

November 25 - December 4, 2014



OSSE staff greeted thousands of students and families during the 2014 DC EdFEST on Saturday, November 22, at the DC Armory. Representatives from more than 150 DCPS and DC public charter schools participated in the event.

>>>[View Event Photo Gallery](#)

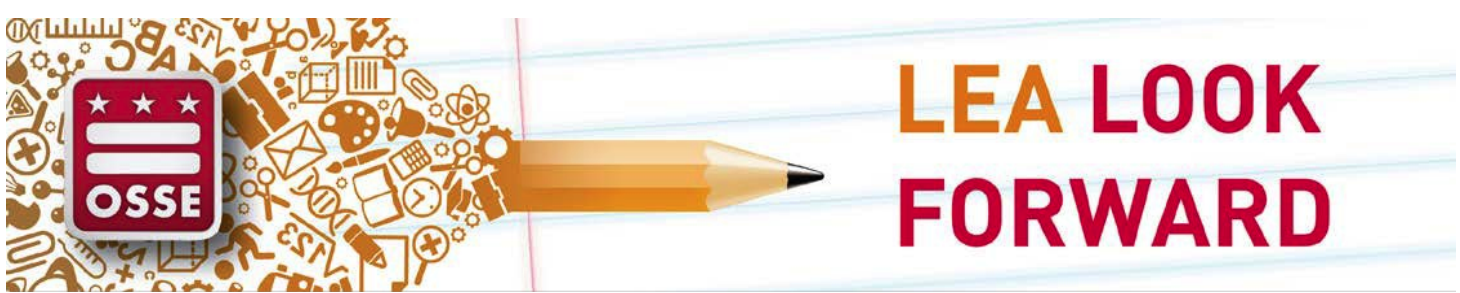
District Highlights

- [Save the Date: 5th Annual Postsecondary & Career Education Conference](#)
- [DCSAA Class A & AA Football Semifinals \(See Events Calendar\)](#)
- [Updated Data Collection Schedules for LEAs](#)

Important Dates and Deadlines

Dates

- 12/3: [DCSAA All Day Workshop: "Title IX: Equity and Sexual Misconduct in Athletics"](#)
- 12/4: [High Schools Admissions Essay Writing](#)
- 12/11: [DCMR Community and Parent Focus Group on Graduation Pathways, Secondary Transition, and IEP Certificate of Completion](#)
- 12/11: [December Next Generation Assessment Meeting](#)
- 12/11: [Next Generation Science Standards \(NGSS\) 2.0: Understanding the Shifts in Practice for LEA's and School Leaders](#)
- 12/15: [Launch: My School DC Application Period for SY 2015-16](#)
- 01/23/15: [LEA Institute - It Takes a City to Knock it Out of the PARCC](#)



>>>[View the OSSE calendar](#)

Deadlines

- 12/4: [Pre-Application Conference - Mathematics and Science Partnership \(MSP\)](#)
- 12/15: [Annual Special Education Parent Survey Closes](#)
- 1/23: [DC School Garden Grant \(SGG\) Application Submission](#)

Announcements

New

Invitation to Join OSSE Title I Committee of Practitioners

The Office of the State Superintendent of Education (OSSE) is requesting applications from candidates interested in serving on the State Title I Committee of Practitioners. The Elementary and Secondary Education Act of 1965 (ESEA) requires each State Education Agency to maintain such a committee and OSSE is updating the membership of its committee. The State Title I Committee of Practitioners serves as an advisory body that will support OSSE in carrying out its responsibilities under Title I of the ESEA for the District of Columbia. For more information, contact by email [Giana Hutton](#), or call (202) 478-5915. [Learn more](#) about applications process and deadlines.

OSSE Celebrates Inclusive Schools Week – December 1, 2014 – December 5, 2014

Great things happen in inclusive schools!

