



Office of Superintendent of Public Instruction
Chris Reykdal, State Superintendent

*All students prepared
for post-secondary pathways,
careers, & civic engagement.*

REPORT TO THE LEGISLATURE

UPDATE: Special Education Safety Net Survey

2018

Authorizing legislation: [RCW 28A.150.392](#)

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Executive Summary

Safety Net funding is available to local education agencies (LEAs) that demonstrate a need for special education funding in excess of state and federal funding. The Office of Superintendent of Public Instruction (OSPI) annually publishes a bulletin and distributes application forms for Safety Net funding.

The Legislature requires OSPI to annually survey LEAs about their satisfaction with the Safety Net process. The survey is used to consider feedback from LEAs to improve the Safety Net process. In September 2018, OSPI sent the survey to more than 1,000 administrators from all LEAs.

The survey was expanded from 11 to 13 questions for the 2017–18 school year. The scale on which questions were rated was also modified. In previous years, a Likert Scale was used. For 2017–18, the rating scale was from one to five, with one being the lowest and five the highest. A 'not applicable' answer was also added to all questions.

In addition, OSPI made the survey anonymous for the 2017–18 school year. One hundred fifty-nine individuals completed the survey, representing 15 percent of the survey pool. One hundred twenty individuals provided written comments, representing 11.5 percent of the survey pool. The number of responses and comments on the survey increased this year. The increase could be due to a variety of factors, including the heightened interest in the Safety Net process due to legislative requirements, the work of the Safety Net Legislative Workgroup, a public release of webinars and reports regarding potential changes to the process, the availability to complete the survey anonymously, or a combination thereof.

Background

Safety Net has been available in some form since the 1996–97 school year. Since its beginning, the Safety Net Oversight Committee has awarded over \$560 million in state and federal Safety Net funding. For a more complete background of the program, see the [2014–15 Safety Net Survey Report](#).

In 2017–18, the Safety Net Oversight Committee approved awards for 116 LEAs, including an Educational Service Agency (ESA), the Washington State School for the Blind, the Center for Childhood Deafness and Hearing Loss, and three charter schools. The committee awarded 2,793 High-Need Individual student applications and 13 Community Impact applications. The total amount awarded in 2017–18 was \$57,957,230. Ten of the LEAs that applied for Safety Net were not approved by the Committee for funding.

Update Status

Survey Changes

Participants of the survey anonymously responded to 13 questions about the Safety Net process, including two open-ended questions. Previously, the survey included 11 questions. The following questions were added this year:

- Did you attend the OSPI sponsored training for the 2017–18 safety net process?
- Please provide an example for question 5. Question 5 is regarding the helpfulness of OSPI staff.

In addition, one question was changed. The question 'The safety net committee members are representative of districts in our state and carefully consider the district requests for safety net funding' was changed to 'The safety net committee carefully considers my LEA's requests for safety net funding.'

In previous years, a Likert Scale was used to rate each question. For 2017–18, the rating scale was from 1 to 5, with one being the lowest and five the highest. Depending on the question, the lowest response was either 'not helpful' or 'disagree' and the highest response was either 'helpful' or 'agree.' A 'not applicable' answer was also added to all questions.

Survey Responses

Three survey questions had an average response score of over 4.0. The questions were:

- OSPI staff members are helpful to my LEA in the safety net application process.
- Although I may not always agree with the results, I was informed why my safety net applications were or were not funded.

- Being able to electronically submit my safety net application will be helpful to me.

Two questions fell below an average response score of 3.5. Belief that Safety Net standards are uniformly applied to all LEAs received an average score of 3.33, and the belief that LEA’s Individualized Education Programs (IEPs) have improved as a result of the Safety Net process received an average score of 3.43. All other survey questions had an average response score of 3.5 to 4.0.

In the written comments, multiple respondents said the process could be improved by:

- Lowering the threshold applied to individual student applications.
- Decoupling Safety Net approval with IEP compliance.
- Making the application less cumbersome and completely electronic.
- Improving consistency in the reviews from year to year.
- Providing more detailed training.
- Providing more detailed feedback when deductions are made.

Nearly 25 percent of the written comments indicated that the proposed Workgroup recommendations would improve the Safety Net process.

In addition, survey results indicate that training opportunities may not be reaching enough people, as only 38 percent of respondents indicated that they attended training.

Table 1: Average Response by Question

Question	Average Response
Q1. The 2017–18 Safety Net Bulletin—which outlined the process changes, application criteria, and submission deadlines—was clear.	3.89
Q3. The OSPI sponsored training for the 2017–18 safety net process was helpful.	3.64
Q4. The safety net website includes information that is helpful to my LEA in the safety net application process.	3.73
Q5. OSPI staff members are helpful to my LEA in the safety net application process.	4.34
Q7. The safety net committee carefully considers my LEA’s requests for safety net funding.	3.98
Q8. Although I may not always agree with the results, I was informed why my safety net applications were or were not funded.	4.08

Question	Average Response
Q9. The IEP Review Form was a helpful tool in submitting the safety net applications.	3.69
Q10. My LEA's IEPs have improved as a result of the safety net process.	3.43
Q11. Although I may not always agree with the results, I believe the safety net standards are uniformly applied to all LEAs.	3.33
Q12. Being able to electronically submit my safety net application will be helpful to me.	4.41

Source: 2017–18 Safety Net Survey results

Conclusion and Next Steps

House Bill 2242, Sec. 408 (2017) directed the Office of Superintendent of Public Instruction (OSPI) to review and make recommendations of possible adjustments to improve the Safety Net process. Superintendent Chris Reykdal selected a workgroup of 21 individuals to perform the requested study, and the workgroup met multiple times during the 2017–18 school year. The [Safety Net Legislative Workgroup’s recommendations](#) were submitted to Superintendent Reykdal on August 31, 2018. The subsequent [report to the Legislature](#) was due on November 1, 2018.

