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Subject: [External] Readiness survey?

[External]

Dear Senators,

Maybe districts could be asked if they are ready for the Special Education Rules change? That's a question which has been raised by legislators.

For the financial aspect of Act 173, I see that school district readiness was surveyed. The resulting chart created by the Agency of Education's Brad James is attached. Some districts indicate that they are ready, some are partially ready, and some are not ready. I note that, ready or not, in the past districts have been expected to make changes. The No Child Left Behind Act is one example of this. Support is offered for those who need it.

Such a survey could help determine which districts are ready for the Rule changes. The results would also help the AOE in planning support for the Rule changes.

A question the legislators might want to ask the AOE: how many school districts are actually utilizing the supports that are being offered? Who and in which districts? Then, maybe reach out to the schools and ask why they aren't using the supports. This could give a more in-depth analysis of what is happening.

We can support our teachers by offering them help, rather than harming children with a year's delay in implementing the revised Rules. That is a win-win for both our schools and our children.

Sincerely,

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