

Task Force to Study Special Education Services and Funding
Meeting Agenda
April 11, 2023

I. Introductions by Chairs and Members.

II. Opening Remarks by Co-Chairs

III. Overview of Mandate and Deadline

A. Statutory Mandate

(1) the provision of special education and related services, including whether local and regional boards of education are providing such services directly or partnering with regional educational service centers, contracting with a private provider of special education services, as defined in section 10-91g of the general statutes, or as part of a cooperative arrangement pursuant to section 10-158a of the general statutes,

(2) the cost of providing special education and related services, the total aggregate amount per school district per year and the annual percentage increase or decrease per school district of such cost,

(3) the effect that the cost of special education has on a board of education's minimum budget requirement,

(4) the level of state reimbursement to boards of education for special education, including the total amount for reimbursement submitted by each school district per year and the total amount received by such school district per year, and the percentage increase or decrease per year of the difference of the total amount submitted and the total amount received for each school district,

(5) the criteria and manner by which school districts are identifying students who require special education and related services, including whether school districts are overidentifying or underidentifying such students and the causes and reasons for such overidentification and underidentification,

(6) the feasibility of authorizing independent evaluators from the Department of Education or hired by the parents and guardians of students receiving special education and related services to observe the provision of such services in the classroom,

(7) delaying the age in which a classification category of special education services shall be made for a child requiring special education and related services,

(8) special education student-to-teacher ratios prescribed by case load policies, regulations and formulas in effect in other states, with a focus on provisions regarding the numbers of special education students and intensity of services required for such students, and

(9) any other issues or topics relating to special education that the task force deems necessary.

B. Deadline

Not later than February 1, 2024, the task force shall submit a report on its findings and recommendations to the joint standing committee of the General Assembly having cognizance of matters relating to education, in accordance with the provisions of section 11-4a of the general statutes. The task force shall terminate on the date that it submits such report or July 1, 2024, whichever is later.

IV. Development of Workplan and Workgroups

A. Workgroup on Finances (Items #2, #3, #4)

B. Workgroup on Eligibility and Disproportionality (Items #5, #7)

C. Workgroup on Delivery of Special Education Services and Effectiveness (Items #1, #6, #8)

V. Discussion of Purpose of Special Education

VI. Adjournment