

## Our Mission

*IDEA* Data Center is funded by the U.S. Department of Education's Office of Special Education Programs to provide technical assistance to build capacity within states for collecting, reporting, and analyzing high-quality *IDEA* data. IDC focuses on data requirements under Sections 616 and 618 of the Individuals with Disabilities Education Act (*IDEA*), including data focused on programs for infants, toddlers, and their families (Part C) and on programs serving children ages 3 through 21 (Part B). Building capacity for high-quality *IDEA* data will affect states, school districts, and local early intervention programs across the nation. Those entities will, in turn, apply the higher quality data they generate to improve outcomes for all children and youth with disabilities served under *IDEA*.

## Objectives

- ➔ Provide a full range of TA to states to address the needs and challenges of states, school districts, and local early intervention programs related to *IDEA* data.
- ➔ Support ongoing and rigorous examination of *IDEA* data quality.
- ➔ Develop static and interactive tools and products to support TA efforts and high-quality data capacity.
- ➔ Communicate to the field about *IDEA* data quality issues through a state-of-the-art website, dissemination of tools and products, and presentations at national and regional meetings.
- ➔ Provide leadership to the field in the area of *IDEA* data quality by working closely with OSEP and other ED offices to coordinate related TA.

## Intended Outcomes

- ➔ States will improve their capacity to meet data collection and reporting requirements.
- ➔ States will implement rigorous data validation practices and procedures.
- ➔ States will support and communicate with local *IDEA* data collectors about data quality.
- ➔ States will accurately analyze data and use these data to report on current improvement efforts and inform future improvement activities in their State Performance Plans (SPPs) and Annual Performance Reports (APRs) and for other planning purposes.

## IDC Activity Areas

**Leadership and Coordination** – IDC works with other OSEP-funded centers providing TA related to *IDEA* data quality to leverage the collective expertise and experience of all, maximize TA resources, and minimize duplication to ensure that TA is efficient and well-organized and reflects the needs of state and local agencies and programs. As part of its leadership work, IDC engages a group of stakeholders with diverse perspectives on *IDEA* data collection, reporting and analysis to inform IDC's activities and its tools and products.

**Communication and Dissemination** – IDC's work in this Activity Area will be central to providing universal/general TA to a broad audience. IDC's primary vehicle for communication and dissemination will be its website, [www.ideadata.org](http://www.ideadata.org). The website will provide access to tools, products, webinars, and presentations; links to events and other sites; and *IDEA* data-related announcements. Registered users will be able to join learning communities to collaborate about *IDEA* data-related issues. IDC maintains Part B and Part C *IDEA* Data Listserves that encourage members to communicate about data quality, collection, reporting, and analysis. Last, an important part of IDC's dissemination will be presentations at national and regional conferences and meetings.

## IDC Activity Areas Continued

**Tools and Products** – As part of its universal/general TA, IDC will develop an array of tools and products across a breadth of topics related to *IDEA* Sections 616 and 618 data issues. These will include resources about new and revised data requirements, interactive tools, topical reports, technical briefs, summaries of best practice research, webinars, and videos. IDC’s tools and products will help states, school districts, and local early intervention programs with data collection, data validation, and self-assessment of data quality to determine applicability for monitoring and improvement planning.

**Targeted and Intensive TA** – To complement the universal/general TA provided through the other Activity Areas, IDC will provide targeted TA to states, school districts, and local early intervention programs that have a need related to *IDEA* data quality. Targeted TA will be provided through a state liaison model, using email and telephone, short-term consultation, and regional workshops on particular data quality topics. Intensive TA will be provided to states that have long-term and complex data challenges related to *IDEA* data collection, analysis, and reporting. Intensive TA will be implemented at the state and local levels, will be coordinated with other relevant TA centers, and will require a negotiated work plan for all involved.

## About Us

Westat, the lead organization for IDC, has the following seven partners:

- Applied Engineering Management (AEM)
- Compass Evaluation and Research
- Frameweld
- SRI International
- University of Kentucky – Human Development Institute
- University of North Carolina – Frank Porter Graham Child Development Institute
- WestEd

Five of IDC’s seven partners work directly with other OSEP-sponsored centers that provide TA, ensuring ongoing communication and coordination of efforts. In addition, IDC has expert consultants who bring deep knowledge and extensive experience about Part C and Part B data, data systems, policies, programs, and TA.

Learn more about IDC at [www.ideadata.org](http://www.ideadata.org), email [ideadata@westat.com](mailto:ideadata@westat.com), or call 888-819-7024.

---

This document was developed under a grant from the U.S. Department of Education for The National Technical Assistance Center to Improve State Capacity to Accurately Collect and Report *IDEA* Data, #H373Y130002. The contents do not necessarily represent the policy or reflect the views of the U.S. Department of Education. OSEP Project Officers: Richelle Davis and Meredith Miceli.

December 2013

