

SPP Stakeholder Input Summary for FFY 2020-25 Targets

In accordance with 20 U.S.C 1416(b)(2)(C)(ii)(II) of the Individuals with Disabilities Education Act, the Illinois State Board of Education (ISBE) is required each February to submit an Annual Performance Report (APR) to the Office of Special Education Programs regarding the state's overall performance in relation to the 17 indicators in the State Performance Plan (SPP). The SPP is developed as a six-year plan that is composed of both compliance and results/outcomes indicators. Every indicator incorporates a measurable and rigorous target for each year of the SPP cycle, and these targets are used as a basis for analyzing district data for students with disabilities. The most recent cycle of the SPP ended with the submission of the Federal Fiscal Year (FFY) 2019 SPP/APR on February 1, 2021. A new six-year SPP cycle that covers school years 2020-21 through 2025-26 began recently. School year 2019-20 data is also reported for those SPP indicators that lag one year. Many of the SPP indicators have been updated at the federal level for this cycle, resulting in new components as well as changes to measurement requirements and data collection tools, sources, or methods. Therefore, states were tasked with re-examining their previous SPP targets. ISBE took this opportunity to gather input from stakeholders on its proposed SPP targets for FFY 2020-25.

ISBE collected stakeholder feedback on its proposed SPP targets in multiple ways. Beginning in June 2021, ISBE's Special Education Department initiated a series of stakeholder meetings to establish targets for the new six-year cycle of the SPP. These meetings were held virtually over a two-month period to maximize participation and were designed to engage stakeholders from various backgrounds. The following existing stakeholder groups participated in feedback sessions with ISBE:

- Early Childhood Least Restrictive Environment Stakeholders Consortium
- Illinois State Advisory Council on the Education of Children with Disabilities
- Creating a Positive Pathway Forward for Special Education in Illinois
- Illinois Multi-Tiered System of Support (MTSS) Network Advisory Council
- Early Childhood Outcomes System Stakeholders Committee
- Illinois Alliance of Administrators of Special Education

Stakeholders included professional development providers, school district representatives, educational advocates, Illinois Early Learning Project representatives, Chicago Public Schools representatives, Parent Training and Information Center representatives, early intervention representatives, inclusion support specialists, individuals with disabilities, students with disabilities, parents of children with disabilities, general public representatives, higher education representatives, Department of Corrections representatives, Illinois Service Resource Center representatives, directors of special education, assistant directors of special education, special education supervisors, special education coordinators, directors of innovative learning and technology, special education cooperative governing board members, regional superintendents, assistant regional superintendents, school business officials, and special education attorneys. In addition, the Illinois MTSS director, ISBE State Personnel Development Grant (SPDG) coordinator, ISBE director of Special Education, ISBE SPP/State Systemic Improvement Plan coordinator, and ISBE Section 619 coordinator participated in one or more stakeholder meetings. A total of 121 stakeholder group members chose to participate in these six feedback sessions.

All stakeholder meetings were organized and facilitated by ISBE, with the assistance of group leaders. The meetings provided information on the SPP indicators to apprise stakeholders of the history and data trends so that they could make informed recommendations. The presentations included an

introductory section on the SPP as well as information regarding goals for stakeholder input. Information about setting new baselines and targets was also provided. Then details about the importance of each indicator and how specific indicators are defined, measured, and calculated were shared. National and state trend data were explained, average rates of change were discussed, and comparisons to similar states were provided for some indicators. Each session sought stakeholder feedback on whether the proposed SPP targets were reasonable and achievable.

