SPPI 13: TEAL to SPEDS Transition Guide (2025-26)

This guidance document serves as a comprehensive comparison tool for the 2025-26 school year (FFY 2025) transition from the legacy SPP Application in TEAL to the new SPEDS Summer Submission within the TSDS for the SPPI 13 data collection. SPPI 13 measures compliance with transition planning requirements for students aged 16 and older. The comparison systematically examines major differences between the two data collection systems organized by major data lifecycle domains.

1. Data Inclusion and Identification

This section explains differences in how students are selected and included in SPPI 13 for both the legacy TEAL SPP application and the new TSDS SPEDS submission.

Key Area	Legacy (Old System) TEAL SPP Application	New TSDS SPEDS Collection
Student Inclusion	A **subset of students** with individualized education programs (IEPs) at an LEA who are at least 16 years old and not older than 21 years old on September 1st of the school year (e.g., A student's age must be no older than 21 on September 1, 2024, for the 2024-25 school year) were **eligible** for inclusion in federal reporting for the school year from July 1, 2024, to June 30, 2025. Students with IEPs in this age group were eligible if they were not selected in a prior year, but LEAs used systematic sampling to select up to 250 students by picking every "*n*th" student from their eligible population. The systematic sampling was based on the point in time from July 1 to June 30 when the LEA generated their student list. LEAs chose a random starting point, then selected every nth	**No change in age requirement.** **All students** with IEPs at an LEA who are at least 16 years old and not older than 21 years old on September 1st of the school year (e.g., A student's age must be no older than 21 on September 1, 2025, for the 2025-26 school year) will be included in federal reporting for the school year from July 1, 2025, to June 30, 2026. **Special Note:** The shift from selecting a subset of students to a census approach is critical for federal compliance. The Individuals with Disabilities Education Act (IDEA) requires that ALL students with disabilities aged 16 have measurable postsecondary goals and transition services in their IEPs, helping to protect both students and LEAs.

| | student based on the interval. For example, selecting every 5th student meant picking students 5, 10, 15, and 20 from the list. However, students selected in prior years were excluded. | Students enrolled in the LEA at the end of the school year are included in the compliance calculations for SPPI 13 reporting.

Previously, selecting only a subset of students created compliance gaps by excluding eligible students. The SPP/APR Measurement Table, SPP/APR Instructions, and OSEP QA 23-01 issued by the Office of Special Education Programs (OSEP) mandate the inclusion of all students. Sampling is not expressly authorized. |
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| **Student Identification** | LEAs manually selected a subset of students with IEPs to include in the TEAL-SPP application, excluding those who were selected in prior years. | Students will be automatically identified and included in the collection based on TSDS promotion logic.

TSDS will publish the promotion logic on their website in August 2025, at the earliest. |

Note. When the term "school year" is used, it refers to the data for that specific period. This period ranges from July 1 to June 30 for a given school year. For example, SPPI 13 data for the 2025–26 school year covers the period from July 1, 2025, to June 30, 2026.

2. Timing and Submission

This section outlines when and how data are submitted by LEAs for both the legacy TEAL SPP application and the new TSDS SPEDS submission.

Key Area	Legacy (Old System) TEAL SPP Application	New TSDS SPEDS Collection
Data Collection Period *(Federal School Year)*	July 1 – June 30 (for a given school year)	No change.
Data Submission Period	April 1 through the first Friday in August following a complete week (130-day submission window for LEAs to submit student-level data).	August 4 – June 30 (331 days) timeframe will be available for data submission of child-level data

(Timeframe for LEAs to submit data)	For example, the Data Submission Period was from April 1, 2025, to August 8, 2025, for reporting the data from July 1, 2024, to June 30, 2025.	**Key Difference:** 331 days total, compared to 130 days in TEAL, which is an increase of 201 days. **Key Timeline:** • **8/4/2025:** Individual Operational Data Stores (IODS) will open for LEAs to publish data to their warehouse (preparation phase) • **9/15/2025:** Official submission window will open in TSDS • **7/30/2026:** Final deadline for submissions **What is the difference?** • **IODS availability (8/4/2025):** LEAs will be able to begin preparing and staging their data • **Submission window (9/15/2025):** LEAs will be able to officially submit data to TEA for compliance LEAs will be able to enter data in their SIS as soon as their vendor completes the implementation. **Special Note:** The final TEAL submission for 2024–25 data will close on 8/8/2025, creating a brief overlap with the start of the new system on 8/4/2025.
Timing of Data Capture	Data were captured from student IEPs for a selection of students but typically entered retrospectively after ARD committee meetings via IEP folder review.	Data will be captured during the ARD committee meeting as part of IEP workflow (based on ARD committee agreement with responses to the 8 questions). However, data may still be entered after the meeting.

	If a secondary transition requirement was not properly documented or addressed in the IEP, this may have resulted in noncompliance with IDEA requirements.	**Special Note:** Capturing data during the ARD committee meeting after member agreement will help ensure an IDEA compliant IEP.
Submission Deadline	The deadline was Friday of the first full week of August. Separate deadlines in August were not aligned with other SPP indicators. The timeline overlapped with the start of the new school year for many LEAs.	The deadline will be the last Thursday in July. The submission deadline will align with TSDS SPPIs 7, 11, and 12, which will be the last Thursday of July. The deadline will occur prior to the start of the next school year for most LEAs.
Data Collection/ Submission Method	**State Monitoring:** Data were manually entered by LEA staff into the TEAL SPP application.	**State Database:** Data will be submitted to TSDS via Application Programming Interface (API) from the Student Information System (SIS). Some SPED/IEP systems may have the capability to submit data directly to TSDS via API, bypassing the SIS, but this will likely be rare.

