)	Adult Career and Continuing Education Services (ACCES) staff provided information on WIOA goals; core programs including those specifically targeting youth in transition and the State Plan developed in collaboration with partner agencies.	
Test Assessing Secondary Completion (TASC)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ❖ ACCES staff provided information and responded to member questions regarding the transition from the General Equivalency Diploma (GED) test to the TASC. ❖ Members provided the following recommendations: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Provide computer training for test-takers as not all taking the TASC are proficient in computer skills; and • Develop a public awareness campaign focused on no-cost test preparation and assessment to increase test use and improve pass rates. 	

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<p>Welcome from Commissioner and Senior Deputy Commissioner</p> <p>Update on State Policy</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ❖ Members of the Commissioner’s Advisory Panel (CAP) for Special Education Services and the Youth Advisory Panel participated in a joint meeting with Commissioner Elia and Jhone Ebert - Senior Deputy Commissioner for Education Policy. ❖ Commissioner Elia provided an overview of important federal and State policy issues and initiatives as related to the education of NYS students with disabilities including: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Expansion of graduation opportunities and early career planning; • Education of students with disabilities in the LRE; • Provision of multi-tiered systems of support; • Increased opportunities for Career and Technical Education (CTE); • Increased focus on specially-designed instruction in teacher preparation programs; • Increased focus on disproportionality; and • Potential options for assessment with the reauthorization of the federal Every Student Succeeds Act (ESSA). ❖ Commissioner Elia engaged members of both panels in a discussion regarding the importance of: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • High expectations; • Student and parent voice; • Students and parents as advocates; • Students as peer mentors; and • Student participation in IEP meetings. ❖ Members recommended the following: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Training and additional resources for parents, students and school personnel on graduation requirements and options; • Ensuring parents understand the benefits of inclusion; • Including instruction on disability history in the curriculum for all students; • Increased professional development requirements for all teachers with respect to students with disabilities; and 	

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	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Sharing success stories regarding students with disabilities and acknowledging districts that are doing well. 	
Graduation and Diploma Options	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ❖ SED staff provided information on existing graduation requirements and proposed diploma options. ❖ Members of both panels participated in small group discussions regarding proposed graduation options including the appeal process, 4+ Career Development and Occupational Studies (CDOS) Commencement Credential option, and project-based assessments. ❖ A summary of comments from the small group discussions was shared with members. 	