

IDEIA: The New and Improved IDEA

What your district needs to know to be in compliance



Wednesday, April 6, 9 AM to 4 PM

Melinda Baird: How the Marriage of IDEA and NCLB Affects You

Friday, April 29, 9 AM to 4 PM

David Brock/and MDE Staff:

Understanding IDEIA Funding and the Federal Grant Application

Tuesday, May 17, 9 AM to 12 PM

Robert Lusk/CaraLee Epp: Hot Topics - A Legal Perspective

Tuesday, May 17, 1:PM to 4 PM

Beth Steenwyck and MDE Staff: Changes to IDEIA: Eligibility, IEP Development, Transition

Tuesday, May 24, 9 AM to 4 PM

WrightsLaw Presenters: Special Education Law and Advocacy

The Individuals with Disabilities Education Act of 1997 (IDEA 97) has been re-authorized and is now known as the **Individuals with Disabilities Education Improvement Act of 2004 (IDEIA)**. Except for a few provisions, IDEIA will become effective on July 1, 2005. The new IDEIA amendments will result in significant changes in the way public schools refer, evaluate, identify, serve and discipline students with disabilities. IDEIA incorporates most of the **No Child Left Behind Act** requirements for students with disabilities and emphasizes school accountability for ensuring they have access to, and are successful in, the regular education curriculum. Oakland Schools is offering five workshops which will provide the information you need to apply the mandates of IDEIA in your district as you await promulgation of regulations from the U.S. Department of Education and revision of the Michigan Rules.



Choose the workshops that meet your needs, or attend all five for a thorough understanding of the law from the perspective of MDE staff, school attorneys, parent advocate attorneys, and practitioners.

Audience:

- Special Education Directors
- Central Office Staff
- Principals
- Special Education Teachers
- General Education Teachers
- Title I Coordinators
- Hearing Officers
- Parents
- School Attorneys
- Advocates
- Related Services Staff

How the Marriage of IDEIA and NCLB Affects You

Session 1: April 6, 2005, 9 AM to 4 PM

Cost: \$40. includes all materials and lunch

Presenter: Melinda Baird, Esq.

Melinda Baird will take you through the changes in IDEIA point-by-point, providing a thorough overview and practical explanations of each new requirement, including:

FAPE, Child Find, Personnel Qualifications, Assessment, and Eligibility Determinations

- Revision of eligibility standards for LD (requires “explicit and systematic” provision of the “essential components of reading instruction” prior to eligibility)
- Exception to NCLB requirements for “highly qualified” special education teachers
- Assessment of students with disabilities
- Prohibition on mandatory medication

IEP Participation and Development

- Multi-year IEPs, abbreviated IEP meetings and excusal of some team members
- Incorporation of scientifically based reading instruction into IEPs
- Exclusion of surgically implanted medical devices as related to services

Procedural Safeguards and Discipline

- New discipline rules for 10-day removals, manifestation determinations and “Honig” injunctions
- Parents’ right to refuse special education and related services for their child
- New rules for requesting due process hearings
- Authorization of attorney’s fee awards for school districts

Early Intervention Services, Preschool Grants

- Requirements for identifying, evaluating and serving parentally placed private school students
- New emphasis on children who are homeless or wards of the state
- Early intervention services, pre-referral interventions and screenings

Melinda Baird is an attorney in private practice in Knoxville, Tennessee, who has worked in the field of special education law for 19 years. She exclusively represents school systems in special education matters. She formerly served as an attorney in the Tennessee Office of Special Education Programs and as an associate publisher at LRP Publications. Ms. Baird has a national reputation as a speaker and author of LRP products on the implementation of the laws governing the provision of special education and related services.



Understanding IDEIA Funding and the Federal Grant Application

Session 2: April 29, 2005, 9 AM to 4 PM

Cost: \$30. includes all materials and lunch

Presenters: David Brock and MDE Staff

The new Individuals with Disabilities Education Act was signed by President Bush on December 3, 2004. The provisions related to highly qualified special education teachers took immediate effect. All other sections of the new law will be effective on July 1, 2005.

Mr. Brock and the MDE Staff will discuss:

- Changes in the new law
- Requirements for highly qualified special education teachers
- Understanding IDEIA funding and the interaction with the Michigan School Aid Act
- Grant application process
- Eligible funding



David Brock is the Supervisor of the Policy and Compliance Program in the Office of Special Education and Early Intervention Services for the Michigan Department of Education. In his position, Mr. Brock works with staff to process parental complaints. Recommendations for the implementation of corrective action are made in coordination with the district, parent, and local compliance officers. In addition to working with compliance issues, Mr. Brock and staff also work on legislative issues concerning learning for all students. Mr. Brock oversees drafting legislation, following it through the rule making process, public hearings and publication process.