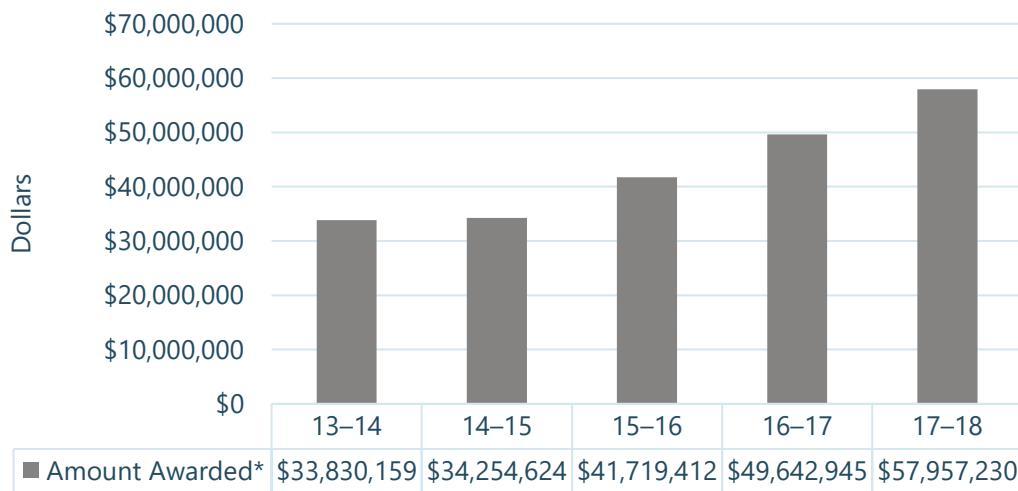
Based on the Safety Net Study Legislative Workgroup’s recommendations, the Safety Net rules are currently going through the revision process. Modifications to the 2018–19 Safety Net Bulletin reflect many of the process changes recommended by the Workgroup. The Special Education Division will monitor the effectiveness of modifications through future Safety Net surveys, and examine additional ways to provide Safety Net training.

APPENDICES

Appendix A: Safety Net Funding Results

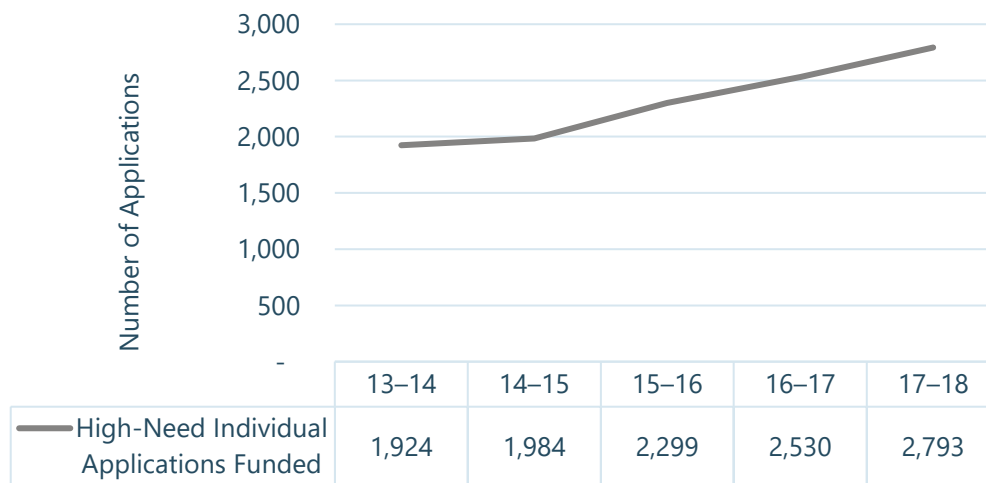
In 2017–18, the State Safety Net Committee approved 116 LEAs for Safety Net funding. The committee awarded 2,793 High-Need Individual student applications, and 13 Community Impact applications for a total of \$57,957,230. State-sponsored Safety Net training was provided at all nine ESDs prior to the initial 2017–18 submission dates.

Figure 1: Safety Net Funding Amounts 2013–14 through 2017–18



*Includes High-Need and Community Impact
Source: Safety Net Database

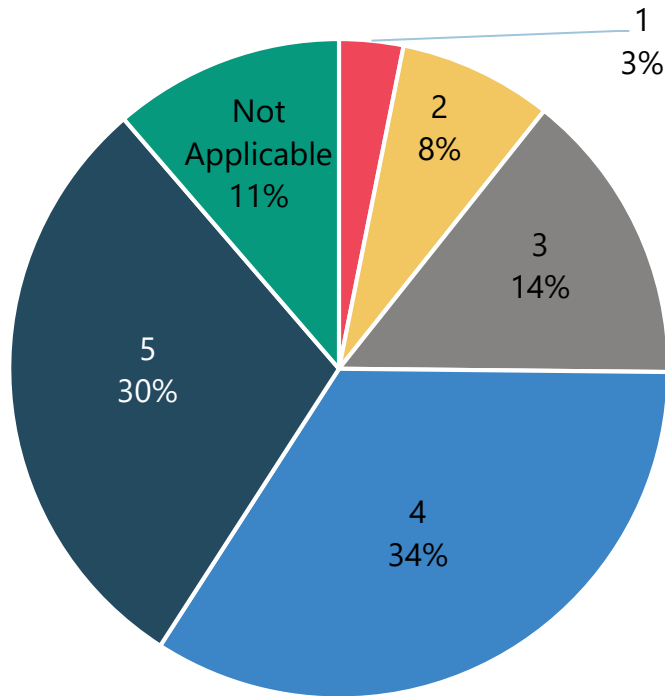
Figure 2: Safety Net High-Need Individual Applications Funded 2013–14 through 2017–18