3. Data Entry and Validation

This section describes how compliance data are entered and validated in both the legacy TEAL SPP application and the new TSDS SPEDS submission.

Key Area	Legacy (Old System) TEAL SPP Application	New TSDS SPEDS Collection
Data Collection Instrument	Eight questions were answered based on a review of the student's IEP. Seven questions required a Yes or No response, and one question required a Yes, No, or NA response. The results were then manually entered for each student into the TEAL SPP application.	Eight transition questions will be embedded within the SIS or IEP/SPED system and will be answered as part of the IEP workflow. LEAs will need to establish local policies and work with their SIS and/or SPED vendors to ensure timely and accurate data submission to

		TSDS. LEAs will also need to ensure their IEP/SPED software communicates with the SIS so that data will be automatically pushed to TSDS via API.
		Additional guidance for systems integration challenges: If the IEP/SPED system cannot communicate directly with the SIS, LEAs will need to work with both vendors to establish data integration protocols or implement alternative data transfer methods. This may include manual data exports/imports, file transfers, or third-party integration solutions to ensure SPPI 13 data reaches TSDS through the SIS.
Staff Capacity	ARD meetings were held to address transition requirements in the IEPs. Subsequently, LEAs generated a list of students and reviewed their IEPs for transition requirements using an 8-item checklist. The results were then manually entered into the TEAL SPP application.	After the IEP is finalized and the ARD committee will ensure compliance with all IEP requirements, SPPI 13 data will be automatically transmitted from the SIS or IEP platform to TSDS via API. This will eliminate the need for LEAs to manually enter SPPI 13 data into a separate data collection system.
Data Validation	There was limited data validation functionality because TEAL only ensured that all fields were completed; it did not verify whether students were reported according to the required identification and inclusion processes.	TSDS will include near real-time error checks with data validation feedback. This will ensure higher data quality compared to the unvalidated entry fields in TEAL.

4. Compliance and Reporting

This section compares how compliance is calculated and reported in both the legacy TEAL SPP application and the new TSDS SPEDS submission.

Key Area	Legacy (Old System) TEAL SPP Application	New TSDS SPEDS Collection
Compliance Verification	Verified by auditing finalized IEPs after ARD meetings using the Data Collection Guidance document and an optional checklist. Verification occurred after-the-fact via folder review.	TSDS will verify the presence of a valid response for all required data elements transmitted via API by the SIS or IEP software.
Compliance Calculation	Once entered in the SPP application, the system calculated student and LEA compliance.	Compliance will be calculated by TSDS for all eligible students.
Federal Compliance	Did not meet OSEP requirements due to the use of student selection.	SPPI 13 in TSDS will meet federal expectations by including all eligible students in data collection.
Reporting	LEAs accessed compliance rates within the TEAL application after data were certified. Only then could district- and state-level compliance reports be displayed.	LEAs will access SPPI 13 reports through the TSDS core application, enabling near real-time data tracking and student-level compliance monitoring at the campus, LEA, region, and state levels throughout the school year—not just after the deadline when data submission has been "Completed."

5. System Design and Support

This section highlights system-level differences and customer support processes between both the legacy TEAL SPP application and the new TSDS SPEDS submission.

Key Area	Legacy (Old System) TEAL SPP Application	New TSDS SPEDS Collection
System Integration	TEAL operated as a standalone application with no integration with other indicators or systems.	TSDS will support a unified data submission model with improved data quality and integrity. The system will use data validation rules to prevent data completion if fatal errors occur. TSDS will integrate SPPI 7 (Early Childhood Outcomes), SPPI 11 and 12 (Child Find), and SPPI 13, enabling more robust evaluation of LEAs' timely,

		valid, and reliable data as federally required.
Efficiency & Automation	The process was manual and time-consuming with a higher staff workload.	Streamlined, automated processes will minimize staff burden. Data collection will occur during the IEP workflow based on ARD committee agreement and will support near real-time compliance tracking through TSDS reports at the student, campus, LEA, region, and state levels.
Customer Support	LEAs submitted questions via email to the SPP mailbox; there was no ticket tracking or near real-time documentation.	LEAs will contact their [ESCs for support](#) and submit a TSDS Incident Management System (TIMS) ticket for issue communication, tracking, resolution, and documentation.

Acronym List

- API – Application Programming Interface
- ARD – Admission, Review, and Dismissal
- ESC – Education Service Center
- FFY – Federal Fiscal Year
- FRE – Federally Required Element
- IDEA – Individuals with Disabilities Education Act
- IEP – Individualized Education Program
- IODS – Individual Operational Data Stores
- LEA – Local Educational Agency
- OSEP – Office of Special Education Programs
- SEA – State Education Agency
- SIS – Student Information System
- SPED – Special Education
- SPEDS – Special Education Data System
- SPP – State Performance Plan
- SPPI – State Performance Plan Indicator
- TEAL – Texas Education Agency Login
- TEA – Texas Education Agency
- TIMS – TSDS Incident Management System
- TSDS – Texas Student Data System

Summary

The transition from the TEAL-based SPPI 13 application to the TSDS SPEDS Submission reflects a fundamental shift in both how and when compliance is verified. By embedding the collection into ARD committee workflows and the IEP process, Texas is aligning with federal requirements, reducing local data burden, and ensuring near real-time data tracking.[1]

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[1] *Near real-time data tracking* refers to the process whereby LEAs transmit or push data to the state education agency (SEA) through an API with minimal delay.