

Division of Special Education

# Blueprint Special Education Workgroup (SEW)

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## Blueprint Special Education Workgroup

- In December 2022, the Accountability and Implementation Board (AIB) charged the Maryland State Department of Education (MSDE) with convening a Special Education Workgroup to discuss and make recommendations on instruction, services, and funding for students with disabilities.
- Diverse workgroup membership: 50 members including school administrators, special education and general education teachers, parents, advocates and attorneys, community partners, special education directors, physicians, and others from across Maryland.
- 16 monthly meetings between August 2023 and January 2025.
- Pre-reading on each topic and other materials are available on the Workgroup website:  
<https://blueprint.marylandpublicschools.org/special-education-workgroup/>
- Meetings were livestreamed. Recordings are available on MSDE YouTube:  
<https://www.youtube.com/@msdetv6068>

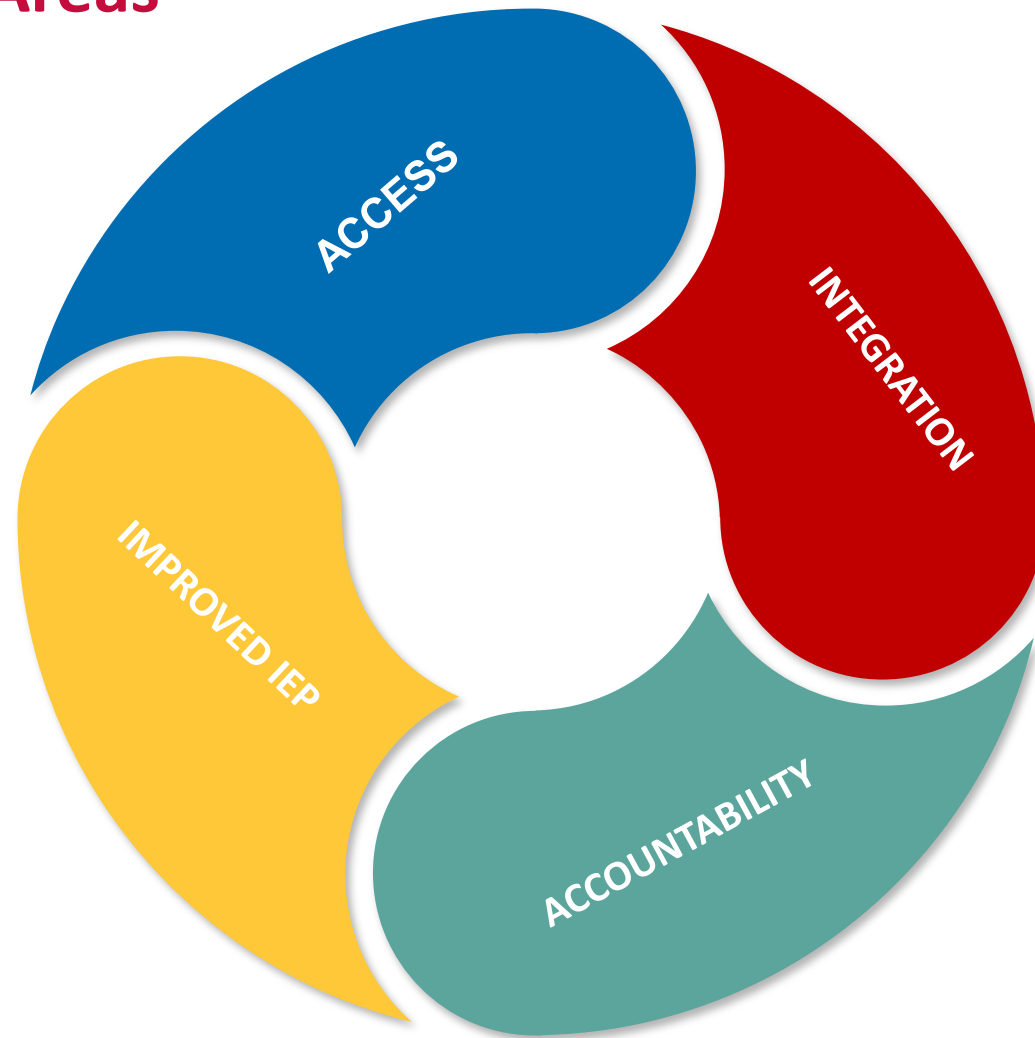
## 27 Recommendations Under 14 Topic Areas

- Standards and Expectations Under IDEA for SWD to Achieve, Including Ambitious IEP Goals
- Specially Designed Instruction
- Effective IEP Implementation
- Monitoring, Data Collection, and Technical Assistance
- Teacher Qualifications, Recruitment, and Retention
- Staffing and Service Delivery
- Funding
- Least Restrictive Environment
- Significant Disproportionality
- Early Childhood
- Authentic Family-School Partnership
- Secondary Transition
- Students with the Most Significant Cognitive Disabilities
- Behavior and Discipline

## 8 Strategic Priorities

- High expectations for grade-level achievement
- Inclusive evidence-based instruction
- Recruitment and retention of special education staff
- Addressing disproportionality in identification, placement, and discipline
- Advocating for equitable funding
- Strengthening family-school partnerships
- Advancing meaningful inclusion
- Modernizing the Maryland Online IEP system

## Four Focus Areas



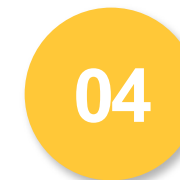
Access



Integration of  
General/Special  
Education



Accountability



Improved IEP  
Process

# Special Education Workgroup

## 2026 Key Tasks and Deliverables:

### Access

- Inclusive Childcare Training for Providers
- Scheduling Guidance
- Collaborative Time Guidance
- Alternate Pathway to Diploma

### Integration of General/Special Education

- SOR for All Educators and All Students
- Content-Specific MTSS Implementation
- School Leadership Training (Principals)
- Restorative Practices Guidance

### Improved IEP Process

- LRE Decision Making Guidance
- Joint Family/Staff Trainings on IEP and Dispute Resolution
- Families/MLL in IEP Process Guidance
- Alternate Assessment Eligibility Policy

### Accountability

- Tracker for Progress and Exception Reporting
- SEW Implementation Web page
- Funding Proposal Based on Cost Study Findings
- DSE Website Redesign
- New Templates for Actionable, Accessible DSE Guidance

# Special Education Workgroup

## 2027 Key Tasks and Deliverables:

### Access

- Direct Consult for Inclusion Support
- Service Models for Early Intervention/ Infants & Toddlers Program
- PreK Implementation Guidance
- Standards for IEP Chairs and 1:1s/ Paraprofessionals

### Integration of General/Special Education

- Maryland Effective Mathematics Educator course
- COMAR Revision: Educator Licensure
- Universal Design for Learning Guidance

### Improved IEP Process

- Compliance Monitoring of Reasonable Calculation and Narrowing the Gap
- IEP Facilitation Toolkit
- MOIEP Recommendations Based on Study

### Accountability

- Tracker for Implementation Progress and Exception Reporting

# Special Education Workgroup

## 2028 Key Tasks and Deliverables:

### Access

- Workloads and Service Delivery Models
- Behavioral Support Staffing Models
- LRE Action Plans

### Integration of General/Special Education

- Review Educator Prep Programs

### Improved IEP Process

- Disability Category Eligibility Checklists
- Authentic Family-School Partnership

### Accountability

- Tracker for Implementation Progress and Exception Reporting

# Questions?