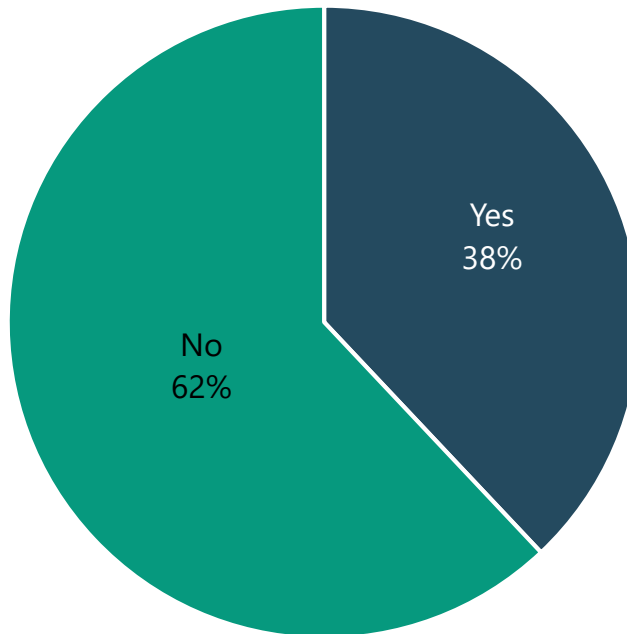
Source: Safety Net Database

Appendix B: Safety Net Survey Results

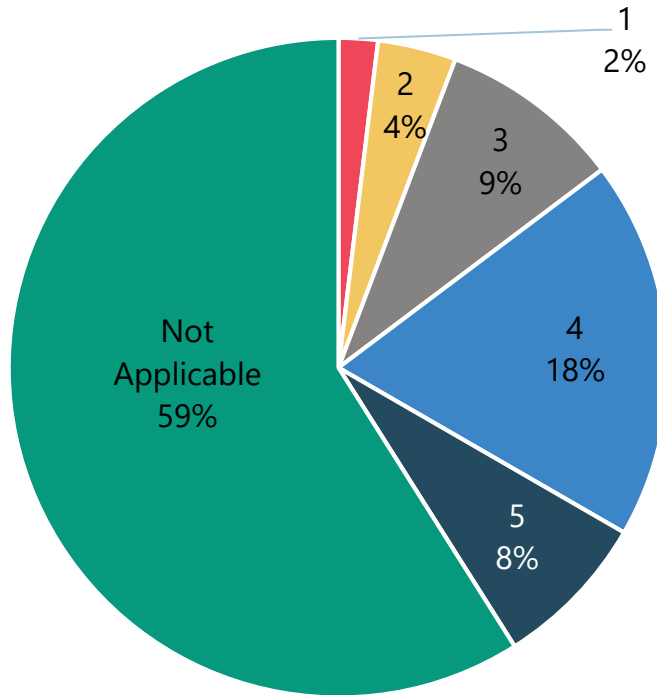
1. The 2017–18 Safety Net Bulletin—which outlined the process changes, application criteria, and submission deadlines—was clear.



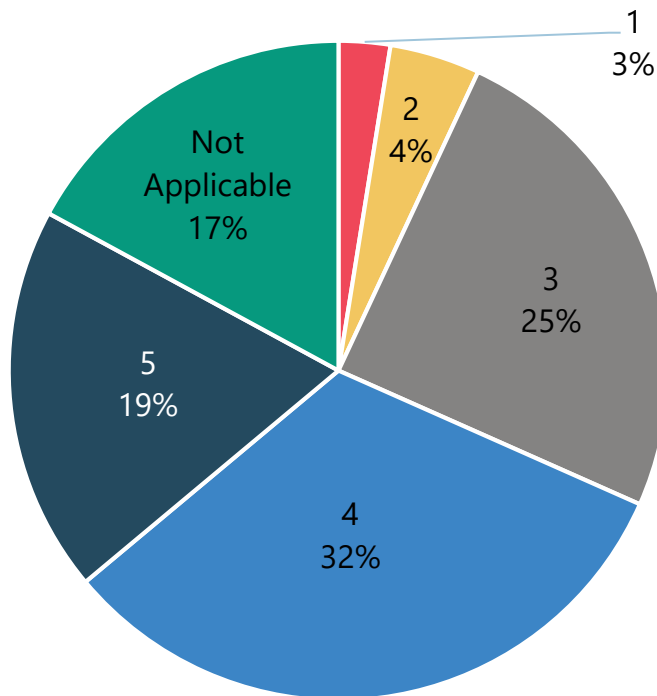
2. Did you attend the OSPI sponsored training for the 2017–18 Safety Net process?



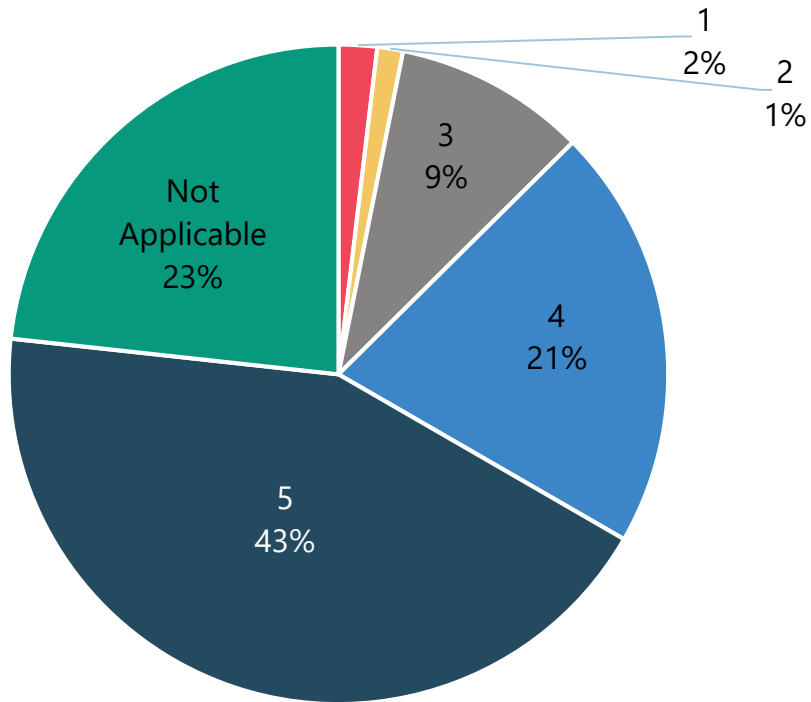
3. The OSPI sponsored training for the 2017–18 Safety Net process was helpful.



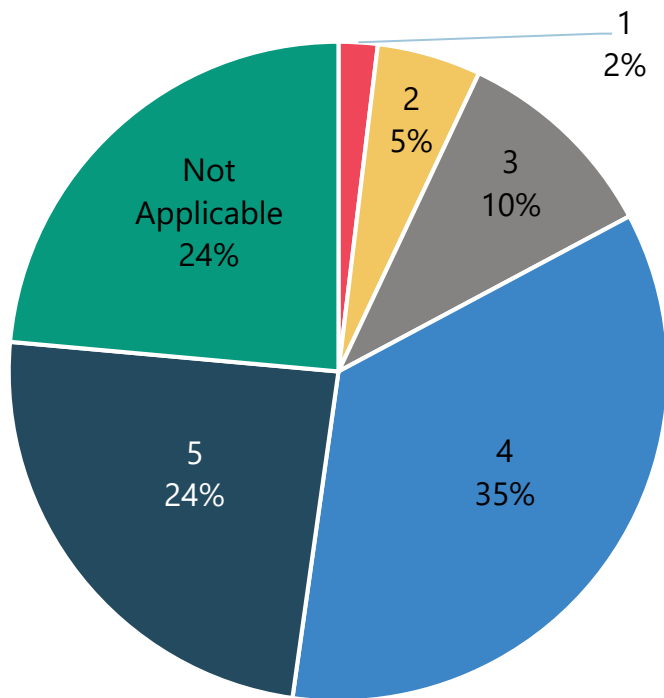
4. The Safety Net website includes information that is helpful to my LEA in the Safety Net application process.



