

Parent Involvement

Michigan's State Performance Plan
Indicator 8

www.michigan.gov/ose-eis

Meaningful Parent Involvement Matters in Michigan Schools

The *No Child Left Behind* (NCLB) Act requires schools to develop ways to involve parents in their child's education. Parent involvement improves school efforts, regardless of the setting where the child receives instruction.

The *Individuals with Disabilities Education Act* (IDEA) refers to parent involvement 1,299 times throughout the entire act, describing parent participation in the individualized education program (IEP) process as well as identification, evaluation, educational placement, and all other parent's rights under the law.

Parent involvement can range from helping children with reading, to volunteering at school fund raisers, to offering service on a school or district-wide committee.

Reporting Requirement: Meaningful Parent Involvement

Indicator 8 is a results measure.

Percent of parents with a child receiving special education services who report that schools facilitated parent involvement as a means of improving services and results for children with disabilities.

(20 U.S.C. 1416 (a)(3)(A))

A New Emphasis on Parent Involvement

The National Center for Special Education Accountability Monitoring (NCSEAM) developed school age and preschool surveys that were sent to parents. The Michigan Department of Education, Office of Special Education and Early Intervention Services (MDE, OSE/EIS) worked with Wayne State University (WSU) to deploy the surveys to one-third of all parents of school-age children (approximately 78,800 families) and all parents of children ages three to five years who receive special education services (approximately 22,700 families). The results are reported in Table 1.

There are two versions of the survey for parents of children receiving special education services:

- One for parents of preschool children (ages 3-5).
- One for parents of school-age children (ages 6-26).

The number of valid parent survey responses received by July 31, 2007 was 25,510. The surveys list statements regarding the preschool's or school's parent involvement initiatives. Each statement is assigned a number ranging from 200 to 800. Lower items on the scale (ones that most parents agreed with) address issues such as whether accommodations are discussed at IEP meetings. Higher level items on the scale address issues such as whether the school explains options for parents if they disagree with a school's decision. A parent must agree with the lowest level statement before being able to accept or reject the next statement. Therefore, the scores of the surveys reflect how many items the parents agree with in successive order.

NCSEAM involved stakeholders to set a national standard of 600 as an item calibration score. The score of 600 on the survey indicates that a parent believes their child's school explains what options they have if they disagree with a decision of the school. The percentage of parents in Michigan who rated their school or preschool at or above the 600 item calibration score was 23 percent. While NCSEAM established 600 as the ultimate goal, the national target for the federal fiscal year (FFY) 2006* is 521. Michigan's overall performance exceeded the national targets for both preschool and school age.

*FFY 2006=July 1, 2006 to June 30, 2007

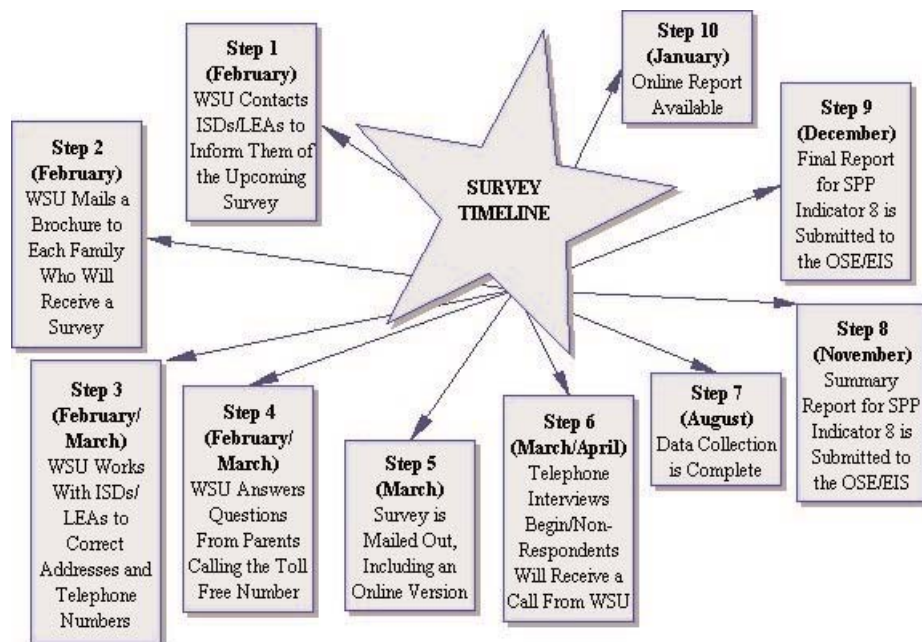
Table 1: Data for FFY 2006 (2006-2007):

	Number of Valid Responses	Percent of Parents With a Measure at or Above 600, the NCSEAM Standard	Mean Measure*
Michigan Preschool	6,513	34%	566
Michigan School Age	18,997	22%	522
Michigan All Part B Weighted Ratio (Preschool + School Age)	25,510	23%	527
National Pilot Data (6 U.S. states, 2005 NCSEAM Pilot Study)	2,705	17%	481

*The national target is 521.

Michigan's Commitment to Meaningful Parent Involvement

The results of the parent surveys are used for two important components of federal accountability. In addition to being used for the State Performance Plan (SPP), the survey results are also used for the OSE/EIS accountability initiative—the Continuous Improvement and Monitoring System (CIMS). At the local level each intermediate school district (ISD), local educational agency (LEA), and public school academy (PSA) uses a self-assessment tool—the Service Provider Self-Review (SPSR). The SPSR process includes reviewing documents and gathering information through surveys. WSU reports the parent survey results at the district level (not the individual level) to the ISDs and LEAs for use in the SPSR planning.



For More Information

National Dissemination Center for Children with Disabilities (NICHCY)
www.nichcy.org/basicpar.asp

Parent Involvement
www.rrfcnetwork.org/component/option,com_bookmarks/Itemid,28/mode,0/catid,78/navstart,0/search,*/

National Center for Special Education Accountability Monitoring (NCSEAM)

NCSEAM provides both a school age and preschool survey to measure parents' perceptions of school and preschool efforts to facilitate parent involvement.

www.monitoringcenter.lsuhs.edu

Parent Resource

Parents can access a PowerPoint presentation that explains SPP 8 on the MDE, OSE/EIS Web site.

www.michigan.gov/mde/0,1607,7-140-6530_6598-173245--,00.html

Calculating Parent Involvement Rates

The "parent involvement rate" is equal to the number of respondent parents who report schools facilitated parent involvement (as a means of improving services and results for children with disabilities) divided by the total number of respondent parents of children with disabilities. The result is multiplied by 100 to arrive at the percent of parent involvement.

Michigan Can Improve

- Michigan has a multi-year plan to increase the number of parents who report that schools facilitated their involvement as a means of improving services and results for children with disabilities.
- Michigan's goal is to have at least 33 percent of parents agree with item calibration number 600 by the year 2011.
- The federal fiscal year (FFY) 2006* survey results reflect a statistically significant increase in the baseline data of FFY 2005. The percent of parents responding at the NCSEAM standard score of 600 or above increased from 21 percent to 23 percent.

Michigan's complete State Performance Plan (SPP) and Annual Performance Report (APR) can be viewed and downloaded at:

www.michigan.gov/ose-eis

*FFY 2006=July 1, 2006 to June 30, 2007