

PARENT SURVEY - Frequently Asked Questions (FAQ)

Who completes the parent survey?

- ◆ Parents of children ages 3 to 21 who are receiving special education services through their local school system.
- ◆ Parents of children ages 3 to 21 who are receiving special education services who are placed in a nonpublic facility by the child's local school system.

Why am I filling out another survey when I just finished filling out one in January?

- ◆ The survey you completed in January/February was for the school year 2007-2008.
- ◆ The one you receive in April/May is for the current school year 2008-2009.
- ◆ In the future parents will be asked to complete only one survey per school year.

I have more than one child who is in a special education program. Can I just fill out one survey for all of them?

- ◆ **NO.** Please fill out one survey per child.

Do I have to participate? If I choose not to participate, will it negatively impact my child's services?

- ◆ Participation is completely voluntary.
- ◆ Your child's services will not be negatively impacted in any way.
- ◆ Please choose to participate and make your opinions heard.

What is the purpose of this survey? Where does the survey come from?

- ◆ To determine how well your child's school is partnering with you and promoting parent involvement in your child's education.
- ◆ The survey was developed by the National Center for Special Education Accountability Monitoring (<http://www.monitoringcenter.lsuhs.edu>). All states must collect these data as part of their State Performance Plans as required under the Individuals with Disabilities Education Act (IDEA).

How is the confidentiality of my responses protected?

- ◆ The survey is designed to be anonymous.
- ◆ The survey does not ask for any identifiable information such as name, address, or student identification number.

How will I get this survey? How do I return it?

- ◆ The surveys will be distributed by your local school system around April 20, 2009.
- ◆ Each survey packet will contain an introductory letter, one survey, and a postage-paid envelope that you may use to return the survey directly to REDA International, Inc., 11141 Georgia Avenue, Suite 517, Wheaton, MD 20902-4680 who will be compiling the data for the Maryland State Department of Education (MSDE).

How do I fill out the survey? How can I make sure that my answers are counted?

- ◆ Use a blue or black pen or a #2 pencil to fill in **ONE** bubble for each question.
- ◆ **Send** in the survey **by** the due date – **JUNE 12, 2009**

Please watch for this important survey. We are looking forward to hearing back from you regarding your opinions of your involvement in your child's special education program! Thank you!



For additional information please contact Pat Shamer at MSDE, (410) 767-7548 or pshamer@msde.state.md.us.