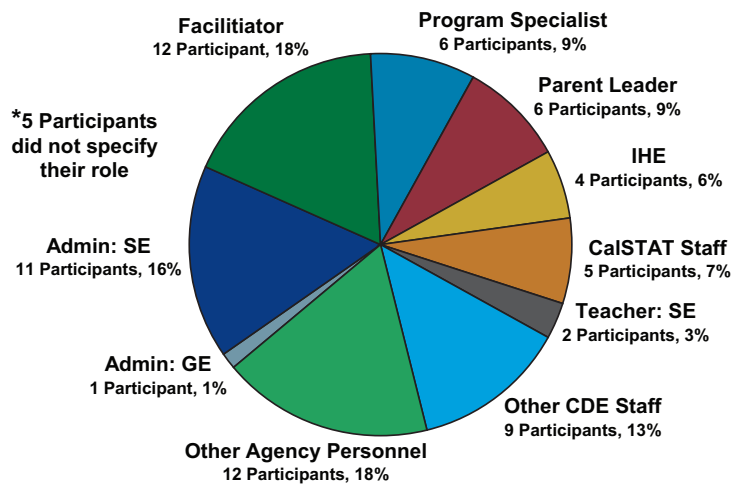


Improving Special Education Services (ISES) December 2007

Improving Special Education Services (ISES) is a collaborative stakeholder group convened by the California Department of Education, Special Education Division. The State Performance Plan (SPP), Annual Performance Report, and SIG/SPDG guide this meeting in addressing issues such as personnel development, statewide assessment, and progress monitoring through a unified planning process. ISES is the unification of what were previously the Partnership Committee on Special Education (PCSE) and the Key Performance Indicator (KPI) group. The committee is a broadly diverse and representative group of individuals involved in, or concerned with, the education of children with disabilities.

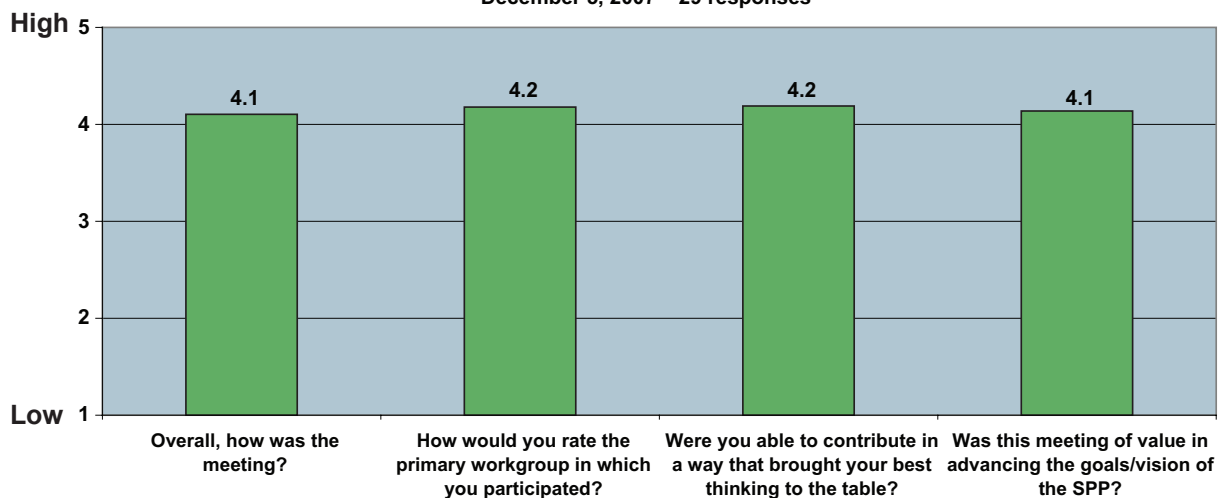
ISES Meeting Participants by Role
December 2007 – 73 Participants*



At the December 2007 ISES meeting, there were 56 stakeholders supported by 12 workgroup facilitators and 5 CalSTAT staff.

The predominant roles in attendance were Other Agency Personnel, Special Education Administrators, Other CDE Staff, Parent Leaders and Program Specialists. All other tracked participant categories were represented, except for general education teachers who were not.

