

Arizona State Board of Education (SBE) Secondary Transition Services Rule Change



Special Education Professionals Check-In

November 21, 2024

Agenda



Provide an overview of the process used to change the requirement



Review the changes



Discuss public education agencies (PEAs) implementation

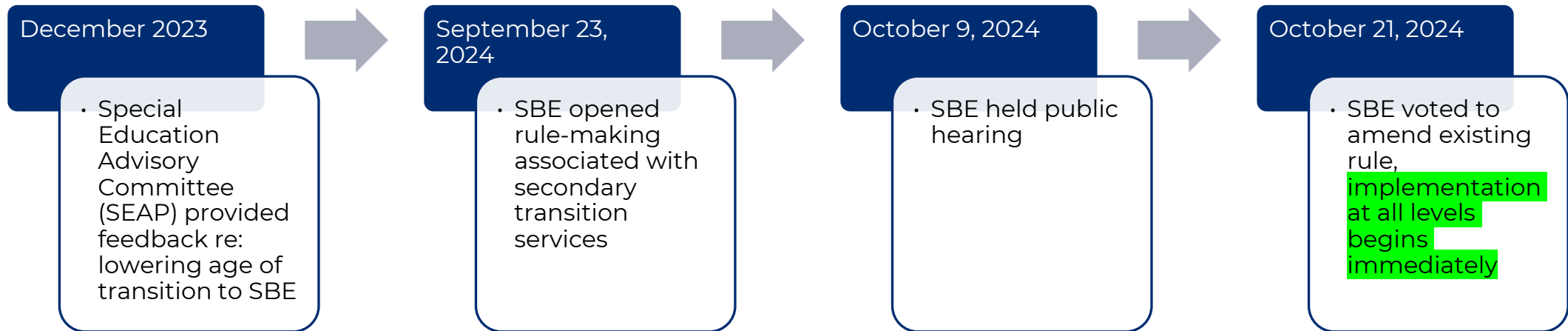


Discuss the next implementation steps for the state education agency (SEA)



Survey questions

Overview of Process



Overview of the Changes



Transition services for students to be in effect in the IEP in place when the student ends 9th grade or age 16, whichever is first, or earlier, as determined necessary by the student's IEP team. (A.A.C. R7-2-401(G)(4)(A))



The student's estimated graduation date to be included in their IEP, aligned with the transition plan. (A.A.C. R7-2-401(G)(4)(A)(c))



PEAs must provide written notification to parent(s) of a student's anticipated graduation date at least one year before the anticipated high school graduation date. (A.A.C. R7-2-401(G)(4)(A)(c)(i))

PEA Implementation Timeline



The revised requirement for transition services to be included in a student's IEP when they complete the 9th grade (if the student has not already reached age 16) *will be effective when the student completes the 9th grade in the 2024-2025 school year (SY).*

The written notice to parents at least one year before a student's anticipated high school graduation date would be required *no later than that same date in December 2024 for a student graduating in December 2025 or the same date at the end of the 2024-2025 SY for a student graduating at the end of the 2025-2026 SY.*

The "estimated date of graduation" requirement in a student's IEP is in effect on *October 21, 2024, and thereafter*, under the following circumstances:

- A student's IEP Team determines it is appropriate to include transition services for a younger student, or
- A student who turns 16 years of age *before* completing the 9th grade. (A.A.C. R7-2-401(G)(4)(A)(c))

Suggestions for PEA Implementation

- Ensure all staff are aware of the changes
- Provide training to staff who may not be familiar with transition requirements
- Have a plan to implement the additional requirements, through software vendor or otherwise
- Track which students may need a new IEP, or an amendment to an existing IEP, prior to the end of their 9th-grade year to conform to the new requirements
- Understand which 9th-grade students have upcoming IEP meetings to wrap the new requirements in, where feasible
- Track which students will need to receive written notification of graduation by December 2024, to ensure it is provided
- Update Special Education Policies and Procedures (P & P) to reflect systemic changes

SEA Implementation Activities



Programmatic
Monitoring

Dispute Resolution

Best Practice and
Training

Programmatic Monitoring

This SY (2024-2025):

- Provide technical assistance (TA) through Annual Site Visits (ASVs) on the new requirements
- Continue monitoring for the implementation of transition services for all students aged 16 and older through IEP review

Next SY (2025-2026) for all PEAs:

- Monitor for the implementation of transition services in all 10th-grade and/or age 16 students through IEP review (ASVs and monitoring)

Next SY (2025-2026) for PEAs in programmatic monitoring:

- Review updated P & P to ensure changes have been made to conform to the new requirements

Dispute Resolution (DR)

This SY (2024-2025):

- Ensure compliance with the written notification of anticipated graduation when a state complaint is deemed sufficient or a due process complaint beginning December 2024 for December 2025 graduates and May 2025 for May 2026 graduates.
- Review IEPs for any state complaint deemed sufficient or a due process complaint when it is alleged that the estimated graduation date is not included in the student's IEP revised on or after October 21, 2024.
- Continue to review IEPs for any state complaint deemed sufficient or due process complaint when it is alleged that transition services were not included for a student aged 16 and older.

Next SY Year (2025-2026):

- Review IEPs for any state complaint deemed sufficient or due process complaint when it alleged that transition services were not included for a 10th-grade and/or age-16 student

Best Practice and Training



Launch of revised Secondary Transition Blackboard course in January



Implementation of the “Getting Ahead to Go Beyond” Initiative



In-person regional trainings on requirements and best practices in the spring

Survey Questions Submitted



How does a PEA document the written notification of anticipated graduation outlined in the updated board rule?

- There are two requirements:
 - anticipated graduation date be included in the transition services
 - written notification of anticipated graduation date be provided to the parent at least one year in advance
- ADE/ESS does not prescribe forms to be used by a PEA.
- Written notification could be provided in many ways.
- PEAs should consult their legal counsel to ensure they have a plan that meets the requirements.

Is a PEA required to complete new IEPs for all 9th-grade students?

It depends.

- The PEA can complete IEPs on its regular schedule for students, incorporating the transition requirement within the student's IEP, ensuring that transition services are incorporated before the student moves to 10th grade.
- For students who have already had an IEP meeting and transition services were not included, the IEP team will need to amend or review/revise the IEP to ensure transition services are incorporated before the student moves on to 10th grade.

What happens if the student does not graduate on the anticipated graduation date outlined in the written notification and/or included in the transition services?

- The SBE change does not convey nor require graduation for a student but requires notification of anticipated graduation.
- Graduation timelines may change for a student, which would require updated/new notification to be provided in accordance with the board rule.

Additional Questions

