

## **FFY 2014 IDEA Indicator 8 PARENT SURVEY QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS**

### **Why am I being asked to complete this survey?**

The US Department of Education requires states to collect information from parents every year. This information is used to determine if schools involve parents in their children's special education programs. In addition, the SC Department of Education has a strong commitment toward meeting the educational, social, and emotional needs of our students and families. So, the information helps the state and school districts improve educational services to children with IEPs. Participation in the survey is voluntary, and parents' responses will be kept confidential.

### **What if my child does not have a disability?**

This survey is designed for parents of children with disabilities who have IEPs (individualized education programs). You were sent this survey because our records indicated that your child had an IEP in place during the 2014 – 2015 school year. If your child did not have an IEP in place at any point during the 2014 – 2015 school year, please contact the Office of Special Education Services at 803-734-8224. You will be directed to someone who can verify the information.

### **How will this information be used?**

No individual responses will be given to any district or other entity. However, the information will be combined and reported at the district level in the 2014 – 2015 Special Education District Reports. The information will also be combined and reported at the state level in the 2014 – 2015 Annual Performance Report, a report that is submitted to the US Congress. For more information about these reports, please call the Office of Special Education Services at 803-734-8224.

### **Why was I chosen to complete this survey?**

The SC Department of Education surveys parents in 15 school districts each year. Those 15 school districts represent all areas of the state and all sizes of school districts. Within each of those 15 school districts, the SC Department of Education tries to survey all parents of students with disabilities who have IEPs.

### **What if I don't have access to a computer at home or need assistance in completing the survey?**

There are several ways you can complete the survey if you don't have internet access at home. First, since the survey is found on the internet, you can complete it from any computer with internet access. Typically, your public library and public schools have access to the internet. Also, your school districts are aware that their parents are being surveyed. Second, you can call the number provided on the postcard or the Office of Special Education Services. Someone will assist you in completing the survey. If you need any additional assistance, please call the Office of Special Education Services at 803-734-8224.

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### **Is the survey site secure? Will I have to share any personally identifiable information?**

For these parent surveys, the SC Department of Education has state-of-the art security features for their online surveys. In addition, you will **not** have to answer any questions that will reveal your identity or reveal any other personally identifiable information. You simply need to type in your Survey ID and respond to about questions with responses such as “agree” or “disagree” and should take no longer than **15 to 30 minutes**.

### **I lost my survey ID. Can I still complete the survey?**

Yes, though you will need to contact the Office of Special Education Services at 803-734-8224 or the number provided on your postcard. You will be provided with your Survey ID number.

### **Why do I have to enter the survey ID number?**

We want to ensure that each child’s parent/guardian has a voice and that each parent/guardian completes one survey. Each parent/guardian was provided with a unique identification number of letters and numbers to ensure that individuals are not able to complete multiple surveys.

### **Do I have to answer all the questions on the survey?**

Yes, because the more information we can gather, the better we can help schools facilitate parents’ involvement. Also, it is important to answer each question honestly.

### **A lot of the questions ask about the IEP team meeting, but we had more than one during the 2014 – 2015 school year. How do I answer?**

There are two ways to answer. First you can think of the bigger picture with regards to all the IEP team meetings put together. Another way to answer is to think of one specific meeting, but answer all following questions based on that one meeting.

### **What are the “Procedural Safeguards” that is mentioned in one of the items?**

This is the Parent Handbook that tells you what your and your child’s rights are under the law.

### **What time span does this survey cover?**

This survey covers the 2014 – 2015 school year.

### **My child did not have an IEP team meeting during the 2014 – 2015 school year. How can I answer?**

Please call the Office of Special Education Services at 803-734-8224.