Inclusive Schools Week is celebrated annually in the first week of December by families, schools and organizations around the world. Please join us in our efforts to raise awareness about the importance of inclusion and the great work our city is doing to ensure that great things happen in inclusive schools! The District of Columbia defines inclusive schools as environments in which all children, including those with significant disabilities, are welcomed and have an equal opportunity to receive high quality instruction. OSSE cares about the dignity of all children—those with disabilities and those from diverse backgrounds—and we know that our school and community continues to improve on meeting their needs through the use of inclusive educational practices. We encourage you to visit our [website](#) daily to view the calendar of events and to obtain tips and tools that can be used by families, students and the education community. OSSE and its planning partners will implement a week-long series of city-wide events and trainings in celebration of Inclusive Schools Week. OSSE will be hosting two events during ISW. One event is targeted to LEAs and the other is open to the community at families. Details and registration for these events are below:

- December 3, 2014: The Best Me I Can Be – Student-led IEPs in the District of Columbia

Students who are self-determined experience better outcomes in the areas of education, employment, and independent living. Join OSSE for a special screening of “The Best Me I Can Be,” a video created to provide a



roadmap to discussing how to empower students through Student-led Individualized Education Program (IEP) planning. OSSE knows that families are at the heart of student success. Be the first to view the family video!

This event, which will take place from 6 p.m.- 7:30 p.m., is open to the public. To register, please contact [Ms. Adrienne Rodriguez](#), Education Program Specialist or by phone at 202-478-5947. You may [register](#) online as well.

810 First Street, NE – 8th Floor

Conference Room 806A

Washington, DC 20002

- December 4, 2014: “Get Started Now!” Join the Conversation about Secondary Transition at an LEA Mixer

If you are an educator or supporting students with Individualized Education Programs (IEPs) as they prepare for life after high school within DC Public Schools or DC Public Charter Schools, this is the event for you. Please join the DC Special Education Cooperative and the Office of the State Superintendent of Education (OSSE) as we share information about our special education secondary transition public awareness campaign. While networking with other LEA staff, you will receive “Get Started Now!” materials, including a Secondary Transition Toolkit, and explore the OSSE’s Secondary Transition Website. To register, click [here](#), or for questions about this event, please contact Ms. Desirée Brown at desiree.brown@dc.gov or by phone at 202-478-5896 or [Ms. Julie Camerata](#) or by phone at 470-222-3309. To learn more about secondary transition resources, please contact [Ms. Naté Dearden](#).

Special Education Cooperative

Location: 641 S Street, NW – 3rd Floor, Washington, DC

Time: 5:00p.m. – 6:30p.m.

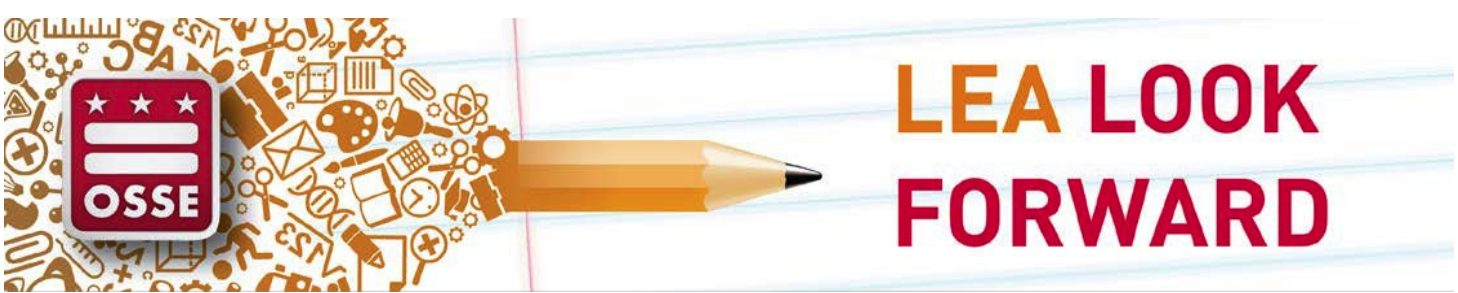
<http://specialedcoop.org/coop/>

DC Municipal Regulations Title 5-E, Chapter 30: Special Education Review Schedule

