IDEA REAUTHORIZATION AND REGULATION PROCESS



Listed below are some IDEA reauthorization issues and strategies to get involved in the process:

- ✓ Reauthorization means to change/revise
- ✓ Occurs about every five years or more
- ✓ Last IDEA reauthorization—2004
- ✓ Last Reauthorization took 1 ½ years
- ✓ ESEA first, then IDEA
- ✓ Currently congress is working on the Elementary Secondary Education Act.
- ✓ The goal is to coordinate language and concepts between ESEA and IDEA.
- ✓ Part C Infants and Toddlers—Expire
 - Part D National Activities—Expire
 - Part B Ages 3–5—Permanent
- ✓ IDEA has been amended these different times since 2004:
 - o April 9, 2007
 - o October 30, 2007
 - o December 1, 2008
- ✓ Public comment period is 75 days
 - o Public testimony
 - Written comments
- ✓ What is working?
 - o What needs to change?
- ✓ Upon completion of the reauthorization, it takes a year or more to complete final regulations.
 - o Proposed federal and State regulations
 - State required to revise their regulations



IDEA REAUTHORIZATION

- ✓ The latest rumors from Washington D.C. are that IDEA will not be reauthorized until 2013.
- ✓ Stakeholder input comes in the form of verbal input at public meetings, written input and/or advice to public officials.
- ✓ The State Special Education Advisory Panel (Part B) and Interagency Coordinating Council (Part C) could play a critical role with IDEA reauthorization.
- ✓ Be proactive—you can make a difference in improving programs and services for infants, toddlers, children, and youth with disabilities through the reauthorization process.
- ✓ Possible strategies to impact IDEA reauthorization:
 - Talk with other parents and/or school staff—What is working and what needs to change?
 - Provide verbal comments at federal public meetings that address IDEA reauthorization.
 - Submit written comments during the comment period to the U.S.
 Department of Education.
 - Write to your congressman and and/or senator with suggestions.
- ✓ Check the U.S. Department of Education, Office of Special Education program (OSEP) website for current information and public meeting dates and locations <ed.gov> or http://www.ed.gov/offices/list/osers/osep/>