



From the Desk of
JP Williams – State Director of Special Education Services

Dear Superintendents, Special Education Directors, and Principals,

July 25, 2022

On July 19, 2022, the U.S. Department of Education released new guidance to help schools support students with disabilities and avoid discriminatory use of discipline. Please use and review the links below to learn more about the federal guidelines.

The new resources include:

- [Supporting Students with Disabilities and Avoiding the Discriminatory Use of Student Discipline under Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973](#) and an accompanying [Fact Sheet](#).
- [Questions and Answers Addressing the Needs of Children with Disabilities and the Individuals with Disabilities Education Act's \(IDEA's\) Discipline Provisions](#).
- [Positive, Proactive Approaches to Supporting the Needs of Children with Disabilities: A Guide for Stakeholders](#). And,
- A [letter](#) from Secretary Cardona to our nation's educators, school leaders, parents, and students about the importance of supporting the needs of students with disabilities.
- [New Guidance Helps Schools Support Students with Disabilities and Avoid Discriminatory Use of Discipline | U.S. Department of Education](#)

The Office of Special Education at the OPI is committed to supporting all Montana schools and students. If you have questions or immediate needs concerning special education matters, please contact the OPI Special Education office and connect with a representative for assistance.

Respectfully,

JP Williams

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