In Spring 2014, OSSE initiated a review of Title 5-E, Chapter 30 of the District of Columbia Municipal Regulations (DCMR), the local regulation that governs special education practice in the District of Columbia, with the intention of revising identified key components. In addition, input from the process will be used to inform the development of a new five-year strategic State Systemic Improvement Plan (SSIP) for Special Education.

As part of the regulatory review process, the Division of Elementary, Secondary, and Specialized Education (ESSE) has released surveys and held topic-specific focus groups on key content area “clusters” to inform the work:

- Transfer of Educational Rights
- Child Find, Evaluation, & Eligibility Determination
- Specialized Instruction & Caseload/Class Size



- Least Restrictive Environment (LRE) & Discipline Procedural Safeguards
- Graduation Pathways, Secondary Transition, & IEP Certificate of Completion

A high-level overview of the initiative's calendar of events and the OSSE content area review process can be found at: [DC Municipal Regulations \(DCMR\) Title 5-E, Chapter 30: Special Education Review Schedule](#).

The fifth and final content area, Graduation Pathways, Secondary Transition, & IEP Certificate of Completion, is being reviewed in December. ESSE has developed a topic-specific survey that is open to all stakeholders. The deadline for submission of this topic survey is Monday, December 15, 2014. [View the Survey!](#) An LEA focus group is scheduled to take place on Monday, December 8, 2014, from 3:00–4:30 pm, at 810 First Street Northeast, Eighth Floor, Room 806, Washington, DC 20002. Please [RSVP here](#) by December 5, 2014. A parent/community focus group for this topic area will take place on Thursday, December 11, 2014. To RSVP for the parent/community focus group, please click [here](#). Focus group details and reminders will be posted on the [OSSE website](#) and in OSSE newsletters such as the LEA Look Forward. For more information, contact [Jamilie Peters](#), Policy Analyst.

Professional Development

New

High School Admissions Essay Writing

The admissions essay is very different than the standard school essay or research paper, and many 8th grade students struggle with writing and speaking reflectively about themselves. In this workshop, led by staff from Higher Achievement DC Metro, we will discuss with school staff the three main components of a successful admissions essay and how to communicate the “fit” that a student has with a particular school. Participants will leave with example essays as well as essay writing templates, including examples for peer review.

This session is held at OSSE, on Thursday December 4, 2014 from 2 p.m. – 4 p.m.

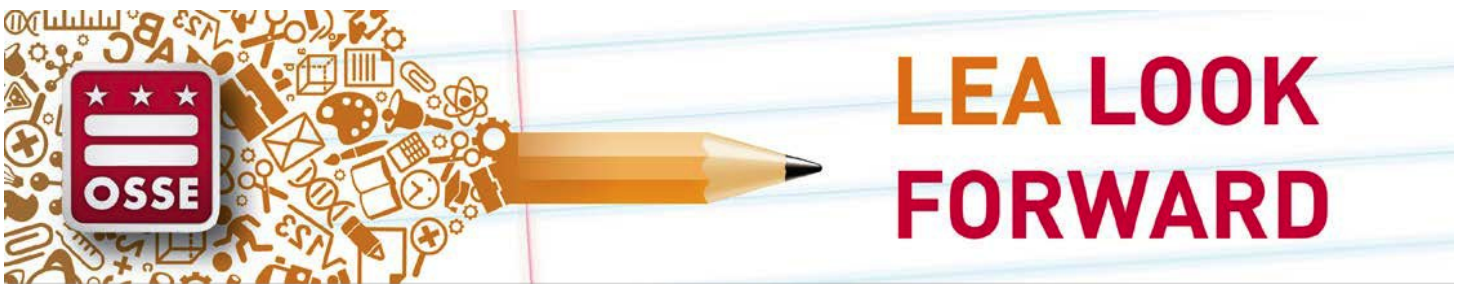
For questions contact by email [Chloe Woodward-Magrane](#).

