

The Rhode Island Student Summary of Performance

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The Student Summary of Performance (SSOP) is required under Individuals with Disabilities Education Act of 2004:

For a child whose eligibility under special education terminates due to graduation with a regular diploma, or due to exceeding the age of eligibility, the local education agency “shall provide the child with a summary of the child’s academic achievement and functional performance, which shall include recommendations on how to assist the child in meeting the child’s postsecondary goals.” (Sec. 300.35(e)(3).

Who receives the Summary of Performance?

Students, and/or their guardians, receive the Summary of Performance, with accompanying documentation, in their final year of high school.

What is the purpose of the Summary of Performance?

The Summary of Performance helps student to access services in post-secondary education and through adult service agencies. The information in the SSOP describes accommodations and supports that may assist students with post-secondary education, employment and in the coordination of adult services. Adult service agencies and higher education institutions may require additional documentation.

When is the Summary of Performance completed?

The SSOP must be provided to students in their final year of high school or eligibility under IDEA, or to those who have dropped out. When the SSOP is completed may vary, depending on the student’s post-secondary goals. A student who is transitioning to higher education may need the SSOP, with additional documentation, for his/her college applications. Likewise, this information may be necessary to apply for services from state agencies, such as vocational rehabilitation. In some instances, it may be most appropriate to wait until the spring of a student’s final year to give agencies or employers updated information on student’s performance. The IEP Team should decide when the SSOP will be completed.

Who writes the Summary of Performance?

While the law states that the Summary of Performance be developed by the Local Education Agency (school district), it is suggested that the team working with the student develop the actual Summary of Performance. The SSOP should be completed by the Teacher, Case Manager and/or other school professionals who are most knowledgeable about the student’s performance and the effective accommodations and supports.

Must schools use the Rhode Island form?

The RI Student Summary of Performance is intended to help school districts comply with the IDEA 2004. This tool’s design was based on a model of the Council on Exceptional Children – Division on Career Development and Transition (CEC-DCDT). Districts may choose to develop their own form, but all pertinent information must be included. In

February 2006, the RI Department of Education developed and distributed a protocol to help Rhode Island school districts comply with this requirement.