



## Specialized Service Professional (SSP) Rubrics

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*Presenter/Facilitator: Joslyn Robich, CDE Educator Talent*

Fifty school districts and BOCES have been involved in a pilot that tested a shortened teacher rubric for teacher evaluations. CDE is in the early phases of getting feedback from the pilot groups and reviewing this feedback. Early indicators are that those AUs that participated in the pilot have provided positive feedback on the shortened form. In May, information regarding the shortened teacher rubric was presented to the State Board of Education (SBE) and the Board will vote in June whether to adopt the revised teacher rubric. If the SBE approves the shortened version, the rubric will be released for state wide use beginning with the 2018-2019 school year.

SDLT members noted that among the SSP rubrics, while holistically/conceptually the 5 quality standards are the same across disciplines, the individual elements for each standard differ in terms of expectations, content, and rigor to achieve Basic thorough Exemplary determinations. Additionally, SDLT recommended that while the SSP rubrics are being revised, there should be interdisciplinary cross-walks with SSP rubrics to develop more consistency in content and rigor within the elements.

Joslyn Robich shared that there are the [Practical Idea Guides](#) that might be helpful in using the standard teacher rubric when evaluating special education teachers. The Educator Talent Unit has [regional specialist](#) to help with training district and BOCES level staff in using the rubric. Joslyn Robich asked that SDLT provide her with names of individuals who might be interested in serving on stakeholder groups. Joslyn can be reached at 303-866-6221 or at [Robich\\_J@cde.state.co.us](mailto:Robich_J@cde.state.co.us).

## Update on Significant Disproportionality

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*Presenters/Facilitators: Miki Imura and Paul Foster, ESSU*

New federal rules regarding how states are required to calculate disproportionality are to go into effect July 1, 2018. However, on February 27, 2018 the U.S. Department of Education (USDE) notified the states that they are proposing to delay the implementation of the new requirements until July 1, 2020. As of SDLT's meeting date, USDE had not issued a decision regarding whether the rules would be delayed or implemented as scheduled. If the rules are not delayed, CDE is prepared to move forward with implementing the new regulations. SDLT members and CDE staff discussed options as to how Colorado should proceed in the event that USDE does delay the implementation of the regulations. SDLT members asked that CDE staff gather some additional information regarding possible options and report this information out at the August SDLT meeting. SDLT will consider options in the August meeting and advise CDE.

## Question Regarding Indicator 13

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*Presenters/Facilitators: Miki Imura and Paul Foster, ESSU*

SDLT members asked for additional information as to why CDE was no longer providing phone numbers of recent high school graduates to facilitate districts contacting these individuals as part of the AU's obligation to complete the requirements of Indicator 13. Miki Imura and Paul Foster explained that while CDE was contracting with an outside agency to collect the Indicator 13 data, EDAC viewed the collection of student phone numbers by CDE as appropriate.



However, when the State shifted from an outside provider to the local AUs, it was no longer appropriate for the state to collect phone numbers since the state did not require the data in order to perform a required function under statute or regulations.

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## Special Education Directors Meetings (2018-2019)

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*Presenters/Facilitators: Jocelyn Walters, SDLT and Paul Foster, ESSU*

In general, feedback from the directors who attended the conference was that they preferred a more presentational format over the roundtable discussion format used in the April Special Education Directors meeting. Overall, response to the keynote speakers was positive. The majority of directors indicated that they preferred to have a two-day meeting in the fall and a two-day meeting in the spring in conjunction with the legal conference. Directors also preferred to have the meetings in the Denver Metro area.

CDE is requesting a special education director from each SDLT region to assist in planning the fall special education directors meeting. The meeting is scheduled for September 20th and 21st. The location of the conference will be announced as soon as the location is secured. Please send names to Suzy Shotts at [shotts\\_s@cde.state.co.us](mailto:shotts_s@cde.state.co.us) by July 6th. The groups first planning session will take place in late July.

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## 2018-2019 SDLT Meeting Dates and Membership

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*Presenters/Facilitators: Paul Foster, ESSU*

Paul Foster reviewed possible meeting options for SDLT for the 2018-2019 school year. SDLT members determined that continuing the monthly meeting schedule would be best for the upcoming school year with the exception of the December 2018, May 2019 and July 2019. SDLT typically meets the fourth Friday of each month, with the exception of June 2019 which will be held on June 7<sup>th</sup>, 2019. All meetings are held at the Colorado Talking Book Library and begin at 9:30 AM.

Members stepping down from SDLT effective June 30, 2018 include Chris Madison, Nita McAuliffe, Teresa Bandel-Schott, Kathlynn Jackson and Laurie Kjosness. New SDLT members effective July 1, 2018 will be Wendy Bolane, Trish Cook, Lisa Megel, and Deirdre Shearer.

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## Update on State Complaints

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*Presenter/Facilitator: Paul Foster, ESSU and Jocelyn Walters, SDLT*

Paul Foster discussed concerns that have been raised in the field regarding the state complaint process in Colorado. Within the past few years, AUs have been filing for due process in response to decisions made by state complaints officers (SCO). In the majority of these due process hearings, the administrative law judge (ALJ) has essentially reversed the decision of the SCO. Based on this data, CDE is making adjustments and is in the process of contracting with a technical assistance center to review previous SCO decisions.

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## Director Mentor Handbook

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Presenters: *Jeanne Boice-Wiley, Bridgette Gustafson, and Marietta Sears*

Director mentors shared a draft version of the Mentor's Curriculum Document with SDLT for feedback. Directors noted that the formatting and color coding was very helpful. A concern was expressed that reports by the State listed within the month-to-month did not always happen within the month it was designated. There was also some concern that items identified as optional were confusing and needed some clarification. Directors also gave feedback about providing more detail within document regarding the required tasks.

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## Update on 2018-19 IDEA Part B Allocations

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Presenters: *Paul Foster*

Paul Foster reviewed the [letter](#) recently sent to special education directors notifying them of their 2018-2019 IDEA Part B allocations. In short, CDE is flowing an additional \$5 million to AUs and state operated programs over the standard formula amounts typically allocated for the IDEA Part B grant. Since the funds are being dispersed from the 2018-2019 state allocation, AUs will have the full 27 months to expend the funds. The second half of the letter addressed recent guidance the State has received from OSEP regarding participant support costs. Moving forward, the State will be required to gain prior approval from OSEP before paying for any expenses such as stipends or subsistence allowances, travel allowances, and registration fees paid to or on behalf of participants in connection with conferences or training projects. Based on this same OSEP guidance, AUs will soon be required to gain CDE approval for participant support costs incurred at the local level. CDE is in the process of developing procedures to implement this requirement. OSEP has not committed to a date by which the State will be notified as to whether or not the participant support requests have been approved, but special education directors will be notified as soon as the notification is received.

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## Parent Phone Calls

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Presenters: *Jocelyn Walters and Michael Ramirez*

Michael Ramirez reviewed the process by which parent phone calls should be handled once they come to ESSU. Calls typically are around support and resolving concerns with the appropriate person at the AU level. Charter schools, suspensions and expulsions, transportation, and enrollment are frequent topics of parent phone calls. It appears that there is an increased number of parent phone calls over this time last year. SDLT noted that there was one incident reported to them where a parent contacted someone outside of RDA and the information provided to the parent was not helpful. Directors were encouraged to contact the RDA team any time they had questions or concerns about how parent phone calls are handled within ESSU.