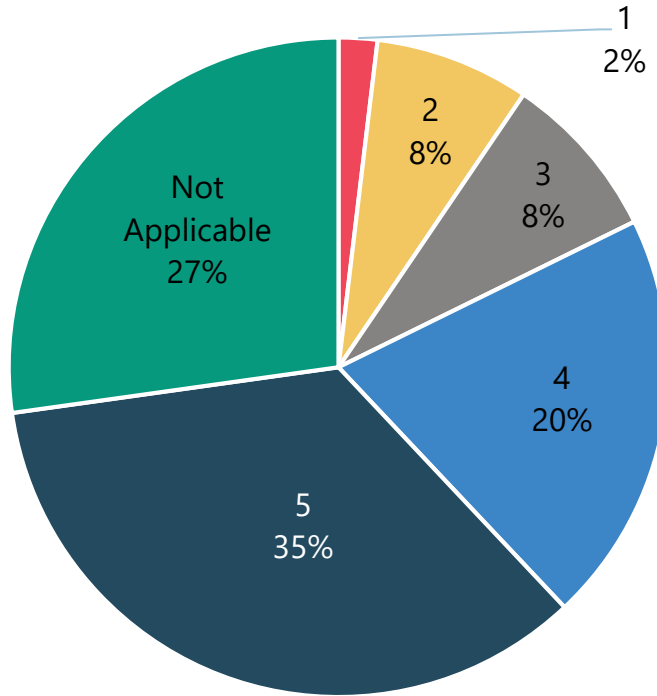
5. OSPI staff members are helpful to my LEA in the Safety Net Application process.



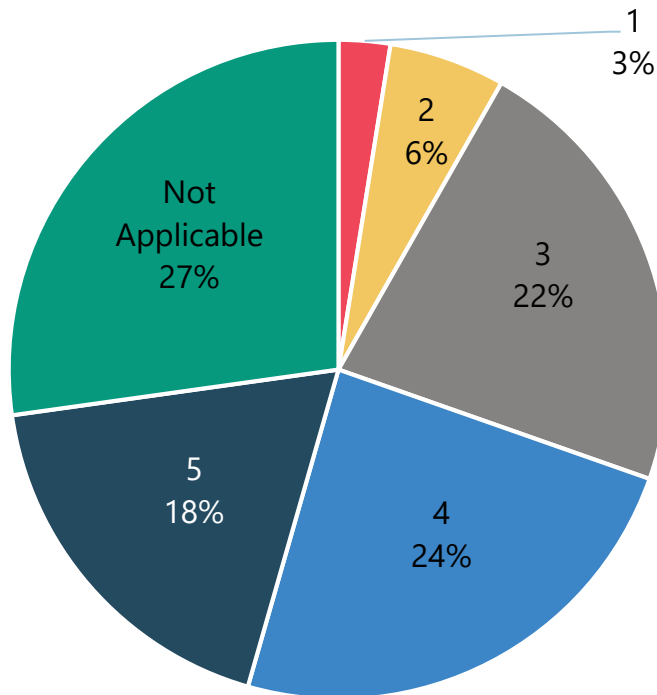
7. The Safety Net Oversight Committee carefully considers my LEA's requests for Safety Net funding.



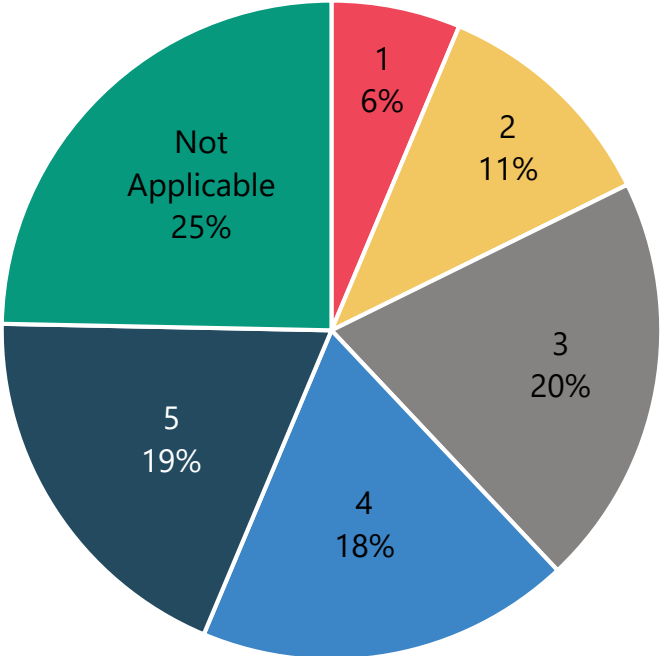
8. Although I may not always agree with the results, I was informed why my Safety Net applications were or were not funded.



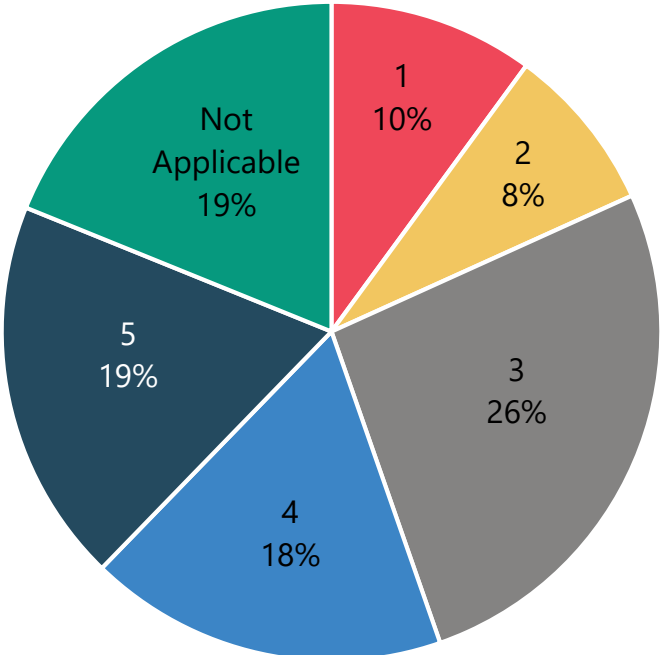
9. The IEP Review Form was a helpful tool in submitting the Safety Net applications.



