

# *Charter Schools and Students with Disabilities*

**Oklahoma State Department of Education,  
Special Education Services (OSDE-SES)**

**September 15, 2015**





# *Individuals with Disabilities Education Act (IDEA)*

- The *IDEA* is the federal special education law.
- The IDEA was originally enacted by Congress in 1975 to ensure that students with disabilities have the equal opportunity to receive a free appropriate public education (FAPE).

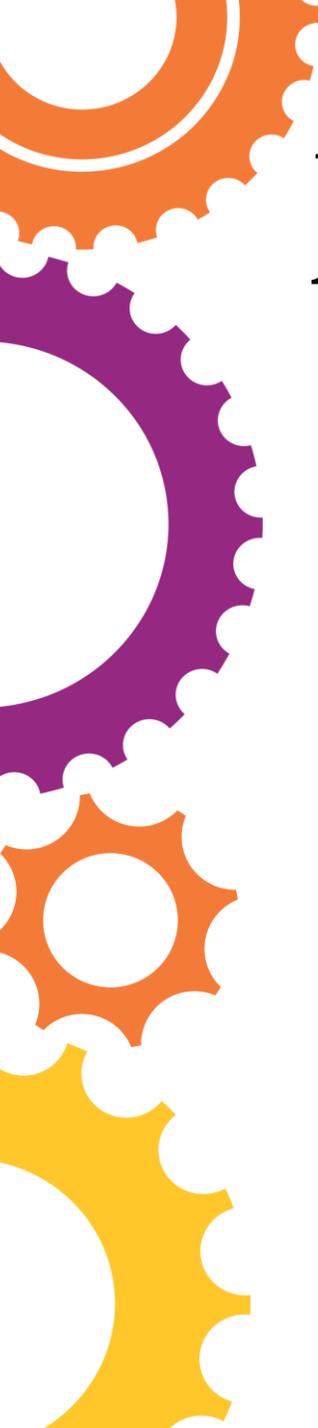


# *Individuals with Disabilities Education Act (IDEA)*

How do we find students with special needs?

- Students are identified through **Child Find** activities.
- Child Find requires states and districts to
  - identify,
  - locate,
  - and evaluate
- Who?

Children with disabilities, ages birth through 21, who are in need of early intervention (SoonerStart) or special education services.



# *Individuals with Disabilities Education Act (IDEA)*

## **What is required?**

All students with disabilities, residing in the State, whether attending public or private schools, must be identified, located, and evaluated.



# *Individuals with Disabilities Education Act (IDEA)*

## **What happens when a child is eligible for special education services?**

- An Individualized Education Program (IEP) is written by the IEP team.
- An IEP is a written statement of the educational program designed to meet a child's unique needs.



# *Individuals with Disabilities Education Act (IDEA)*

## **What is placement in the least restrictive environment (LRE)?**

- A child with special needs must have access to the **general education curriculum** to the maximum extent possible with their nondisabled peers.
- There is a **continuum of placement options** that must be considered by an IEP team when making a placement decision.
- A child on an IEP may have accommodations and modifications in the LRE.



# *Individuals with Disabilities Education Act (IDEA)*

**What responsibilities does the charter school have for providing services for students with disabilities?**

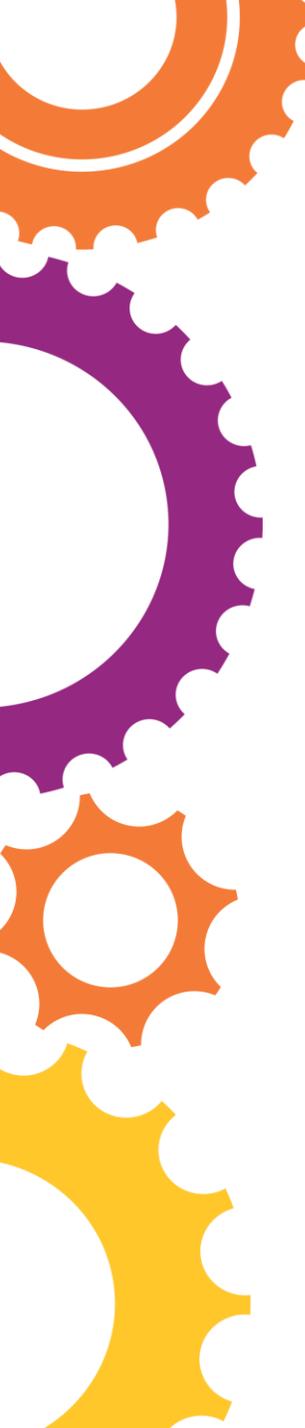
- **Charter Schools** are required to comply with IDEA requirements.
- **Charter Schools** are required to comply with State and federal laws relating to the education of students with disabilities.



# *Individuals with Disabilities Education Act (IDEA)*

**Charter Schools** are required to ensure services to students with disabilities in the same manner as the local education agency (LEA) serves students with disabilities in other schools.

**Charter Schools** are required to provide specific services stated in the IEP at no cost to the parent.



# *Individuals with Disabilities Education Act (IDEA)*

## **What are the federal reporting requirements?**

- *Child Count* - number of children on IEPs in the district on October 1<sup>st</sup> of each year.
- *Data Reports* – End of the Year Report includes Annual Performance Report, Personnel, Related Service, Students Exiting, Suspensions.
- LEA Assurances and Implementation Agreement – Sound fiscal practices
- Finance Application/Budget – Spending federal funds

# *Individuals with Disabilities Education Act (IDEA)*

## CONTACT INFORMATION





# **OSDE-SES Contact Information**

## **SoonerStart**

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**Birth – 3 years old**





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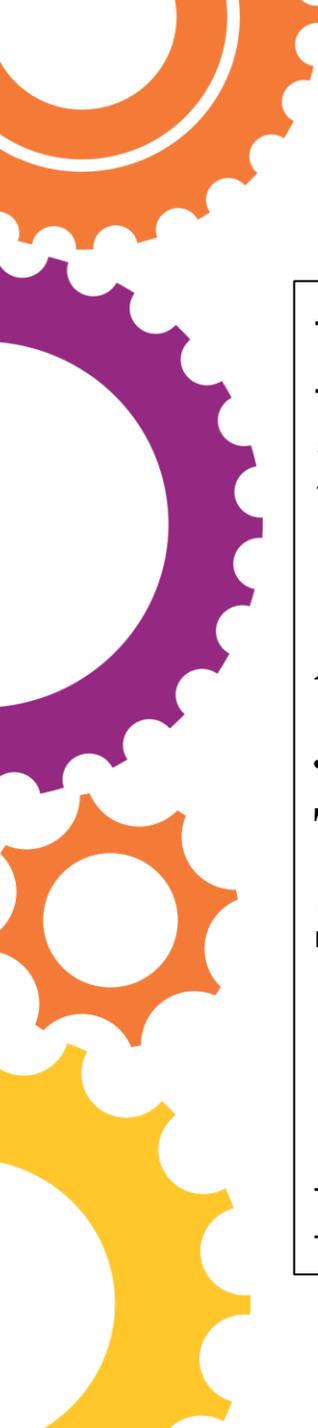
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