

SPECIAL EDUCATION PERFORMANCE REPORT (SEPR)

A Guide for Families

WHAT IS SEPR?

The Special Education Performance Report (SEPR) is a new yearly report that measures the performance of each local education agency's (LEA) special education program in the District of Columbia. SEPR measures:

- **LEA Compliance:** how well LEAs meet the legal requirements of the Individuals with Disabilities Education Act (IDEA) each year, and
- **Student Progress:** how well students are being served in key areas, including the academic progress of students with disabilities

SEPR aims to give families, schools, and OSSE a clear way to pinpoint successes and areas for growth in how we serve students with disabilities.

HOW IS THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA USING SEPR?

Students grow the most when LEAs develop and maintain strong educators and strong systems. SEPR helps OSSE clearly break down how well LEAs are providing quality special education instruction, implementing effective systems, proactively engaging families, resolving complaints, and responsibly using federal funding.

Based on their score in these areas, LEAs will receive support from OSSE in the form of technical assistance and professional development, such as teacher trainings, leadership and program support, and community engagement. SEPR allows OSSE to identify the areas where support will have the largest impact for each LEA.

HOW ARE SCHOOLS USING SEPR?

SEPR also gives schools the tools to see the strengths and areas for growth in their own special education practices. In addition to the support provided by OSSE, SEPR helps school create more strategic, targeted plans to improve their own systems and further develop the skills of their educators. SEPR also provides a valuable opportunity for schools and families to have better conversations about how special education services will continue to grow for their communities.



KEY TERMS

Local Education Agency (LEA)

- District of Columbia Public Schools (DCPS) or a public charter school

Individuals with Disabilities Education Act (IDEA)

- main federal law that outlines rights and requirements in special education

Office of the State Superintendent of Education (OSSE)

- the state education agency for the District of Columbia

Student Progress

- Section of SEPR that measures LEA performance on key student progress measures and improved capacity to serve students with disabilities

LEA Compliance

- Section of SEPR that measures LEA performance on annual IDEA compliance

HAVE QUESTIONS?
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