10. My LEA's IEPs have improved as a result of the Safety Net process.



11. Although I may not always agree with the results, I believe the Safety Net standards are uniformly applied to all LEAs.



12. Being able to electronically submit my Safety Net application will be helpful to me.

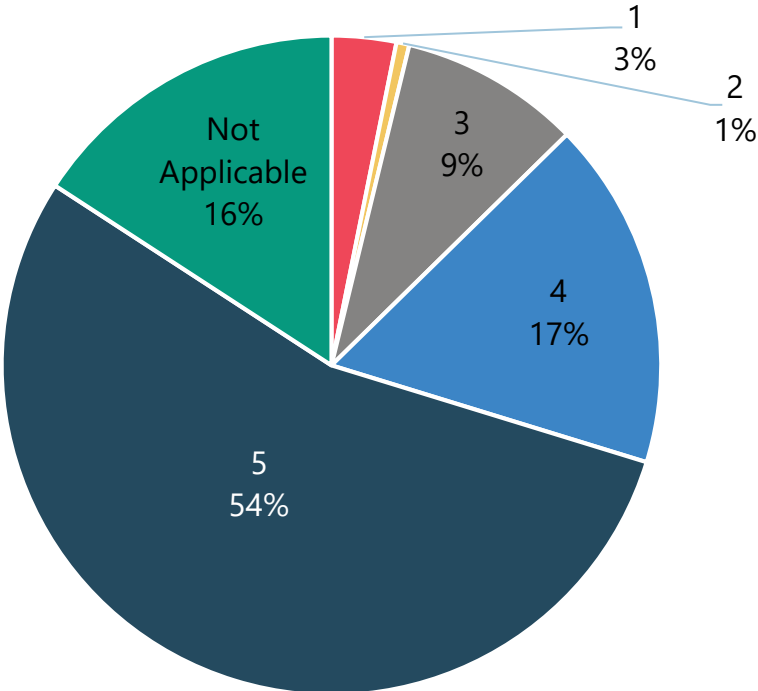
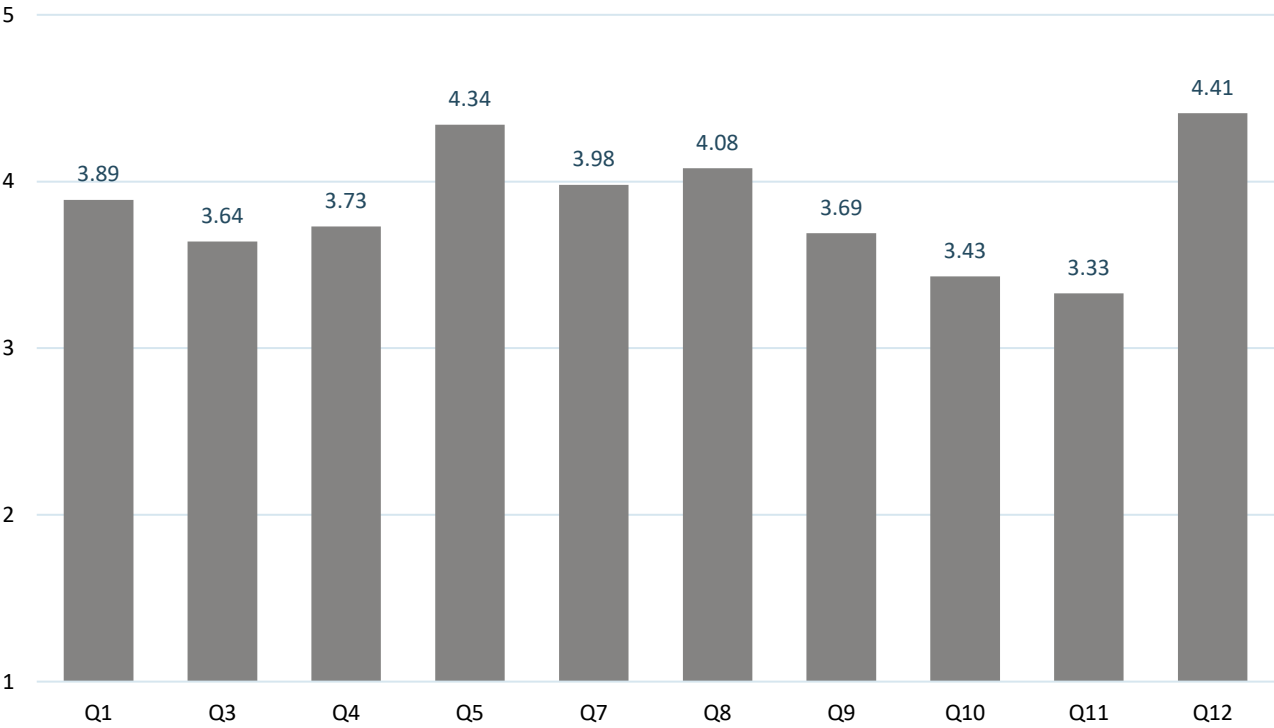


Figure 3: Average Response Scores for Safety Net Survey Questions



Appendix C: Safety Net Survey Comments

Table 1: Survey Question 6

Please provide an example for question 5.

There is too much general information. No one at SPI seems to ever want to stick their necks out very far to discuss how to successfully claim expenses.
Somewhat available via the phone for support...would like to see staff advocate for us.
OSPI is very supportive in that they answer question, etc. however the entire process is very cumbersome and time intensive.
Mary Ellen is always available to answer questions and is very helpful however the process is complicated, burdensome and unfair.
They respond to questions timely.
We have not applied for safety net because of all the strings attached.
Mary Ellen and the financial staff are always easy to reach and timely in their responses and assistance.
When we reach out to OSPI, there is no response or feedback.
N/A We do not apply for Safety Net funds.
Anytime I called with a question we were answered promptly and had a better understanding. I may not have agreed, however, OSPI supports in special education are always friendly and helpful!
When contacting OSPI sped department, they are always good to respond to my questions.
Talked to Mary Ellen Parrish regarding questions about payment. She answered my questions in a matter of moments and was most pleasant.
I was advised they were very helpful, I was not the superintendent during the safety net application process last year.
Easy access to staff and timely response.
Personal Visit.
Questions were readily answered.
Calls and emails were answered in a timely manner by staff who sounded liked they were happy to be of assistance.
When I emailed with questions, I received helpful responses, especially from Cynthia Hargrave.
Phone calls or training responses were customer service oriented.
They answer all questions we have in a timely fashion.
Someone to answer questions in a timely manner.
The OSPI training was very useful and allowed us to change many processes in the creation of our IEPs that allowed for more success in qualifying.

