



TO: AEA and LEA Directors of Special Education, Guidance Counselors, Transition Content Coaches

FROM: Marty Ikeda, Chief Bureau of Learner Supports and Strategies
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DATE: September 17, 2012

RE: **Use of Student Curriculum Plan (e.g., *I Have a Plan Iowa*) to Develop IEPs**

Beginning in the 2013-14 school year, data gathered to meet requirements for student curriculum plans must be included when developing IEPs of students ages 14 and older. Iowa Code 279.61 (which went into effect July 1, 2008), requires that districts work with students to complete a student curriculum plan beginning in 8th grade and continuing until the student graduates. The majority of Iowa districts use *I Have a Plan Iowa*™ to meet this requirement. For more information on the required components for all students, see the Department website: bit.ly/QZeSg4

Incorporation of the data into IEPs will be monitored through the collection of Indicator B13 data. This expectation should not result in additional work. Instead, it should help reduce duplication and fragmentation of effort. Students on IEPs in grades 8-12 should already be completing a student curriculum plan through the district's procedures established for all students. Students on IEPs should continue to participate with other students within the normal timeframe. The resulting information should be used to develop the IEP for the following year. Students with IEPs who need assessments that more closely match their needs, should participate using alternate methods. Districts with students who complete the required components using alternate methods are required to file a report by June 15th of each year. <http://tiny.cc/IHAPIAlternative>

While students with disabilities are still required to participate in all aspects of the student curriculum plan, only those components directly related to IDEA requirements for transition planning will be expected to be documented in the IEP. These are:

9th Grade

- Basic skills and work habits
- Career interests and 1 career cluster identified

10th Grade

- Career options linked to interests and preferences in Course of Study

11th Grade

- Transferrable work skills linked to specific career options

- College performance data (for those with a Postsecondary Expectation for formal education)

We recognize that many of you are already using the existing information in the development of IEPs. Those that are not, however, may need to establish ways for IEP teams to access the information. School counselors and special education teachers should work together to determine how to best gather and use the information. Additionally, we have developed several opportunities to gain more information.

- Informational webinar: **September 26, 2012** 12:30 – 1:30. This webinar is archived and can be viewed at: <http://iowa.adobeconnect.com/p6k4597da5j/>
- Regional trainings: I Have A Plan Iowa™ trainers and AEA Transition Coordinators will work together to develop a training designed to meet your needs. Further information will follow.

For special education related questions, please contact Barbara Guy at Barbara.guy@iowa.gov; for reporting questions contact Sandra Dop at Sandra.dop@iowa.gov