Connecticut Preschool Special Education Needs Assessment

Introduction to the Project and Survey

October 30, 2019
Allison Friedman-Krauss
Karin Garver
Webinar Agenda

• Introduction of NIEER team
• Project background
  • Why is this needs assessment being conducted?
  • Who is being surveyed and how?
  • What data is being collected?
  • How will your data be used?
  • What does the survey look like?
• Questions and answers
Introductions: NIEER team

Allison Friedman-Krauss  Karin Garver  Milagros Nores

Charles Whitman  Andrea Kent  Zijia Li  Lori Connors-Tadros
What are we doing?

Needs assessment of preschool special education in Connecticut

• What is the quality of the preschool settings in which preschool-age children with IEPs receive their IEP services

• Statewide picture

• To improve quality of preschool special education in the state

• Information will be collected through surveys
Why is this needs assessment being conducted?

• In June 2019, the CT State Department of Education (CSDE) requested proposals for the development of a needs assessment of pre-K programs for children 3, 4 and 5-years old in which IEPs are implemented.

• CSDE specified that the scope of the needs assessment is to:
  • Identify the current landscape of CT programs where young children with IEPs receive special education & related services
    • Who is providing services to children?
    • Where are children being served?
    • How are children being served?
  • Identify overall (not individual) strengths and weaknesses
Who is being surveyed and how?

- **Three groups of respondents**
  - Directors of Special Education/Preschool Special Education (1 per district)
  - Supervisors of Preschool Education (random sample of about 60)
  - Site-level Principals and Directors (random sample or about 400)

- Different survey for each group of respondents

- Web-based survey platform

- Gift Card Incentives to encourage survey completion
What data is being collected?

- Demographic information on preschool teachers, students, directors
- Implementation of CT’s Early Learning & Development Standards
- Curriculum and instruction
- Professional development
- Ratios (class size; students with and without IEPs)
- Governance and supervision
- Least Restrictive Environment
- Provision of related services
- IEP development
- Family engagement
- Transition
- Continuum of services
How will your data be used?

- The CT DOE set out specific goals for the needs assessment:
  - Inform professional learning opportunities and guidance
  - Provide appropriate supports, guidance and technical assistance to districts for quality improvement
  - Ensure children with IEPs are receiving services in high-quality early childhood settings

- Once surveys are completed, NIEER will analyze the data and provide the state with a report
  - Data will only be reported in aggregate and without any identifying information

- **DATA WILL BE USED FOR IMPROVEMENT PURPOSES ONLY, NOT COMPLIANCE**
What does the survey look like?

Connecticut Preschool Special Education Needs Assessments
Child Care Center Director and School Principal Survey

Instructions

Thank you for taking the time to complete this survey. As a reminder, your answers will be kept strictly confidential.

Data will only be reported in aggregate and without any identifying information. To the best of your ability, please complete this survey as accurately as possible and consult others (teachers, supervisors, etc.) as needed. Information will be used to inform plans to improve the delivery of preschool special education in Connecticut.

It will take you approximately 45 minutes to complete the survey. You do not need to complete the survey in one sitting. You can come back at anytime using the link that was emailed to you. Please complete the entire survey. Once

A. Your Background: This section focuses on your qualifications and experience.

1. What is your current title?

1a. Are you the administrator with direct responsibility over the preschool classrooms at your site?

- Yes
- No, Please indicate who has this responsibility
Questions?

• We’re happy to take questions now! Please type your questions into the chat box on the bottom right corner of your Zoom screen.

• After the webinar, you can reach us anytime with questions or concerns at:
  • Email: survey@nieer.org
  • Phone: 848-932-4350 (ask for Karin Garver or Charlie or Allison)

• A recording of this webinar will also be available