Please provide an example for question 5.

When I have had questions for Mary Ellen regarding Safety Net, or other Fiscal items she has been very helpful.
We met this summer with an OSPI representative and there was little understanding of the operations of a school, district or special ed services expressed. The focus was a technical one.
Good response on questions.
Have not needed to ask.
They can help me with my questions. The process is just too time consuming and inappropriate.
Always responds quickly to questions.
We did not call OSPI. We did work with the ESD and that was not helpful.
The staff is always clear on answering my questions.
Quick to reply to questions and/or concerns.
Amber and Mary Ellen answer our questions.
Both Cynthia Hargrave and Mary Ellen Parrish were extremely helpful as we navigated the process for the first time last year.
I had questions regarding the reduction of our Safety Net award, both at the committee meeting and afterwards. I have yet to get a satisfactory explanation of the reductions.
Mary Ellen has always been helpful if I needed information.
I have talked with Mary Ellen and she is helpful.
I have contacted both OSPI and the ESD for support and received guidance.
Very responsive when calling with questions or needing clarification – Mary Ellen is great responsive to district specific questions.
We have not applied in the last few years due to the difficulty.
OSPI Staff are very responsive to our questions and happy to provide guidance. We appreciate their commitment to customer service.
I had a new budget manager learning to complete worksheet C and all other components of Safety Net for the first time. They were timely and responsive in answering her questions.
Clarified the availability of reimbursement for independent contractor services.
I was in a new district during the final awarding of Safety Net. I was not sure what deadlines I had missed, so I reached out to OSPI staff to ensure that we were on track. They responded quickly to my questions and kept me on track.
NA
Anytime we call with questions on the application end of things, we get good help. However, on the appeal side, the assistance has not been as strong.
Requested a meeting to go over reductions to award as a learning tool for the next year. Never happened. Answers to specific questions are sometimes vague. There are often

Please provide an example for question 5.

mistakes in the Wkst C formulas that staff create. It has happened so often that I have to wait to start completing my Wkst C until after the new year to be sure the version I am using has all the bug fixes.
Mary Ellen Parrish has always been incredibly helpful.
NA
Tips and questions are readily clarified regarding the process and submission needs.
I am part of an ESD and they offer support and assistance with my safety net students, funding, etc...I did receive safety net training from my ESD.
Mary Ellen Parish. Ready to answer questions, provide concrete suggestions and tips, help with calculations, etc.
When we had questions about our Safety Net application, help was just a phone call away.
Available for phone and email contacts. Always willing to answer or clarify.
When asking questions about data conceptualization, Mary Ellen was very helpful with answers and clarifying the intent of each question.
Any time I have a question, staff are readily available to help and provide clear guidance. I always feel OSPI is there to help me be successful and not a "gotcha" system.
We can call both OSPI as well as our ESD to get answers to questions. Both are responsive and helpful in providing relevant information quickly.
Specific questions re: transportation.
Mary Ellen is always prompt and concise in response to questions.
Calls to Mary Ellen are helpful and always polite.
We use a Special Ed Co-op that helps us process the Safety Net Application. My questions are usually fiscal and regarding proper documentation.
Some of the information was not available until very late in the process.
Mary Ellen has always been very responsive to our specific questions regarding the financial forms and process, as well as trends from previous years.
The problem lies in that you may not know there is an issue until it is too late.
Mary Ellen Parrish has been a tremendous resource for us! She visited our cooperative and met with several business directors to provide each with assistance they needed to ensure they provided what is required.
When I had questions, Mary Ellen was always so helpful.
I was able to get clarification when calling to ask Mary Ellen Parish about a particular element of financial submission.
OSPI staff do not explain to LEAs when/why they are making deductions on Worksheet C. LEA finds out at the Safety Net meeting table the amount awarded for each application, and only that the Wrksht C is reduced, but we do not receive a copy of the corrected or reduced Wrksht C nor are we given any feedback as to why reductions were made (other than obvious reasons such as the student has withdrawn, etc.).

Please provide an example for question 5.

Emails are promptly returned.
Phoned OSPI with questions regarding private schools. Staff directed me to the person who could help me in filling out that portion of the application.
Mary Ellen Parrish has always been very helpful.
> Phone calls are returned promptly. > Staff are proactive with districts, assisting them with their questions and providing insight into the process.
Staff were very responsive in providing us answers to our questions when we called them.
Always willing to take questions. Sends follow up emails and quickly responds.
Staff is available and promptly returns phone calls.
They always answer the phone or return my call very quickly. Whenever I have asked a question, they have been able to answer it.
Answered questions throughout the process.
Staff has always been timely with responses.
I can always count on Mary Ellen to respond to our questions in a timely manner.
Mary Ellen is always available to answer questions related to the safety net application process and paperwork.
The documentation provided was clear and concise. The information on the website matches what was mailed to us. We know we can call at any time with process or detailed questions and will receive help in a timely manner.
Every year I have submitted, I have had to call Mary Ellen with questions. She always returns my call promptly and walks me through the process or answers the question. She is very helpful.
They were available to answer my questions.
I had budgeted incorrectly and was contacted and shown exactly what to change. Very helpful.
Mary Ellen is always incredible helpful and knowledgeable about the safety net process.
There was an issue with the Medicaid Calculator as it is no longer available due to CPT code copyright. I think this issue could have been handled better. Wasn't prepared to deal with this at the last minute.
If something is unclear I know I can go and ask question someone.
Whenever we have called with a question, the staff in the Safety Net office have been able to answer our questions.
Immediate answers to questions via phone.
Staff always respond to email questions quickly and kindly.
Mary Ellen is able to quickly answer most of our questions.
Information accurate. When asking about a situation that would result in no funding (ESY determined after submission not being funded), the decided lack of empathy for this was well expressed. These things effect our ability to help kids.

Please provide an example for question 5.

Despite being incredibly busy, they always help with a friendly demeanor.
Mary Ellen Parish was very informative and helpful.
Every time that I've ever called I get the support that I'm looking for. Email and phone calls are quickly returned and with great information.
OSPI is great about answering questions or communicating with our department about Safety Net.
OSPI staff are always willing to help. They respond to emails in a timely manner. I feel they are doing what they can to support us in our effort to complete the process correctly.
Contacted once concerning changes to the Medicaid Calculator. Answer was helpful. The change was not posted on the Safety Net web page.
I made a number of calls to Mary Ellen and some to Amber while putting together my application. Both were very timely in getting back to me and very helpful.
Mary Ellen is very responsive to questions
I get any question I have answered by calling.
As a new director last year, I had a hard time getting information on how to do Medicaid calculations and understanding what information was needed and how to find it.
OSPI staff is responsive.
Mary Ellen Parrish is always very helpful and clear in her explanations.
Mary Ellen is easy to reach for questions.
Our district does not receive safety net funds.
I am a new director and I am just learning about the Safety Net application process.
New to the position.
They are receptive and responsive to inquiries.

