



Illinois State Board of Education

Family Advisory Board Meeting with the ISBE Monitors and ISBE Special Education Department Director

Illinois State Board of Education

September 15, 2020

6:00 p.m. – 7:30 p.m.



Agenda

- Call to Order by FAB Executive Committee
- Introductions
- ISBE Monitors presentation on Monitoring functions and Student Specific Corrective Action updates
- Special Education Director speaks on special education guidance and remote learning
- Questions and Comments
FAB executive committee to facilitate this session
- FAB Executive Committee wrap-up
- Meeting Ends

Introductions

- **The ODLSS Family Advisory Board – Executives**
- **Barbara Moore, ISBE Special Education Director**
- **Lisa Armonda, ISBE Monitor**
- **Laura Boedeker, ISBE Monitor**

Who are the Monitors?

Who do they work for?

The Illinois State Board of Education; Legal Department

When did they begin their work?

Laura Boedeker (7/2/18)

Lisa Armonda (11/18/19)

Why were they appointed by ISBE?

Per the 2017-18 Public Inquiry and ISBE Corrective Action 

What is the ISBE Public Inquiry and Corrective Action?



Public Inquiry re: CPS Special Education

Open Letter to ISBE (November 2017)

- From special education advocates representing Chicago Public Schools parents, families, and staff.
- Requested that ISBE open an investigation regarding a number of issues relating to the provision of special education services within CPS

Public Inquiry - continued

ISBE Response (December 2017)

- ISBE initiates a **PUBLIC INQUIRY** into CPS's system and procedures re: special education, focusing on the issues outlined in the Open Letter.
- Public Inquiry was led by the Office of the General Counsel and allowed ISBE to closely investigate and analyze the issues of public concern in a fair and transparent manner.
- Evidence gathered from CPS, Advocates, Parents, and the Public; affidavits, technology demonstrations, and testimony provided during a public hearing process.



Public Inquiry - Findings

Systemic Violations, Generally

- Lack of regular, coordinated, and comprehensive trainings provided to CPS staff.
- Lack of consistency between CPS procedural manuals and the electronic IEP system; leading to possible delays or denials of services.
- District Representatives serving as “gatekeepers” in IEP meetings and not allowing IEP teams to make certain team decisions without the D.R.’s authority to do so.
- Inadequate notice to Parents about changes to procedures and data collection requirements.



Public Inquiry – Corrective Action


Corrective Action Report (CAR):

- **ISBE Appointed Monitors** – oversee/implement the CAR
- **IEP Meetings** – ensure appropriate participation
- **Electronic IEP Use** – IEP teams have full access
- **Data Collection** – team-driven, data supports all decisions
- **Procedural Manual and Guidance Documents** - review
- **Budgeting** – review appeals; may override approvals/denials
- **Stakeholder Involvement** – Parent involvement and input
- **Additional Training Plan** – training to school staff by ISBE/CPS
- **Student Specific Corrective Action (SSCA)** - remedies



Stakeholder Involvement

The ODLSS Family Advisory Board

- Formally known as the [PAC \(Parent Advisory Committee or Parent Advisory Council\)](#) 
- Appears in the Corrective Action Report **twice**:
 1. “CPS will invite the Monitor to all meetings of the Parent Advisory Committee.”
 2. “ISBE expects that CPS will continue to host monthly ODLSS Parent Advisory Committee meetings, in which the ISBE monitor or other ISBE representative will be in attendance. CPS will provide ISBE with written agendas, meeting notes, and any relevant documentation before, during, and after the meeting.

ISBE Monitors – What Do We Do?

ISBE Monitors - Expectations

- [Implement requirements](#) of the Corrective Action Report
 - Primary role
 - Our employer and “client” is the Illinois State Board of Education
- [Serve as liaisons](#) for Special Education between ISBE and CPS.
- [Review IEPs](#) and school-based data and reports
- [Review ODLSS policy/procedure/guideline revisions](#) prior to the public comment period; [review/edit CPS trainings](#) related to special education
- [Investigate general and school-specific issues](#) pertaining to the Corrective Action and other matters regarding special education, in collaboration with ODLSS.



ISBE Monitors – What Do We Not Do?

ISBE Monitors

- ISBE and the Monitors did not “take over” or “step in to fix” special education within CPS.
- The Monitors do not represent parents, school-based staff, advocates, or CPS/ODLSS; we oversee and provide clarity and guidance on the special education processes to ensure they are legal, fair, and equitable for students with disabilities and students who may be eligible for supports and services.
- The Monitors are not permitted to give legal advice to parents and caregivers regarding student specific issues, especially in regards to submitting due process requests or state complaints.



Student Specific Corrective Action (SSCA)

What is SSCA?

You may hear this term referred to in relation to the specific services that were linked to the Public Inquiry findings:

- paraprofessional support

- extended school year

- transportation

- students identified as having a specific learning disability

- placement in a therapeutic day school

What students does SSCA apply to?

Students with an IEP for whom specific services/supports were delayed or not provided in the 2016-2017 and/or 2017-2018 school year(s) as specifically outlined in the Public Inquiry.



Student Specific Corrective Action (SSCA)

Universal Enrichment Remedy (UER)

- CPS identified students who are eligible to receive remedial services without having to first attend a meeting.
- Parents and caregivers will receive notice for a phone conference to discuss the amount of services your student is eligible to receive. Parents and caregivers will be given a list of vendors and can choose the option or options that best serve the needs of your student.
- If you disagree with the amount of services that are being offered, or if you do not believe any of the services on the vendor list will meet the needs of your child, you may request an SSCA meeting. The UER will then be put “on hold.”
- Parents and caregivers who have been offered a UER and are unsuccessful at the SSCA meeting will still be able to select a UER.



SSCA (continued)

SSCA Meetings

- Some parents and caregivers have been identified as those who will receive an automatic SSCA meeting. These meetings will address students who may have experienced a delay or denial of services due to the budget appeals process, or students that had been previously identified as qualifying for an automatic meeting but did not qualify for a UER.
- Any parent or caregiver that did not receive a notice of an automatic meeting may request a meeting by emailing SSCA@cps.edu
- SSCA guidelines and procedures are in the final weeks of the 45-day public comment period and can be viewed on the ODLSS website



SSCA ISBE Appeals Process

Who should appeal?

- If your request for an SSCA meeting has been denied, or if you attended an SSCA meeting and are dissatisfied with the outcome, you can file an appeal with the Monitors.
- If you appeal to the ISBE Monitors, you will still have the option to file a state complaint if you are unsuccessful or dissatisfied with the outcome.

How do I appeal?

- You may send an email with the name of your student and the date of the SSCA meeting or the date of the denial of your SSCA meeting request to: isbemonitor@isbe.net



QUESTION AND ANSWERS & DISCUSSION



Illinois
State Board of
Education

Whole Child • Whole School • Whole Community