

Collaborative Program Review

A collaborative program review will help school corporations move forward and improve the educational services provided to all their students. A review may also be requested by a special education cooperative in order to consider the services delivered across the cooperative. The review is collaborative because appropriate stakeholders from the school corporation(s) work with the reviewers to design the scope and focus of the program review. Further, stakeholders are involved throughout the process of the review, as the reviewers observe and meet with a representative cross-section of staff members in the corporation(s). The review process leads to a report that is a “picture” of current services and includes recommendations for the future. The design of the review meets the applicable sections of the Joint Committee on Standards for Evaluation, 1994.

Reasons for a Program Review:

- To determine if the current service delivery model in the schools is most effective and efficient.
- To determine if the structure and operation of the cooperative are the most effective and efficient?
- To assess programming across a number of metrics beyond ISTEP. Accountability requirements are increasing and funds are scarcer, thus making it critical to utilize all human and fiscal resources as effectively and efficiently as possible. In light of increasing accountability requirements and shrinking financial resources, school districts must carefully assess programming beyond looking only at standardized test scores
- To obtain an objective appraisal in order to help the district or cooperative plan for future program improvement. An objective appraisal can serve as a stimulus for moving ahead and planning for program improvement in the corporation or cooperative

What to Expect:

- Stakeholders and evaluators determine priorities of the review and the information and data to be considered
- A comprehensive picture and analysis of special education services, incorporating the perspectives of all stakeholders in the corporation
- District stakeholders as active participants throughout the process
- Classrooms observations; staff member interviews; data and document reviews
- Onsite visits made over time
- An objective report that details strengths in the district, with considerations for making changes and plans for the future
- A report that focuses on improvement, rather than blame
- A thorough review conducted by educators familiar with current best practices and grounded in the realities of public education in Indiana

Guiding Principles of the Reviewers:

- The quality of services cannot be determined solely by standardized test scores and compliance with statutes
- Unique services in a district cannot be considered as an isolated, separate entity, apart from a school corporation's comprehensive educational program.
- Access to quality instruction in integrated settings leads to improved student outcomes.
- All conversations and interviews are confidential
- All conclusions are data based and triangulated