ISES Meeting Evaluations
December 5, 2007 – 29 responses

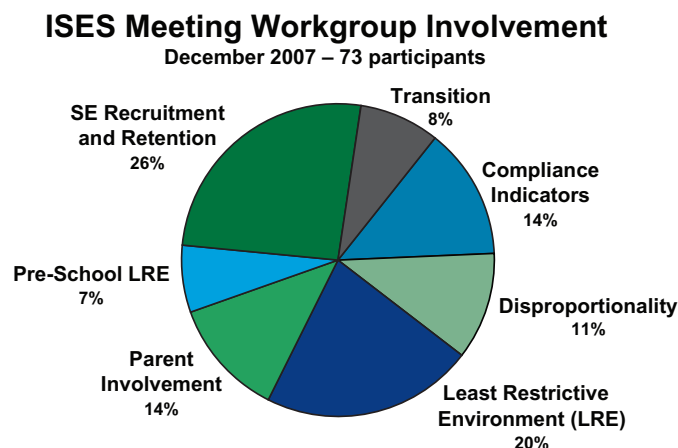


In an anonymous survey, participants rated their experience at the ISES meeting highly, with an **overall rating of 4.1** (on a 5-point scale). The survey response rate was 40%, an increase from 35% at the June meeting.

ISES meeting participants could choose to join one of seven workgroups for the day, each of which corresponded to one or more of the State Improvement Plan indicators selected for discussion at the meeting.

Workgroup	Indicators Discussed in the Workgroup
Workgroup #1	Strategic Plan for Recruitment, Preparation and Retention of Special Education Personnel
Workgroup #2	Disproportionality: Indicator 9 & 10 by Ethnicity and Overall Disproportionality Indicators
Workgroup #3	Pre-school Assessment and Least Restrictive Environment (LRE): Indicator 6 & 7
Workgroup #4	Least Restrictive Environment (LRE): Indicator 5
Workgroup #5	Parent Involvement: Indicator 8
Workgroup #6	Transition Goal and Post Secondary Outcomes: Indicator 13 & 14
Workgroup #7	Compliance Indicators: Indicator 16 - Complaints Indicator 17 - Due Process Indicator 18 - Hearing Requests Indicator 19 - Mediation

Participant attendance in workgroups was tracked through headcounts, though plans are in place to use sign-in sheets at future meetings. The most-attended group addressed the Strategic Plan for Recruitment, Preparation and Retention of SE Personnel. Workgroups discussing Least Restrict Environment, Parent Involvement and Compliance Indicators also attracted high numbers of participants.



Participants were given the opportunity to comment on the ISES meeting in surveys. The comments below reflect the generally positive response of participants to the meeting.

ISES: December 5, 2007

Comments from Evaluations

Number of times
response was
reported

What were the most positive aspects of this meeting, and why?

- 11 Breakout Sessions: *"Revisiting earlier stakeholder recommendations and revising as needed to reflect current trends and accomplishments"*
- 7 Hearing From Others: *"The diversity of the participants was so helpful in getting all of the perspectives and stakeholders involved in the process"*
- 6 Networking: *"Networking with others around the state"*
- 4 Materials and Facilitators: *"Good information; good presenters and facilitators"*
- 3 Shared Understanding: *"Shared understanding -the networking and collaboration; better understanding of SPP/SPR process"*
- 2 Review of the SPP Process: *"Review of SPP indicators and measures; open discussion in workgroups"*

Number of times
response was
reported

How could we improve future meetings?

- 5 Keep workgroups on task and collaborative: *"More of a focus on actual discussion would allow for better feedback and recommendations. Our group was a little rushed at the end"*
 - 3 Lunch: *"Shorter lunch break, possibly allow purchase of box lunches"*
 - 3 Coffee, water, and snacks: *"More time in workgroups- water and snacks," "have coffee/caffeine"*
 - 3 More cohesiveness between meetings: *"We need a portion of the meeting dedicated to reporting what was done with recommendations from prior meetings"*
 - 3 PowerPoint Suggestions: *"Send powerpoints via attachment," and "morning powerpoint was too long"*
 - 2 Increase range of stakeholders: *"More parents; other agency reps (OAH, DMH, DDS)"*
 - 1 *"Have a Calstat staff member recording in addition to workgroup recorder in each workgroup."*
 - 1 *"Provide current info--we frequently heard 'we've changed that.'"*
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