



Trending topics is a triannual resource for special education administrators to ensure timely access to relevant content. The topics in this issue were identified based on the results of Differentiated Monitoring and Support (DMS) activities completed during the 2020-2021 school year. This issue's topics address common questions and compliance challenges identified during monitoring.

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## Child Find and Evaluation

[Special Education Referral for Initial Evaluation Quick Guide and Training Video](#): This free 40 minute online training provides an overview of regulations and best practices pertaining to referrals for initial evaluation including responding to a parent request for evaluation. A one-page quick guide accompanies the training.

[Student Data Review Guide](#): This collection of resources is designed to support school teams in reviewing and analyzing student data and information to make informed decisions regarding referrals for special education. A guide for analyzing student data to support referral decision making, a supplemental resource specific to considerations for English learners, and a user's video are available.

[Child Find Duty Quick Guide](#): This document highlights key points and resources for LEAs to consider for implementing child find. The quick guide provides an overview of child find, a summary of LEA responsibilities, and key points to remember.

[Timelines and Assessment Log](#): This page provides a downloadable special education referral timeline, a full and individual initial evaluation (FIE) timeline, and an assessment log to help keep track of State Performance Plan Indicator (SPP) 11 and 12 data.

## IEP Development and Implementation

[TEA Guidance: Goals, Accommodations, and Modifications October 2020 Training Video](#): This 15-minute video provides an introduction and overview of key content from the [IEP Development Technical Assistance \(TA\) Guidance Document](#). The training video, accompanying [PDF slide deck](#), and guidance document provide excellent training resources for educators to better understand key concepts and requirements of the IEP.

[Best Practices for Conducting a Virtual Admission, Review, and Dismissal \(ARD\) Committee Meeting](#): This free, 70-minute recorded webinar covers basic requirements of an ARD committee meeting, confidentiality considerations, staff and family preparation for the virtual ARD format, tips for engaging ARD committee members, and electronic signature obtainment.

[A Step Toward IEP Quality and Rigor](#): This free six credit asynchronous course is designed to support educators in developing

high quality IEPs for students with significant cognitive disabilities. However, the training can assist any special educator needing to learn more about developing quality standards-based IEPs. The course is guided by a quality rubric that helps teachers evaluate the IEPs developed for their students. Critical components of IEP development, including developing present levels, writing measurable goals, and progress monitoring are covered.

## Transition Assessment and Goal Development

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**[Age Appropriate Transition Assessment Toolkit:](#)** This resource was developed by the National Technical Assistance Center on Transition (NTACT). It gives information on what transition assessments are, why they are important, and how to conduct age appropriate transition assessments. The toolkit also provides samples of informal and formal assessment instruments.

**[From Assessment to Practice: A Model for Teachers:](#)** This resource from NTACT provides teachers a model of how to take information from the transition assessment to develop quality IEP goals that address students' needs. It contains a template form for teachers to use that includes a step-by-step outline of the process. There are several case studies and examples of how to fill out the template form based on the information from the case studies.

**[Developing Goals:](#)** This short resource is part of a longer module from the IRIS Center at Vanderbilt University. It gives information about connecting transition assessments to goals and includes short case studies with examples of possible transition goals for the highlighted students.

**[Transition Assessment Resources for Remote Learning:](#)** This resource library provides information specific to transition assessment in the remote learning setting. The resources include tips, considerations, and lists of assessments that can be used remotely.

**[Coming Soon from the Student Centered Transitions Network \(SCTN\):](#)** Two free online courses are in development! One will cover Transition Assessment and the other will cover Measurable Post-Secondary Goals. [Sign up](#) to receive the SCTN Newsletter to be notified as soon as these courses become available (anticipated Summer 2021).