

# WHAT TO LOOK FOR IN 2016 – 2017

## Medicaid Schools Program (MSP)

November 2015, CMS sent letter to Ohio Department of Medicaid  
Late January, ODE distributed that letter: requires ORP process for reimbursement  
Order, Referral or Prescription by physician, P.A., or nurse practitioner  
Many issues and concerns over the past months  
Effective date August 1<sup>st</sup> – not clear what will be happening  
Requests made for extension to allow time to figure out how to be compliant with ORP  
One option would be an extension until end of calendar year  
Another option would be for new related services to have ORP and phase in existing per IEP cycle  
MSB leaving Ohio citing legislative and regulatory climate; referring clients to HBS  
Wide variation of responses by districts; some getting out, others hiring nurse practitioners, etc.  
For some districts, this presents ethical and logistical issues (e.g., prescription w/o seeing child)

## State Systemic Improvement Plan (SSIP)

Phase 2 of SSIP concluded this spring (end of second year)  
Process will be rolled out to school districts over the next three years  
This year, pilot introduction involving selected SSTs and school districts  
Main focus now is LETRS (Language Essentials for Teachers of Reading and Spelling)  
Based on brain research and the appropriate sequences in which to teach reading skills  
Does not replace the curriculum used by a district  
Rather, it provides guidance, professional development and other resources for the district to use  
LETRS training will help ensure fidelity in teaching language and reading skills  
Next year, more SSTs and schools will be added  
Process will continue through 2020

## Every Student Succeeds Act (ESSA)

Every Student Succeeds Act contains mostly just the changes to prior law  
Signed December 10, 2015; makes significant changes to NCLB / ESEA  
Ohio's NCLB waiver continues through September 30th  
Rather than prescribed federal mandates, states set their own goals and interim progress measures  
Allows innovative assessments that are high quality, worth taking, and time limited  
Regulations do not specify any percentages for indicators or a range for weighting  
Additional considerations for English Learners as determined by states  
Each subgroup must be considered separately (no combining)  
All public charter / community schools must be included in accountability measures  
Provides suggestions for "consistently underperforming" but allows flexibility in definitions  
Looks at inequities such as ineffective, out-of-field and inexperienced teachers  
Parent engagement through clear, robust and ongoing information about results (report cards)  
HQT no longer required by NCLB but it is embedded in Ohio Revised Code (legislation)

## OEC Determinations

Second year in a row, Ohio received “needs assistance” rating  
Primarily because of high rates of alternate assessment and graduating by modified requirements  
Participation rates of SWDs have dropped in each of last three years  
“Needs Assistance” triggers additional requirements including OSEP technical assistance  
OEC must submit report in 2017 including actions taken resulting from TA  
OEC will release district-level “Special Education Ratings” this month

## Parent Notice / Universal forms / IEP corrections

Parent Notice of Procedural Safeguards (Whose IDEA Is This?) lengthy and outdated  
OEC is working on a new version (different title) that should be available in the fall  
Appears districts will start school year with “Whose IDEA...”  
Ongoing concern about the inconsistencies of the various software programs for IEPs, ETRs, etc.  
Creates major problems when students move from one district to another  
Last spring, OEC awarded a contract to have recommendations for “universal forms”  
Report expected this fall; unclear what next steps will be  
IEP has not been updated for several years although changes have occurred  
For example, age for transition changed from 16 to 14  
Without updated forms, districts individually are dealing with making correct entries  
OEC has made arrangements for corrections to be made to existing IEP form  
Unclear when this updated form will be available  
There are many other changes that ultimately need to be made, but not with these limited corrections

## Ohio Coalition (OCECD)

Long-standing annual grant from OEC still being held up; reasons why and status are unclear  
Delay has been for the entire 2015-16 school year; no indications for 2016-17  
Parent Mentors in districts throughout Ohio not being supported; spotty communication from OEC  
OCECD has taken various steps to reduce their costs because of grant hold-up  
Examples include reducing rented space, supplies, telephone expenses, and reassigning staff  
Because activities of Parent Mentor support not funded, some staff time reduced also  
Launched a Mentoring 4 Reading Achievement (M4RA) program  
IDEA grant for Parent, Community, and Educator Collaboration continues  
Parent Training and Information Center grant also continues from USDoE

## Gender issues / Title IX

Departments of Justice and Education released “guidance” in June re: transgender students  
Based on and clarifies 1972’s Title IX; model policies are available  
Involves using bathrooms corresponding to gender identity and preferred pronouns and names  
Great variations in districts in Ohio; challenges will continue  
This is also an issue at the national level with states taking different positions

## Shortages of school psychs and other related services providers

Shortages last year based on STRS changes and also impact of corrective actions by some districts

For school psychs, shortages affected by limitation of 100 school psych interns in state budget

Both the dollar amount per internship and the number of internships unchanged for many years

Also, limitations on number of universities offering school psych graduate programs (only nine, mostly full time)

There are also shortages in the areas of OT and PT

Degrees of shortages vary in different parts of the state (e.g., major in S.E. Ohio, less in N.E. Ohio)

Caseloads and Ratios uncertainty and long delays have had an impact on all related services

## Ohio Association of Pupil Services Administrators (OAPSA)

Numerous and wide variety of membership benefits (see brochure)

Conference schedule for 2016 – 17:

September 30<sup>th</sup>, December 9<sup>th</sup>, February 9<sup>th</sup> & 10<sup>th</sup>, and May 5<sup>th</sup>

Meetings held at Quest Business Center, Polaris (Columbus)

OEC updates at every meeting

Ongoing communication with members; frequent email updates; “requests for input”

Ashland U graduate credit anticipated

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