October 2015

Virginia IEP

**Volunteers Needed!
Help The Virginia Department of Education (VDOE) Review and Revise Sample Forms. Details on page 2.**

Virginia IEP Newsletter

Q&A With the Virginia IEP Team

What was the original vision for the statewide system when the project began?

VA IEP: Having a user-friendly system which would provide help and assistance to everyday questions or difficulties most case managers experience in an Individualized Education Program (IEP) system was a top priority. We envisioned the statewide system having pop-up guides   throughout various screens, including links to VDOE guidance documents. The system should be easy to use for teachers and administrators and complement the IEP workflow. The VDOE is always working to reduce duplication and ease the reporting burdens on local school divisions, the system will correlate required special education reports typically sent from student information systems (SIS).

What are some of the challenges divisions have told you they're facing with regard to IEPs?

VA IEP: The primary issue that has been reported from local school divisions is the difficulty in managing IEP student transfers from other divisions. As you know, the regulations require that teams must meet within 30 days to review the current IEP. The VDOE realizes that most divisions are using computer based IEP systems and case managers must take time to input all of the information into the system which is very time-consuming.

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Often, the divisions are not able to get appropriate information in a timely fashion. The second most frequently cited challenge is the perception that vendors might not provide the support and technical assistance divisions need in the timeframe required. Several divisions expressed concern that updates related to state and federal changes were not available in a timely manner.

How will the new system impact teachers and case managers?
VA IEP: The new system will be universal and easier for all to use. This system will have the ability to notify all users who have access to the student file of upcoming IEP and eligibility meetings.

Can you tell us about your future plans?
VA IEP: As you know, we plan to launch the Virginia IEP system with the first group of adopters in the fall of 2016. During the configuration process, we will consult divisions with different profiles: large and small divisions, rural and urban and hope to bring on new divisions annually. Our goal is for most divisions to be onboard by 2020.

What is the process for divisions who may be interested in becoming Phase I adopters?
VA IEP: Several divisions have already indicated interest in being part of the Phase I adopters. The IEP team will be contacting these divisions to collect information such as the types of student information systems in use, infrastructure questions and to discuss what will be required for participation. If your division is interested in becoming one of the first adopters, click on the button below to tell us who to contact and we will be in touch.

> **Yes! We are interested.**

NEW STATE-RECOMMENDED SAMPLE IEP FORMS REVISED BY WORKING GROUPS NOW AVAILABLE!

Beginning In the spring of 2015, two working groups reviewed the sample IEP forms available on the Virginia Department of Education (VDOE) Web site. The groups recommended a number of changes and after the review process the VDOE is pleased to announce that the newly revised forms are now available on the VDOE Web site. New state-recommended sample IEP and eligibility forms may be found on the VDOE Web site, or by clicking on the Virginia IEP logo below.

Virginia IEP

Interested in helping VDOE review forms for potential revisions?

The VDOE has established working groups to review Functional Behavioral Assessments and Behavioral Intervention Plans.

If interested, contact:
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Virginia IEP: Supporting Virginia School Divisions / Streamlining Processes