

SUMMARY OF PERFORMANCE (SOP)

Purpose: A Summary of Performance (SOP) is required under the reauthorization of the Individuals with Disabilities Education Act of 2004 for students who are graduating or aging out of Special Education. The language “*For a child whose eligibility under special education terminates due to graduation with a regular diploma, or due to exceeding the age of eligibility, the local education agency shall provide the child with a summary of the child’s academic achievement and functional performance, which shall include recommendations on how to assist the child in meeting the child’s postsecondary goals*” §Sec. 614(c)(5)(B)(ii). This requirement applies only to children with disabilities, therefore, an SOP does not need to be completed for students in gifted education.

The Summary of Performance is intended to assist the student in transition from high school to higher education, training and/or employment. This information is helpful under Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act and the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) in establishing a student’s eligibility for reasonable accommodations and supports in *postsecondary* settings. It is also useful for the Vocational Rehabilitation Comprehensive Assessment process. *However, recommendations in a student’s SOP do not assure that an individual who qualified for special education in high school will automatically qualify for accommodations in a postsecondary education or employment setting. Post secondary settings will continue to make ADA and Section 504 eligibility decisions on a case-by-case basis based on their criteria.*

Because the SOP will often be used to apply for eligibility under Section 504 and the ADA, it may be beneficial to allow the student to actively participate in the development of this document.

The SOP is usually completed near the end of the final year of a student’s high school education. That does not mean that it cannot be completed sooner. The timing of completion of the SOP may vary depending on the student’s postsecondary goals. If a student is transitioning to higher education, the SOP may be necessary as the student applies to a college or university. Likewise, this information may be necessary as a student applies for services from state agencies such as vocational rehabilitation. In some instances, it may be most appropriate to wait until the spring of a student’s final year to provide an agency or employer the most updated information on the performance of the student.

Since IDEA 2004 went into effect on July 1, 2005, and the SOP is not required until a student’s eligibility terminates as a result of graduation or aging out, it is unlikely that any IEPs or student files reviewed this year would have such documentation. **Therefore, during the Focused Assistance and Monitoring (FAM) 2005-2006 file review process, citations will not be given if documentation of the Summary of Performance is not present.** The SOP requirement will be part of the FAM file review process beginning with the 2006-2007 school year.