



SPECIAL EDUCATION RESOURCE LEADS

Special Education Resource Leads (SERLs) build the capacity of local educational agencies (LEAs) to improve special education outcomes, strengthen systems, and ensure equitable access for all students.

Findings show the share of respondents who agreed or strongly agreed, unless the statement says otherwise.

2026 SURVEY AT A GLANCE

320

SERL staff responded

73%

response rate

58

of 58 counties represented

FACILITATING PARTNERSHIPS

87% Their SERL helped facilitate trusting relationships among COEs, LEAs, and local partners.

80% Felt safe and comfortable going to their SERL for assistance and support on complex special education challenges.

BUILDING CAPACITY

84% Their SERL provided access to high-quality professional learning that met the needs of their LEA.

80% Their SERL provided technical assistance to support implementation of special education practices and compliance.

CONTINUOUS IMPROVEMENT

76% Their SERL supports ongoing implementation of evidence-based practices and data-driven decision making.

70% Said their SERL helps monitor progress in improving special education outcomes for students with disabilities.

UNIVERSAL & TARGETED SUPPORT

82% Their SERL's work with the Geographic Lead is helpful in building capacity to support LEAs.

78% Their SERL provides resources and training to help LEAs address systemic challenges and improve outcomes.



WHAT THE WORK LOOKS LIKE

- Supporting LEAs with special education policy and compliance
- Providing high-quality professional learning and technical assistance
- Building data systems and evidence-based practices
- Partnering with COEs, LEAs, and families to remove barriers and improve student outcomes