

Indicator 16: Mediation

Instructions and Measurement

Monitoring Priority: Effective General Supervision Part B / General Supervision

Results indicator: Percent of mediations held that resulted in mediation agreements.

(20 U.S.C. 1416(a)(3)(B))

Data Source

Data collected under section 618 of the IDEA (IDEA Part B Dispute Resolution Survey in the ED Facts Metadata and Process System (EMAPS)).

Measurement

Percent = $(2.1(a)(i) + 2.1(b)(i))$ divided by 2.1 times 100.

Instructions

Sampling is not allowed.

Describe the results of the calculations and compare the results to the target.

States are not required to establish baseline or targets if the number of mediations is less than 10. In a reporting period when the number of mediations reaches 10 or greater, develop baseline and targets and report on them in the corresponding SPP/APR.

States may express their targets in a range (e.g., 75-85%).

If the data reported in this indicator are not the same as the State's data under IDEA section 618, explain.

States are not required to report data at the LEA level.

16 - Indicator Data

Select yes to use target ranges

Target Range is used

Prepopulated Data

Source	Date	Description	Data
SY 2022-23 EMAPS IDEA Part B Dispute Resolution Survey; Section B: Mediation Requests	11/15/2023	2.1 Mediations held	4
SY 2022-23 EMAPS IDEA Part B Dispute Resolution Survey; Section B: Mediation Requests	11/15/2023	2.1.a.i Mediations agreements related to due process complaints	1
SY 2022-23 EMAPS IDEA Part B Dispute Resolution Survey; Section B: Mediation Requests	11/15/2023	2.1.b.i Mediations agreements not related to due process complaints	1

Select yes if the data reported in this indicator are not the same as the State's data reported under section 618 of the IDEA.

NO

Targets: Description of Stakeholder Input

Discussions and Stakeholder input of the State's Performance Plan (SPP), Annual Performance Report (APR), State's Systemic Improvement Plan (SSIP), and Results Driven Accountability (RDA)/Results Based Accountability (RBA) began in 2013 with our State Special Education Advisory Panel. The Panel is fully vested and broadly representative of Montana. Additionally, many of the panel members as well as SEA staff serve in other agency or organization leadership positions or on advisory groups in the disability community. This enables MT to draw insight and advice from a broad group of stakeholders with an understanding of Montana's unique needs, strengths, and potential weaknesses.

Other stakeholder groups we sponsor and/or engage include:

- 1) Our Comprehensive System of Personnel Development (CSPD) includes both regional and state councils that regularly meet to assess APR data and to evaluate professional development priorities and results.
- 2) The State Education Agency (SEA) staff has developed strong working relationships with other Montana agencies that serve youth and adults with disabilities. The SEA staff participate as members of advisory councils for early childhood, vocational rehabilitation, low incidence disabilities, developmental disabilities, and the state independent living council. This has strengthened

the commitments of the agencies working with Montana's youth to facilitate smooth transitions from birth to adulthood.

3) Working with the Technical Assistance for Excellence in Special Education (TAESE) staff, the SEA has facilitated the Montana Higher Education Consortium (HEC). The HEC provides a mechanism for collaboration, networking, discussion, and advising of critical issues among Montana Institutes of Higher Education. The consortium works towards encouraging a more seamless educational system and merging general and special education into one unified system; understanding and promoting the use of evidence-based academic and behavioral strategies; and closely linking Montana teacher training and educational leadership programs to early childhood programs, K-12 education, and the SEA.

4) The SEA staff is engaged with the Schools Administrators of Montana (SAM) which include affiliates for Superintendents, Principals, Special Education Administrators, and Information Technology (IT) Directors. This partnership gives the SEA the opportunity to develop collaborative partnerships with the Local Education Agencies (LEAs). The SEA also provides SAM with a grant to help fund the Montana Recruitment Project. This program focuses on recruiting hard to fill positions such as speech/language pathologists, special education teachers, occupational therapists, and school psychologists for our districts.

5) Annually, the SEA brings together representatives from various stakeholder groups for a joint meeting facilitated by TAESE. This meeting brings stakeholders together to share up-dates and gather input from each other. There is a comprehensive representation of the Montana disability community, families and parents of children and students with and without disabilities.

During the FFY22 reporting period, the Student Support Services Senior Manager met with the parents and community members of the Montana School for the Deaf & Blind (MSDB) to start creating a graduate profile. In addition, our Early Assistance Program (EAP) Director presented to the parents of MSDB on the IDEA Framework (state purposes), general supervisory responsibilities and OPI's role as an SEA. The EAP Director also provided information on dispute resolution options and where at the OPI parents could go for technical assistance.

The Montana Empowerment Center and the OPI conducted various virtual presentations for parents of students with disabilities birth through age 21 and LEA staff. During the reporting period, the OPI presented on Present Levels of Academic Achievement Functional Performance (PLAAFPs), Measurable Annual Goals (MAGs), Multi-Tiered Systems of Support (MTSS), transitions, early childhood, and extended school year. Superintendent Arntzen hosted multiple community events in four geographically diverse cities across the state in December of 2022. Parents listened to the goals of legislators for education and then had the opportunity to ask questions of the legislators. Throughout the reporting period, OPI provided numerous virtual trainings for parents regarding student and school safety and supporting youth with ASD and other developmental disorders.

Annually, the OPI assists with the Montana Youth Transitions (MYT) Conference. The OPI team works in conjunction with MYT to present, coach, and mentor educators, parents, and students. This conference brings together the transition team of youth, parents, and professionals to learn strategies and resources to build a seamless transition plan from high school to the adult world. One parent stated the following, "This was my first time at the conference, and I had no idea there were so many things out there to help my son. The sessions on parenting techniques and educational tools were eye-opening, and I feel more equipped to support my child's learning journey."

Historical Data

Baseline Year	Baseline Data
2005	

FFY	2017	2018	2019	2020	2021
Target >=	80.00% - 100.00%	80.00% - 100.00%			
Data	100.00%	0.00%		100.00%	

Targets

FFY	2022 (low)	2022 (high)	2023 (low)	2023 (high)	2024 (low)	2024 (high)	2025 (low)	2025 (high)
Target >=								

FFY 2022 SPP/APR Data

2.1.a.i Mediation agreements related to due process complaints	2.1.b.i Mediation agreements not related to due process complaints	2.1 Number of mediations held	FFY 2021 Data	FFY 2022 Target (low)	FFY 2022 Target (high)	FFY 2022 Data	Status	Slippage
1	1	4				50.00%	N/A	N/A

Provide additional information about this indicator (optional)

The State reported fewer than ten mediations held in FFY 2022. The State is not required to provide targets until any fiscal year in which ten or more mediations were held.

16 - Prior FFY Required Actions

None

16 - OSEP Response

The State reported fewer than ten mediations held in FFY 2022. The State is not required to provide targets until any fiscal year in which ten or more mediations were held.

16 - Required Actions