Table 2: Survey Question 13

Please list additional ways in which you think the Safety Net process can be improved.

I think that this survey may be better sent to the person who is filling out the application.
Here's an idea. Instead of spending all of the money on training, why not have a list of allowable expenses listed in an a la carte menu, and actually fund those based on valid IEPs written by LEAs.
Stop trying to find ways to decline support/revenue to local district; reverse this mentality and find ways to support (financially) local districts!
I think service and outcomes trump compliance.
Application approvals should be based on money spent, not the strength of the IEP.
If the process becomes available online, rationale and definitions are provided during the online process.

Please list additional ways in which you think the Safety Net process can be improved.

The process seems daunting.
Less strings. Why do we have to put Medicare billing in place first?
The past system favored larger districts as they are able to employ staff to focus just on the safety net process. Smaller districts do not have the man hours to accomplish the safety net process. And there are times where the cost in staff time, and the possibility of getting a finding consume the cost/benefit of applying for the grant. Additionally, some district financial managers and school boards elect to run higher ratios of funds in reserves. And even though a district accrues added costs and has a need for safety net grant, the application is denied because the district has too much money in reserves.
If someone makes a mistake on the worksheet, the LEA should be able to fix that, certain items are not always clear or won't fit on the worksheet.
1. More money to adequately fund special education... The threshold is too high - essentially I have to spend double the allocation for basic ed and special ed to get any funds back on safety net and if we do this correctly we only get 75% of what we requested anyway. As I sat in the meeting listening to the considerations for the awards, it was uniformly reduced by 75% for each district. 2. Simplify the process- takes many hours for small districts to complete. I really appreciate the help OSPI gives through the process. There is very little information for new directors as to how to start the process. Spending time on safety net in the new directors OSPI training day in August would be very beneficial.
The access to funding for excess costs should not be so tightly determined by whether a goal(s) was written to perfection.
Safety Net process and standards are too cumbersome and punitive.
Reduce the paperwork copies. The process has been labor intensive and takes staff away from working for student success.
Not so many copies and the redaction process is overwhelming!
Take the data directly from a State Wide IEP site. That is what my previous state did. We all used the same database. This makes transitions between schools so much easier. Also why doesn't skyward "keep" data?
I have worked in other states where a similar process is far less cumbersome and time consuming and better serves student needs. In my perception, it seems that that any technical issue eliminates the application as a process of saying no with an "excuse" versus truly looking at the needs of the child and the cost or as a continual improvement process if there are errors. It is focused on compliance versus service. Compliance is critical, I understand, but both compliance and a focus on serving students can be accomplished.
----Safety Net should not be about compliance - it should be about resources districts are required to purchase for a FAPE. --Submission of less documentation. --Discontinue the practice of not granting 100% of funding for small errors. --Hands on training.

Please list additional ways in which you think the Safety Net process can be improved.

More detailed training. Just saying fill out the forms is not helpful.
I think more clear feedback. It may have improved over the past few years, but previously we were not clear why we did not receive the funds.
There still seems to be a lack of consistency regarding specific wording that is compliant or not. Districts like Edmonds which serve many in the region with the DHH program hear different compliance standards among districts. We should be allowed to submit the cost of the compliance personnel needed to check for the details that are needed. Safety net should not be used as a compliance tool rather it should be a grant for additional funding.
It would be very beneficial to districts (especially small districts) that we look at the services provided and the costs of those services, vs overall compliance. Compliance with the IEP needs to be done properly, absolutely, but because one checkbox is not checked or one sentence is not appropriate should not remove the entirety of the Safety Net Funding for that one student (especially if that student costs well over \$100,000 for the year). There should be a preliminary send to check compliance or there should be a way to fix what was wrong before the determination. It feels more like a "gotcha" than it does support for the districts that are doing everything possible to meet the students' needs. The services for the student were done and the cost was there, that should be sufficient at least for a chance to fix the compliance issue.
Most of the recommendations from the committee reviewing this year look like excellent improvements.
Clearer guidance on Community Impact and more opportunities to respond to committee clarifications or questions.
Reduce the threshold. It is set at twice what we receive in per pupil funding - \$15k too high. An early review for correction of technicalities would also go a long way towards eliminating the feeling that there is an effort being made to prevent districts from getting the funding that they deserve.
The IEP Review Form does not list examples. We want examples.
Implementation of the recommendations provided by the work group.
I have reviewed the recommendations from the safety net review committee. I think the process can be improved with these changes and recommendations.
The reviewers appear to exceed the scope of inquiry. E.g., even though an IEP has a measurable annual goal, it is not uncommon for the reviewer(s) to disagree with the formulation of the goal.
We are a small school district that is supporting special education with additional funding to meet our legal obligations. While we are funded at 13.5% we are serving close to 19% of our population in special education. Applying for safety net caused me additional cost and training time (although the training was good). That took resources away from other

Please list additional ways in which you think the Safety Net process can be improved.

