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TOP NEWS: Department Extends Regulatory Reform Comment Period

The U.S. Department of Education is currently undergoing a process to review and reform regulatory documents and activities, in accordance with [Executive Order 13777](#). In June, we published a *Federal Register* notice as part of this process. It describes how the public can [submit comments](#) regarding regulations and policy guidance they recommend ED review, modify, or repeal. You can view such documents for OSEP [here](#).



To ensure that all interested parties have ample time and opportunity to submit comments, the Department extended the public comment period for 30 days via a new [Federal Register notice](#) dated August 11, 2017. Comments will now be accepted through **September 20, 2017**.

For more information regarding the extended comment period, check out the *OSERS Blog*.

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INSIDE OSEP: Ruth's Report

Message From Acting Director Ruth Ryder



Hello Leaders!

Summer is winding down, and here at OSEP we're looking forward to getting into a new school year. However, this summer certainly hasn't been idle! I've really enjoyed participating in the many stakeholder meetings hosted by OSERS Acting Assistant Secretary Kim Richey. It has been such a pleasure hearing from the various groups representing different facets of our constituency. The meetings have been a great opportunity to build on OSERS' relationships with stakeholder groups, and we're very excited to continue and enhance collaboration with these groups moving forward.

We've been working to tweak and improve the [new IDEA website](#) since its launch in June. Your input has been truly invaluable, and we hope that you continue to provide feedback and suggestions [via our blog](#). Stay tuned for opportunities to learn more about the features of the site. You can also [contact us](#) directly with questions about the site's

functionality or the resources it houses.

Finally, we're excited to announce that we will hold our third **virtual symposium**, "[Displaying Our Data - Conveying Our Stories](#)," on October 10, 2017, 1:30–3:30 p.m. EDT. Please note that we have changed the date since the initial announcement of the 2017 OSEP Symposia Series. The October symposium will focus on how states, districts, and *IDEA* Part D-funded investments can develop engaging stories and effectively use data to improve communication strategies used with stakeholders, leadership, and decision makers. The symposium will explore best practices and tips for more impactful and effective communication efforts. Presenters will discuss (1) building an effective dissemination plan, (2) using infographics and data visualization practices to communicate the meaning of data in a way that is accessible, accurate, and actionable for a variety of stakeholders, (3) using social media to improve outreach, and (4) measuring success using analytic tools.

RESULTS DRIVEN ACCOUNTABILITY: OSEP Information Collections Remain Open for Comment

The following information collection requests (ICRs) were published in the *Federal Register* on July 11, 2017:

- [State and Local Educational Agency Record and Reporting Requirements Under Part B of the Individuals with Disabilities Education Act](#)
- [State Lead Agency Record Keeping and Reporting Requirements Under Part C of the Individuals with Disabilities Education Act](#)
- [Annual State Application Under Part C of the Individuals with Disabilities Education Act as Amended in 2004](#)
- [Annual State Application Under Part B of the Individuals with Disabilities Education Act](#)

The comment period for each of these ICRs is 60 days and will be open until **September 11, 2017**.



EARLY CHILDHOOD CHECK-IN: OSEP Extends Funding for DaSy Center



On July 31, 2017, the Department announced that it would extend the project period of the [DaSy Center](#) (the Center for IDEA Early Childhood Data Systems) for a sixth year. This technical assistance (TA) center supports states to develop or enhance their coordinated early childhood longitudinal data systems. You can view the details of the waiver of the five-year limit on project periods and of the extension of this project in the [Federal Register](#).

RESOURCES FOR YOU: Grants and TA

FY 2017 Reopening: Notice Inviting Applications for Early Childhood Personnel Center

On August 11, 2017, OSEP published a [notice](#) in the *Federal Register* announcing the reopening of the [84.325B competition](#) for Fiscal Year 2017. You can view the original notice announcing the competition here:

[Personnel Development to Improve Services and Results for Children with Disabilities—Early Childhood Personnel Center.](#)

The new deadline for transmittal of applications is **Monday, September 11, 2017**.

The application package for the competition is now posted on the [Department's website](#), and also on the [Grants.gov website](#).

New Resource for States From the National Center for Systemic Improvement (NCSI)

NCSI has released a new guide, [Wins and Hiccups: A Collaborative Implementation Problem-Solving Guide for SSIP Teams](#). The purpose of this resource is to support state teams in implementing the State Systemic Improvement Plan (SSIP). The guide encourages state SSIP teams to consider both their successes and challenges to inform continuous improvement. NCSI has identified four elements to consider throughout the implementation process, about which the guide goes into greater depth: (1) innovation, (2) implementers/stakeholders, (3) organizational context, and (4) evaluation.



ED UPDATE: ESSA Resources

The Department is continuing to review and [provide feedback](#) to states that submitted *ESSA* consolidated state plans. OSEP is collaborating and will continue to partner with the Office of State Support in ED's Office of Elementary and Secondary Education throughout the review process. States that have yet to submit plans have **until September 18, 2017** to do so. More information, including the timeline for submitting plans and related resources, can be found [here](#).

Summer Meetings Recap

OSEP staff appreciated the opportunity to meet with state leaders at the [National Title I Association Summer Directors Meeting](#) and the *ESSA* Convening this July.

During the *ESSA* Convening, we enjoyed learning about the work of those who attended. We also appreciated the chance to share resources, support, and expertise made available by ED's collaborative state and school district TA initiative, the [State Support Network](#). You can access the online space for the event [here](#). In the coming weeks, this space will be updated to include resources that were suggested during the consultancy sessions at the convening.

VOICES FROM THE FIELD: Wendy Lewis Jackson, Kresge Foundation in Detroit

Check out the *OSERS Blog* for an interview featuring [Wendy Lewis Jackson](#), managing director for the [Kresge Foundation](#)'s program in Detroit, Michigan. In that role, Ms. Lewis Jackson is working to develop a robust and innovative early childhood system, supporting the community's most vulnerable children and families.



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