

Indicator 8 Guide: Family Engagement Survey: Supporting Students with IEPs

Indicator 8 is an improvement indicator assessing Family Engagement among families of students with Individualized Education Plans (IEPs). Indicator 8 reads, “Percent of parents with a child receiving special education services who report that schools facilitated parent involvement as a means of improving services and results for children with disabilities.” Districts are required to report on Indicator 8 once every five years. [Click HERE for more detailed information on Indicator 8](#), or type the following into a web search: “Wisconsin Department of Public Instruction Indicator 8.”

Measurement Tool for Indicator 8

Indicator 8 is measured by the Family Engagement Survey. Parents taking the survey online will be directed to either a 6-21 year old school age survey or a 3-5 year old preschool survey. Each survey has 22 questions.

All parents in LEAs that will be conducting their Procedural Compliance Self-Assessment the next year are able to take the survey. Each district is required to have a **response total that is predetermined by DPI to be sufficiently representative.** Districts not meeting their response requirement will implement the family engagement survey the following school year.

Questions in this survey reflect family engagement practices to promote improved student outcomes. The survey items should not be regarded as individual measures of compliance with the Individual with Disabilities Education Act (IDEA). The analysis of a completed survey is designed to identify a pattern of responses that measures the efforts of districts to engage families.

ALL questions on both preschool and school age surveys are used to calculate individual LEA and statewide Indicator 8 scores. The statewide Indicator 8 calculation is made by taking the average agreement for ALL items on completed preschool and school age surveys submitted during the survey window. LEAs should be aware of items which historically have shown to have the lowest levels of agreement over the last several years of the survey and develop family engagement activities to address these low scoring areas.

Starting in 2016-17, survey questions were revised to align with the Office of Special Education Programs (OSEP) new accountability system, Results Driven Accountability (RDA), and Wisconsin’s revised sample IEP forms, College and Career Ready IEPs: Improving Outcomes for Students 3 through 21. In Wisconsin, the RDA focus is on improving literacy outcomes for students with IEPs, so in Wisconsin, RDA stands for Reading Drives Achievement: Success through Literacy. In addition, Wisconsin’s revised sample IEP forms include a prompt on family engagement and guidance on IEPs from the Department, which includes resources and modules which highlight family engagement strategies specific to families of students with IEPs.

Additional revisions to the survey simplified the language of the questions to improve understanding, and consolidated similar questions to reduce the total number of survey questions. Many questions were also revised to better align with improvements in student educational outcomes. The State Superintendent’s Special Education Advisory Council, along with district special education staff and statewide family support and advocacy organizations, were stakeholders in the Family Engagement Survey revision process. A list of the revised questions is available on the [Indicator 8 Family Engagement Survey web page](#).

Statewide Targets

Targets are set by WDPI and the Wisconsin State Superintendent’s Council on Special Education.

Targets were set to go along with a new cycle of reporting.

	2015-16	2016-17	2017-18	2018-19	2019-20
Target	86.00%	86.50%	88.75%	89.00%	89.00%

District / LEA Indicator 8 Individual Scores and Reports

To view a district’s past performance, go to the District Profile (<https://sped.dpi.wi.gov/spedprofile>), select a District, then click the ‘Indicator 8 Parental Survey Question by Question District Results’ link under Indicator 8.

Suggested Improvement Activities

WDPI and WSPEI have developed resources to assist schools with family engagement activities to go along with items on the survey. For example, to assist families with understanding options when they disagree with a decision of the school, it may be helpful to provide families with the [Communication Options for Families document](#) which can be found on the [DPI Special Education Rights for Parents and Children web page](#).

During IEP Meeting	During Survey Window
Provide Families with Resources on Special Education and/or brochures from Statewide Support Organizations Review of Procedural Safeguards Fill out and Send Communication Options for Families Explain to families the Grade Level Standards and functional expectations expected for their child	Computer Lab Set Up During Parent Conferences Letter w/Extra Copy of Communication Options or Special Education Resources Sent Prior to Survey Paper Surveys Provided and Transcribed Electronically Written/Phone Follow Up To Increase Response Rates

For General Indicator 8 Information Web Search for “[Wisconsin Department of Public Instruction Indicator 8](#)”
 For Parent Survey Resources, Timelines, Process, and Preparation click on the “[Parent Survey Resource Page](#)”

Indicator 8 Family Engagement Survey: Support Students with IEPs Timeline

	DPI	LEA (district)
June	Sends notification letter to LEAs of upcoming Indicator 8 and other cyclical indicator participation.	Review Indicator 8 and Family Engagement Survey resources to prepare staff and families for the survey: http://dpi.wi.gov/sped/about/state-performance-plan/indicators/8-parent-involvement
February	Uploads a student list for each LEA into the survey manager system within 2 weeks of the survey window opening. The student list is based on current enrollment the day it is uploaded into the system. The student list includes individualized usernames and passwords for parents to take the survey.	When first logging into the survey manager system, assign additional district contacts to be able to access the survey manager and receive updates from WI DPI about the survey. Reviews the student roster, option to add or delete students based on enrollment, merge parent contact information with student list to create mail merge for the parent letter, option to enter district-provided survey link, and activate the survey for parents. For all students, send letter that includes individual username and password to parents so parents are able to log into the online survey Monitor the required number of responses for the LEA in the survey manager application. Parents who want to complete a 2 nd survey for a 2 nd parent can contact LEA to receive 2 nd username/password. The second username / password for each student is available on the Student List page of the Survey Manager application.
February 15	Survey window is opened and LEA Special Education Director is notified via email.	Assist families with completing survey using paper or online survey.
Feb – June	Staff are available for technical assistance as needed for LEAs completing the survey.	Monitor the Survey Manager application to monitor response rates and follow up with parents to ensure meeting response rate requirement.
June 30	Survey window is closed.	Ability to view parent comments in the Survey Manager application.
September	Indicator 8 question by question reports are generated for each LEA through public District Profile and the Special Education Web Portal.	Use data from reports to develop district family engagement plans.
February	State results are reported to OSEP in February for the previous year’s survey results.	LEA is able to compare overall results for preschool and school age survey to state targets via the District Profile.

Other Resources

WDPI	WSPEI	FACETS
DPI Department of Public Instruction dpisped@dpi.wi.gov	Wisconsin Statewide Parent Educator Initiative www.wspei.org	Wisconsin’s Parent Training and Information Center http://www.wifacets.org/