IDEA '04 Hot Topics - A Legal Perspective

Session 3: May 17, 2005, 9:00AM 12 PM

Cost: \$15. includes all materials and lunch at 12 PM

**Presenters: Robert A. Lusk, Esq. and CaraLee Epp, Esq.
Clark Hill, PLC**

Disciplining Students with Disabilities

- Ten day removals
- New manifestation determinations
- Injunctions

Procedural Safeguards

- New notice provisions
- Parental rights
- Due process hearings and new critical timelines
- Mediation, resolution sessions and other settlements
- Attorney fees

Legal Developments in NCLB and IDEA compliance

- New lawsuits address compliance questions
- Legislative response



Robert A. Lusk is a member of Clark Hill's Birmingham office, and focuses his practice in the areas of education and labor and employment law. He is co-chair of the firm's Education and Municipal Law Group.

Mr. Lusk has significant experience counseling and representing clients in federal and Michigan courts and administrative agencies in a wide variety of areas, including constitutional law, civil rights law, labor and employment law, tenure law, special education law, tort law and insurance law.

CaraLee Brott Epp is an attorney in Clark Hill's Birmingham office, and concentrates her practice in the areas of education and employment litigation. She has experience in counseling and representing clients in matters concerning constitutional law, civil rights law, labor and employment law, school law, including special education law, and tort law. She also has experience with the Equal Employment Opportunity Commission, Michigan Department of Civil Rights, Michigan Employment Security Commission and the Michigan and U.S. Departments of Education.



Changes to IDEIA: Eligibility, IEP Development, Transition

Session 4: Tuesday, May 17, 1 PM to 4 PM

Cost: \$15. includes all materials and lunch at 12 PM

Presenters: Beth Steenwyck and MDE Staff

This session will cover an introduction to the statewide Michigan Transition Outcomes Project initiative and provide an overview of the critical elements in using data to improve transition services and outcomes, IEP development and transition for students with disabilities.

This workshop will look at

- A system of transition services from the state, to the ISD, to the local level
- Provide a brief overview of the new law, IDEIA and it's impact on transition planning and services
- IEP team participation and excusal
- IEP development
- Eligibility
- Assessment

Beth A. Steenwyck is the Deputy Director of the Office of Special Education and Early Intervention Services at the Michigan Department of Education. She is also the Chief Administrator for the Michigan Schools for the Deaf and Blind.

Beth joined the Department of Education early in 2003, bringing 24 years of special education experience to the team at MDE. She was most recently the Director of Special Education for the Eastern Service Area of Kalamazoo County. The Eastern Service Area includes five local school districts.



WRIGHTSLAW: Special Education Law and Advocacy

Session 5: May 24, 2005, 9 AM to 4 PM

Cost: \$40. includes all materials and lunch

Presenters: Wayne Steedman, Esq. and Pat Howey

Wayne Steedman and Pat Howey will provide a through overview of current changes in special education law using the Harbor House Law Press, Inc., books **Wrightslaw: Special Education Law** and **Wrightslaw: From Emotion to Advocacy** as their primary teaching tools. *Registrants will receive a copy of each book as part of their registration packet.*

Special Education Law: IDEIA

Overview of the Act; Findings & Purposes; Definitions; ESY, Child Find, LRE; Private Placements; Evaluations, Reevaluations, IEP's; Procedural Safeguards, Complaints, Notice, IAEP's

Special Education Law: Section 504, No Child Left Behind

Section 504 v IDEA; Case law; Back to School on Civil Rights; No Child Left Behind Act of 2001

Tests & Measurements 101

Progress and Regression; Standard Scores, Subtest Scores, Percentile Ranks; Charting Test Scores

Introduction to SMART IEPs

Specific Measurable, Action Words, Realistic & Relevant; Time-limited; Strategies for Writing PLEP's, A.G.'s, S.T.O.'s & Benchmarks; IEP Checklists; Recognizing Common IEP Problems.

Introduction to Tactics & Strategies

Reasons for Parent-School Conflict; Common Obstacles to Problem Solving & Communication-Emotions, Myths, Roles, School Culture; Rules of Adverse Assumptions; Organizing your Child's File; Using the Comprehensive Evaluation; Effective Negotiation Strategies; Letter writing Strategies; Preparing for School Meetings



Pat Howey is an advocate who has helped parents obtain quality special education services for their children with disabilities since 1986. She also helps parents resolve special education disputes with their school districts. Pat is an active member of the Council of Parent Attorneys and Advocates (COPAA) Pat developed Preparing for Team Meetings: The Parent Report as a supplement to her workshops. She is the author of many articles, including: Understanding the Playing Field: Power Struggles, Meetings, Follow Up Letters and Advocacy Strategies: Filing a complaint with the State.

Wayne Steedman is an attorney whose practice is devoted primarily to the representation of children with disabilities. Wayne has represented his clients in administrative due process hearings in state and federal courts.

He is an active member of the Council of Parent Attorneys and Advocates (COPAA). He served for approximately ten years as a Due Process Hearing Officer in special education cases. As a member of the Wrightslaw Speakers Bureau, Wayne Steedman provides training for parents, educators and others who want to ensure that children receive quality special education services



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