

# Improving Outcomes for Students with Disabilities: Legal Requirements and Strategies for Success

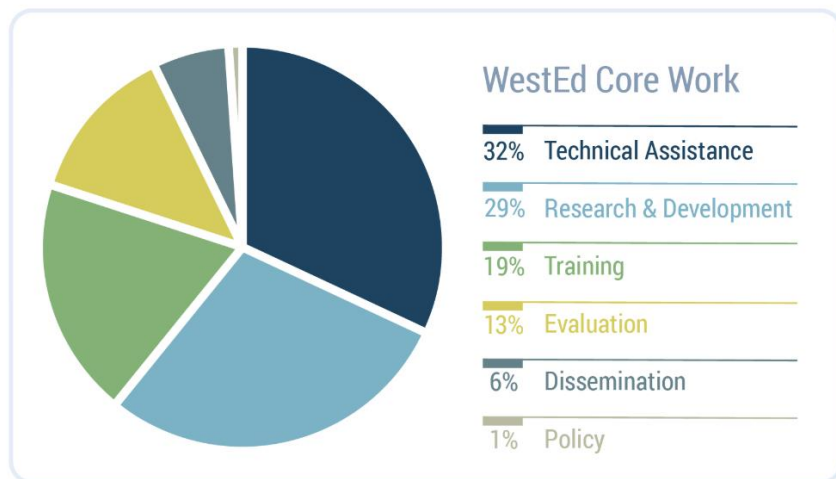
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2019 Special Education Symposium  
North MS Education Consortium

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# WestEd



Nonpartisan, nonprofit research, development, and service agency working with education and other communities throughout the United States and abroad, WestEd **aims to improve education and other important outcomes for children, youth and adults.**

WestEd staff meet the needs of our clients and customers through research, evaluation, professional development, technical assistance, policy analysis, and other support.

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# Plan for Today

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## Legal Updates

- US Department of Education
- Courts

## Mississippi's oversight of IDEA

- State-free time
- Preview of upcoming work

# Note Cards

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**Orange** – questions for Jana and Sara

**Yellow** – questions for MDE

**Green** – questions for your colleagues

# Meeting Norms

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- We are a community of learners
- This is a safe space to share ideas, experiences, and questions
- Ask questions
- Be flexible
- Others?

# Theme for Today

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Improving Outcomes for Students with  
Disabilities: Legal Requirements and Strategies  
for Success

# Grounding Assumptions

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- What are your ultimate goals for students with disabilities?
- Why are or aren't students meeting those goals?
- What is the role of the district in helping students meet those goals?
- What is the role of MDE?

# Purposes of the Individuals with Disabilities Education Act (IDEA)

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- (a) To ensure that all children with disabilities **have available to them a free appropriate public education that emphasizes special education and related services designed to meet their unique needs and prepare them for further education, employment, and independent living;**
- (b) To ensure that the rights of children with disabilities and their parents are protected;
- (c) To assist States, localities, educational service agencies, and Federal agencies to provide for the education of all children with disabilities; and
- (d) **To assess and ensure the effectiveness of efforts to educate children with disabilities.**



# Role of the State

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“The primary focus of Federal and State monitoring activities described in paragraph (1) shall be on -- **(A) improving educational results and functional outcomes for all children with disabilities;** and (B) ensuring that States meet the program requirements under this part, with a **particular emphasis on those requirements that are most closely related to improving educational results for children with disabilities.**”