[Register here](#).

LEA Special Education Point of Contact (LEA SE POC) Monthly Support Webinar

OSSE hosts a monthly webinar support series for all LEA Special Education Point of Contacts (formerly called LEA Data Administrators). This webinar series takes place on the third Wednesday of every month from 10 a.m. – 11 a.m. Each month various topics will be discussed, including:

- SEDS updates and alerts
- The release of new OSSE special education policies
- OSSE Support Tool updates
- Data quality, including enrollment, records transfers, compliance reports, etc.
- Training tips



- Resources and announcements

All LEA SE POCs should plan to attend and participate in these monthly webinars. All webinars are recorded and archived.

Presenter: OSSE

Date: Wednesday, December 17, 2014

Time: 10 a.m. – 11 a.m.

[Register here.](#)

NGSS 1.0 Webinar: Introducing the Next Generation Science Standards for LEAs and School Leaders

Together with the Common Core State Standards for Mathematics and English Language Arts, the NGSS hold the promise of transforming STEM education and preparing all DC students to succeed, in education, work, and their daily lives. This is the first year of implementation for the new science standards across the District of Columbia.

The webinar will address the following topics:

- Introduction to the NGSS
- The NGSS Classroom
- Professional Learning and Resources Implementation
- Timeline and Coordination

Presenter: OSSE (Maya Garcia)

Date: Tuesday, January 6, 2015

Time: 1 p.m. - 2:30 p.m.

[Register here.](#)

Special Education Data System (SEDS) Scheduled Reports Survey

The SEDS Scheduled Reports Survey went live on 11/19/2014 and will remain open until 12/5/2014. The goal of this survey is to gauge how and how often LEA SE POCs use the Scheduled Reports, which live in SEDS on the School Systems tab, and how they can be improved. The survey should only take 5 minutes to complete and responses will be used to shape revision, additions and deletions to Scheduled Reports in SEDS.

[Access the survey here.](#)

Events

New



December Next Generation Assessment Meeting

DC local education agency (LEA) staff and interested education stakeholders are invited to the monthly Next Generation Assessment meetings. OSSE will update and seek feedback on the Next Generation Assessments, including computer-based and paper-based assessments in reading, composition, math, science, health, English language proficiency and DC's alternate assessments. The meeting agenda will be released to registrants prior to the meeting.

Date: Thursday December 11, 2014

Location: 810 First Street NE, 3rd Floor, Grand Hall Side A

Time: 1 p.m. – 3 p.m.

For [more information](#) contact by email [Bonnie O'Keefe](#) or call (202) 724-7655. [Register here](#).

January 23, 2015 - "It Takes a City to Knock it Out of the PARCC!"

OSSE is pleased to announce its second "It Takes a City" Institute to be held on **January 23, 2015** at Gallaudet University's Kellogg Center. This LEA Institute is focused on preparing and gearing up educators for the Next Generation of Assessments (NGA) including (a) PARCC, (b) NCSC, (c) NGSS, and (d) health. OSSE is inviting national and local experts to provide pertinent information and to answer your most pressing questions in the following areas:

- NGA Communication Strategies
- Assessment and ESEA Accountability
- Curriculum Alignment: Tools of the Trade
- Instructional Shifts and Best Practices
- Assessment Procedures and Technology Readiness
- Assessment Considerations for Special Populations

Participants will have the opportunity to present their questions to subject matter experts during panel presentations and in one-on-one sessions. In addition, an OSSE NGA ambassador will be assigned to each local education agency to provide them with supports and information. Follow the event on social media: #DCITAC and look for registration information coming soon!