<p>programs. If I am over-serving or supplying services that I should not--then tell me via the audit. If I am not over-serving, then fund me. I am following the law and being penalized.</p>
<p>The appeal process is too limited. The reasons we are allowed to appeal are not sufficient. There are denials based on how the worksheet is completed that should not result in 0 funding, however, that is the result, and we don't have an appeal process for that.</p>
<p>Training that covers the step by step completion of Wkst C, using examples of different kinds of IEPs and documents and situations. Such as how to complete Wkst C for NPA, for agency staff, for equipment purchases, for student absences, etc. Info on how to do a Wkst C when staff changes in the middle of an IEP. Also a video example of a Safety Net reviewer going through a file to help us get a sense of how reductions are calculated. Finally, more detailed descriptions/accounting on reductions to the award for that Wkst C in the award letter.</p>
<p>More \$ for PD to support assistance beyond the paperwork and IEP is needed in schools. How to develop sustainable programs for high need students and to provide the training special education staff need.</p>
<p>Could there be a digital way to monitor annual submissions? For example, if a high needs student has been funded for the last 6 years that might be helpful for evaluators, and helpful for school districts if (surprise) s/he's not funded this year.</p>
<p>*Just dispense the money evenly instead of so much hoop-jumping.</p>
<p>Lower the threshold. Online submission.</p>
<p>The specific connection to IEP and Evaluation formulation and compliance issues has always been frustrating, as well as the limitations of the cap in district contribution, particularly when there is significant capacity available in the district. Uniform funding for students given the broad range of services we provide seems to not fit our needs as districts as they have evolved. As you look at trends in requests for both types of safety net funding (individual high needs and community impact) over the last several years, you can see the impacts to districts. This is also clear in district's increasing local contribution to special education state wide. We clear need to focus on more equitable funding for the level of service required, rather than the safety net option for our high needs students. It is clearly no longer covering the "gap" in funding as it was intended.</p>
<p>A cumbersome process to access funds that are being spent.</p>
<p>There needs to be uniform system of awarding points. If there already is, then I suggest more training so that all individuals reading have the same idea of how to score.</p>
<p>This process takes a lot of time in our already busy schedules. It sure would be nice if it were a shorter process.</p>
<p>Increase funding threshold. Continue offering training at the LEA director meetings when the annual bulletin is published.</p>

Please list additional ways in which you think the Safety Net process can be improved.

<p>Worksheet C: when a student has multiple IEPs, a worksheet is created for each time period. However, when you have an instance where the para or nurse have changed multiple times within the time frame of the IEP- it is difficult to 'cost out' each individual when those time periods do not align with the already established Worksheet time period.</p>
<p>It would be helpful if districts had training regarding safety net submission. In past years it seemed to depend on who reviewed the files as to what criteria was used. Also, it would be helpful if ESDs would debrief with the individual participating districts and share the "state error trends" for safety net files.</p>
<p>It would be nice to submit one copy electronically. It takes a considerable amount of time getting all of the paper copies ready.</p>
<p>I would prefer to see the allocation of safety net funds completely separate from the IEP review/442 process. Two separate systems should exist: 1) IEP compliance audits [all safety net files, as well as a random sampling of student files, should be reviewed for compliance] with corresponding 442 corrections made; 2) Safety Net process simplified so that funds are disseminated to districts for the applications submitted. If overall state safety net funds cannot cover the amount that all districts submit for, then all districts should receive a prorated amount based on their ratio of funds requested to the overall funds available. Please separate these two distinctly different issues. Compliance audits are a necessity, but should not be tied to safety net funds. For districts that show no effort to correct errors, then reductions accessing future safety net funding should be considered.</p>
<p>The application is labor intensive. Is there a way to streamline any of it?</p>
<p>Electronic submission would be incredibly helpful.</p>
<p>Reduce threshold.</p>
<p>442's should not be used as punishment for submitting safety net applications that are not funded. Could we not fix errors you find at the time and then be able to apply? Not only did we not receive reimbursement on a medically fragile, high cost student, but the rationale for not was based on numbers missing from the goal related to how many times a student used the bathroom independently in a day. We did not receive funding over toilet use. (Yes, this is here for comical relief for you readers, but also to support your new system of funding percentages of IEPs with errors vs. all or nothing. Thanks so much.</p>
<p>I am in agreement with the recommendations of the safety net advisory committee.</p>
<p>Electronically or not, if the same data is required, it really doesn't eliminate the amount of preparation. I don't know how one would get around that.</p>
<p>Lower the threshold give actual total costs if the district is above the 13.1% overall sped in district.</p>
<p>The proposed changes as outlined in the recent Zoom presentation make us hopeful. I marked #11 as neutral because, while I'm sure everyone who evaluates IEPs is equally trained, there have been fiscal staff evaluating IEPs in the past. When you compare notes</p>

Please list additional ways in which you think the Safety Net process can be improved.

with other districts, it sometimes appeared that one evaluator might have marked something as compliant while another did not.
Full funding based on need rather than paperwork compliance.
Needs to be manageable. Applications take hours to complete.
Changing to allow partial awards will likely help. Consider grants to help districts with 442 if needed (mine didn't need this).
Sample testing and electronic submissions would increase speed and efficiencies.
It is a tedious, stressful, expensive process. It would be good to have special education fully funded.
There is a lot of information to fill out; the process itself takes a lot of time and making sure that everything is copied correctly, in order, etc. Having the data pieces put into a system like the iGrant would save us having to make copies of everything. Then we could electronically submit one copy of the IEP and reduce all the copying and cost of sending to OSPI
1. Stop making us redact IEPs. 2. Refers to question # 11. Individual SN reviewers are notoriously "harder" on IEPs than others. If you notice that one in particular is constantly finding fault with IEPs, and another finds 100% of the IEPs compliant, it should cause one to pause..... 3. When there is CLEARLY not an IEP error on a very high cost student, and it's a copying error or we forgot to attach an ESY IEP, PLEASE give us a chance to make it right. It is heart breaking to put in all the work on a high cost application, only to have the entire thing denied for a non-substantive reason.
De-couple safety net grant process from compliance process.
When awards are reduced from the amounts we outlined on the application it is sometimes difficult to determine why the adjustment is made. This process is very time consuming I would not say it is an effective means for improving overall IEP writing for the district.
Adopted the proposed rules.
1. An easily accessible Medicaid calculator. 2. More support in strategies to track and report Medicaid-related items. 3. Develop a shorter process. These applications take an exorbitant amount of time, and take away from our ability to provide meaningful support for our teachers and students in the day-to-day operation of our programs, all to justify expenses already incurred, on behalf of our most vulnerable students.
I really believe many districts lose out on thousands of needed funds because a very minor IEP issue or complex contractual arrangements. This really needs to be addressed because districts spend a fortune in earnest serving their high needs kids.
Providing a couple model IEP and Evaluations that have met Safety Net Standards would be helpful to a district that has not submitted for Safety Net recently.
I look forward to learning more about the Safety Net process.

Please list additional ways in which you think the Safety Net process can be improved.

I didn't know this was a survey only for those who use Safety Net. I do not.
Safety net should be applied universally via formula. It should not require an application - OSPI already has enough data to formulate allocations fairly. Using an application process and paying for a committee to review is both wasteful and unnecessary. District's with adequate fund balances should not be awarded safety net - thresholds should be set so that more resources can be available to Districts with greater need.
New to the position.
Being penalized for student absences does not seem fair. Example, a student with a 1:1 nurse misses 25% of the year due to illness. The district must continue to have the nurse attend and pay for the nurse, but we do not receive safety net funding for those absences.



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