LRE SETTLEMENT IMPLEMENTATION

New Jersey Department of Education
Office of Special Education Programs
December 2014
Introduction

Goal for today’s meeting

To identify potential professional development for each district that addresses the topic, type and targeted audience for each professional development session.
History of the Lawsuit

- Complaint was filed in 2007 by Disability Rights New Jersey (formerly New Jersey Protection & Advocacy), the Education Law Center, the Statewide Parent Advocacy Network and The ARC of New Jersey.

- Complaint alleged a failure to provide FAPE in the least restrictive environment for children with disabilities.
Settlement and OSEP LRE Activities

OSEP LRE Improvement Activities

Settlement Activities
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<td>• Contact LEAs</td>
<td>• Classroom observations and interviews</td>
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<td>• 5th - 15th - provide results of steps 1 and 2 and summary of 3 and 4 to the stakeholders</td>
<td>• 5th - provide monitoring reports to stakeholders</td>
<td>• Finalize year 1 TA plan</td>
<td>• Finalize year 1 TA plan send to stakeholders</td>
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<td>• Regional LEA meetings</td>
<td>• LEAs submit completed needs assessment</td>
<td>• Classroom observations and interviews</td>
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<td>• Classroom observations and interviews</td>
<td>• 5th - Meet with stakeholders to discuss training needs</td>
<td>• 5th - input from webinar</td>
<td>• Finalize year 2 TA plan send to stakeholders</td>
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<td>• 5th - provide monitoring reports to stakeholders</td>
<td>• 5th - provide input from webinar</td>
<td>• Finalize year 3 T &amp; TA plan send to stakeholders</td>
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<th>July 2017</th>
<th>September 2018 through December 2018</th>
<th>January 2019</th>
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<td>• Begin Year 3 Training</td>
<td>• OSEP Year 3 monitoring activities</td>
<td>• Final monitoring activities</td>
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<td>• LEAs identify LRE facilitator</td>
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<td>• Within 10 days of final approval submit reports to stakeholders</td>
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<td>• Settlement agreement expires upon issuance of final report</td>
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Needs Assessment

- Step 1: Conduct data review and analysis
- Step 2: Complete LRE Questionnaire
- Step 3: NJDOE will conduct site visits
  - Classroom observations
  - Interviews with district staff and parents
- Step 4: Districts will meet with NJDOE
Training and Technical Assistance

- Annually, for three years, NJDOE will develop a “training and technical assistance plan”.
- The plan will be based on identified areas of need and may include but is not limited to:
  - Supporting diverse students with the full range of disabilities in general education classes;
  - Developing an inclusive school climate;
  - Analyzing placement data to ensure placement in the LRE;
  - Transportation; and
  - Long-range facilities planning related to students with disabilities.
Training and Technical Assistance

- There will be at least four (4) training and/or technical assistance sessions each year for three (3) consecutive academic years (for a total of 12 sessions).
- If a district is designated as noncompliant, NJDOE will require certain district staff to attend at least three of the four trainings.
- Each training will be at least three hours long.
- Parent groups, including parent members of district special education advisory groups, will be invited to attend at least one training.
First Activity:

- At your table, work with the OSEP staff to review information from the data analysis and the questionnaire.

- Next, work with the OSEP staff to review the information from the interviews and classroom walkthroughs.

- Summarize the areas of need on the T-chart
Second Activity:

☐ Utilizing the chart provided, identify the top three/four potential training and technical assistance options.

☐ Identify the Topic, Targeted Audience, and Type of Professional Development/Technical Assistance.

☐ If a topic is not listed on the draft plan, identify the topic you wish to be added.
Comments and/or Questions?
What happens next?

- January
  - Summary of results of needs assessment to the stakeholders
- February
  - Meeting with stakeholders (OSEP)
- March
  - Draft training and technical assistance plan to the stakeholder
- April
  - Meeting to discuss the draft plan with the stakeholders
- June
  - Finalized plan given to the stakeholders
- July
  - Begin year one training and technical assistance
Communication

- Settlement Activities Coordinator
- Kathy Ehling
  - 609-292-7602
  - Kathleen.ehling@doe.state.nj.us

- Primary Contact:
  - NJOSEP Teams (district specific) listed in binder