



Leading for Results: Special Education Leadership & Accountability Summit

2025

Agenda

Monday, Dec 1, 2025		
Time		
8:30a		Breakfast and Registration
9:00-9:15a		Welcome & Connector Activity
9:15a-10:30a		Spotlight Session- Enhancing LRE through Ed Benefit Review Kelly Rogers Ballroom DEF Description: The Educational Benefit Review (EBR) is a structured and reflective process used to determine whether a student's Individualized Education Program (IEP) is reasonably calculated to provide meaningful educational benefit. Rooted in the requirements of IDEA and guided by the Endrew F. decision, the EBR process examines patterns across three consecutive IEPs using the "4 A's" framework—Authenticity, Alignment, Achievement, and Adjustments—to assess both procedural integrity and the quality of educational outcomes. Participants will explore how the EBR process can be used not only as part of regular special education program reviews but also as a professional learning tool to enhance FAPE in the LRE, ensure compliance, and improve outcomes for students with disabilities. Tools and templates for conducting an EBR will be shared.
10:30a-10:45a		BREAK
10:45a-12:00p		Breakout Session #1 Valid and Reliable Data <i>Kelly Rusnell & Tim Voskuil, Kent ISD</i> Ballroom D Data accuracy is not only required from a compliance standpoint, but is also critical in continuous improvement efforts. Kent ISD has developed processes and systems to support our member districts in this area. This session will go into detail about why timely, valid, and reliable data submissions are important, as well as review and provide resources detailing our processes in working with our member districts to help promote effective data analysis and ensure data accuracy.

		Enhancing Collaboration through Board-driven IEPs Stephanie Dyer, State-Wide Autism Resources and Training (START) <i>Ballroom EF</i> This session will outline a board-driven IEP process that enhances collaboration and supports the placement decision process that aligns with the LRE requirements. Participants will be provided tools and tips for engaging IEP team members in deep dialogue and exploration to determine FAPE in the LRE. Additionally, the session will discuss the key elements of the continuum of alternative placements that align with compliance and legal tenants.
12:00-12:35p		LUNCH
12:35p-1:50p		Breakout Session #2: Graduation and Dropout Data Mackenzie Cooper, Center for Educational Performance and Information (CEPI) Ballroom D This session will provide an overview of the graduation and dropout cycle, rates methodology, exit codes, cohort statuses, and reporting best practices, with a focus on both students on a certificate track as well as those on a diploma track. MI School Data reports pertaining to special education will also be discussed, including select data from those reports. From Compliance to Culture: Reimagining LRE for Sustainable Change Robin Meldrum and Krysndra Phelan St. Clair County RESA Ballroom EF This session will focus on the process SCC RESA went through to identify LRE needs in the county. During its development, the training team analyzed federal and state regulations, reviewed student records, and examined existing RESA LRE statements to identify common areas of need. By the end of the training, district staff gained strategies for integrating LRE into IEPs, recognized areas within their district IEPs that may require technical assistance, and received a framework for supporting and training staff at the local level.
1:50p-2:00p		BREAK
2:00p-3:15p		Spotlight Session Beyond the Map: Building Lasting Change Through Meaningful Data Use <i>Laura Thornburg & Jennifer Korinek, VanBuren ISD</i> Working in a largely rural ISD with a significant geographical spread, there has been an increasing amount of turnover in both administrative and professional staff within our local districts and at the ISD level. As we work on making lasting changes in student outcome data, we tackled making special education compliance and results data accessible and meaningful for our local teams. We will share how we are combining areas of focus to increase the support for our local teams.
3:15p-3:30p		Reflection & Closing



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