These six stakeholder groups provided input on proposed targets for one or more of the following SPP indicators: 1, 2, 3, 4A, 5, 6, 7, 8, 14, 15, 16, and 17. After several stakeholder group meetings, SPP 5, 6, 8, and 14 proposed targets were reexamined and updated based on state and national trend data and stakeholder feedback prior to the release of the SPP proposed target web modules and online survey for stakeholder feedback on June 9. ISBE recorded 16 separate SPP modules and posted them on the website. The introduction module provided general information that applied to all SPP indicators. Each of the SPP modules shared information specific to the indicator(s) being addressed, such as state and national trend data, measurements, and proposed SPP targets for the FFY 2020-25 SPP cycle. Each module sought stakeholder feedback on whether the proposed SPP targets were reasonable and achievable by requesting that the participant complete a survey. The survey was open for over two months to gather stakeholder input. Prior to initiating the module recordings and survey, ISBE advertised broadly via state bulletins, listservs, Parent Training and Information Center publications, other state technical assistance resource centers, and the six stakeholder groups mentioned previously. These efforts resulted in 180 stakeholders completing SPP surveys. These stakeholders represented a variety of regions of the state and races/ethnicities. Survey completers identified themselves as community members, educators, administrators, and other stakeholders.

After these meetings were convened and survey data was compiled, ISBE engaged in an internal review of stakeholder feedback. The results of the internal review revealed the following regarding stakeholder agreement with proposed targets:

SPP 1 and 2: Stakeholder meeting polling results showed 80% yes and 10% no for SPP 1 proposed targets and 80% yes and 20% no for SPP 2 proposed targets. No reasons or alternative targets were given by stakeholders for the “no” responses. Online surveys showed 93% agreement with proposed targets for SPP 1 and 2.

SPP 3A: Online surveys showed 92% agreement with the proposed targets for SPP 3A.

SPP 3B: Online surveys showed 93% agreement with the proposed targets for SPP 3B.

SPP 3C: Online surveys showed 92% agreement with the proposed targets for SPP 3C.

SPP 3D: Online surveys showed 100% agreement with the proposed targets for SPP 3D.

SPP4A: One stakeholder meeting’s polling results showed 63% yes and 38% no for proposed targets. One stakeholder commented that the proposed targets were already being met (even though they showed progress over time). Another stakeholder group had no concerns with the proposed targets. Online surveys showed 94% agreement with the proposed targets for SPP 4A.

SPP 5: Proposed targets were updated after several stakeholder meetings were held to incorporate stakeholder feedback. This was completed prior to the SPP modules and online survey being made public on the ISBE website. Online surveys showed 88% agreement with the proposed targets for SPP 5.

Stakeholders who disagreed with the proposed targets were split evenly between those who thought the targets were too rigorous and those who thought the targets were not rigorous enough.

SPP 6: Proposed targets were updated after several stakeholder meetings were held to incorporate stakeholder feedback. This was completed prior to the SPP modules and online survey being made public on the ISBE website. Online surveys showed 100% agreement with the proposed targets for SPP 6.

SPP 7: Group stakeholder meeting consensus was that the proposed targets for A2, B2, and C2 were rigorous, yet reasonable and achievable. Online surveys showed 100% agreement with the proposed targets for SPP 7.

SPP 8: Proposed targets were updated after several stakeholder meetings were held to incorporate stakeholder feedback. This was completed prior to the SPP modules and online survey being made public on the ISBE website. Online surveys showed 92% agreement with the proposed targets for SPP 8. Those who disagreed thought that the targets were too rigorous due to the COVID-19 pandemic.

SPP 14: Proposed targets were updated after several stakeholder meetings were held to incorporate stakeholder feedback. This was completed prior to the SPP modules and online survey being made public on the ISBE website. Online surveys showed 100% agreement with the proposed targets for SPP 14.

SPP 15 and 16: Stakeholder meeting polling results showed 100% agreement with proposed targets for both 15 and 16. Online surveys also showed 100% agreement with the proposed targets for SPP 15 and 16.

SPP 17: Stakeholder meeting consensus was that proposed targets were reasonable and achievable given SPDG efforts. Online surveys showed 100% agreement with the proposed targets for SPP 17.

The SPP targets for FFY 2020-25, finalized after the review of stakeholder input, are outlined on the SPP/APR Indicators webpage under each specific SPP indicator.