

**U.S. Department of Education
Office of Non-Public Education**

in collaboration with

**Virginia Department of Education and
Virginia Council for Private Education**



Starting from Scratch

**Developing a State Level
Equitable Services Working Group**

Welcome!

Moderator: **Pamela Allen**
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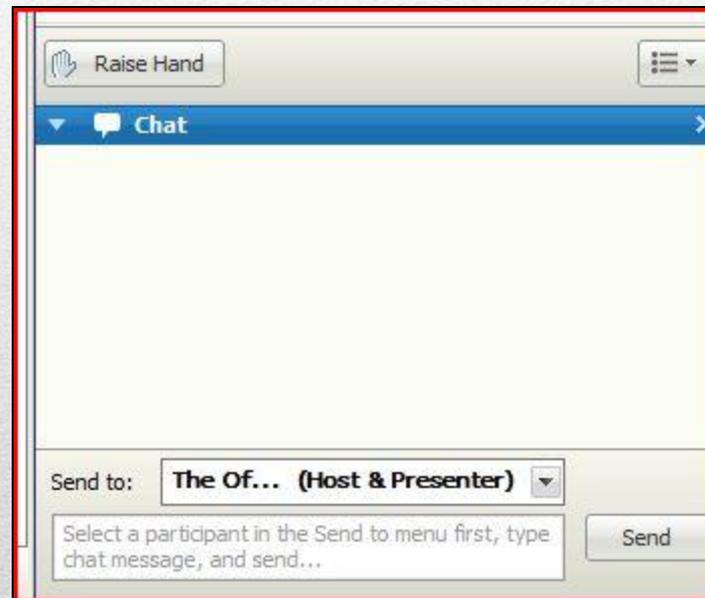
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This webinar is produced to support the **promising practice activities** contained within the U.S. Department of Education's **Equitable Services Implementation Plan** (ESIP).



Technical Instructions and Webinar Tools

- Chat: How to Make a Comment or Ask a Question
- Polling Questions



Presenters

Virginia Department of Education

Veronica Tate, Director, Office of Administration and Accountability

John Eisenberg, Assistant Superintendent for Special Education and Student Services

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Virginia Council of Private Education

Josie Webster, Vice President

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Equitable Services

Provisions that allow for private school students, their teachers, and sometimes parents and other educational personnel, to participate in certain federal education programs and initiatives

Two primary education statutes* requiring equitable participation in certain programs:

- Elementary and Secondary Education Act (ESEA)
- Individuals with Disabilities Education Act (IDEA)

***Technical questions will be addressed in subsequent webinars.**



What prompted the Virginia Department of Education to develop an equitable services working group at the state level?

- What were the beginning stages?
- How did the need arise?



What were the beginning steps that the private school community took to collaborate with the state to get the group up and running?

- Where there any parallel activities occurring to help the group get off the ground?
- How did the need arise?



Who are the partners within the Virginia Department of Education (e.g., internal staff) and how were they identified?

- Was there a strategy to the approach taken?
- Was there a point person designated in the state level? If so, why?
- Are there other public school division partners?

Are there any other state level partners?



Who are the private school partners and how were they identified?

- Were there any relationships that had already been established?
- What diversity of representation is there?
- How did you build and enhance those relationships and the diversity of representation?
- Beginning stages...how are your conversations evolving regarding representation?



Polling Question

Does your state have a similar team in place to address equitable services issues?



How might this state level workgroup be able to help parents of children enrolled in private schools?

- How are parents engaged?
- What communication strategies are involved?

IDEA and ESEA (Title I, Part A) have consultation language requiring parental involvement.



What topics have you discussed in the group to date?

- Have you established a calendar for future meetings and identified topics for those meetings?
- How did you go about selecting dates, times, and topics?



What challenges have you encountered in establishing the working group?

- What are the real life, day to day, obstacles?
- What might be some ways in which to overcome the roadblocks?



How is this group guiding technical assistance about equitable services to field?

- Does such an approach encourage school divisions to go beyond the basics and think more broadly about equitable services?
- Does having a state level group help move beyond a compliance mode to establishing effective practices?
- Has there been any confusion about federal education laws that you've been able to identify?



Polling Question

What do you see as the biggest advantage to having a state level equitable services working group? (Frame your answer based on where you are at right now.)

- a) Increased knowledge of equitable services
- b) Enhanced relationships and collaboration between stakeholders
- c) Equitable services delivered in a timely and meaningful way
- d) All of the above



What are some of the long range plans for the team?

- Are there ideas for materials, resources, or toolkits?
- What are your ideas about promoting this workgroup?



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