

CHRONOLOGY OF THE AGENDA ITEM  
RFP 26-736 Special Education Comprehensive Audit

This agenda chronology is intended to provide the Board with additional context regarding the rationale, scope, and anticipated benefits of conducting a comprehensive independent audit of the Department of Exceptional Education's Office of Special Education.

**Why is this Audit Needed?**

The DeKalb County School District serves a large and diverse population of students with disabilities and is committed to ensuring that all students receive a Free Appropriate Public Education (FAPE) in accordance with the Individuals with Disabilities Education Act (IDEA) and other applicable federal and state requirements. The proposed audit is designed to provide an objective, independent evaluation of the district's special education programs, operations, compliance practices, and service delivery systems. The audit will support continuous improvement efforts by identifying strengths, opportunities for enhancement, emerging risks, and areas where additional efficiencies or supports may be warranted.

**What Will the Audit Examine?**

The comprehensive audit will evaluate multiple aspects of the district's special education system, including:

- Instructional practices and implementation of services for students with disabilities.
- Compliance with federal, state, and local special education laws and regulations.
- Departmental governance, organizational structure, and operational effectiveness.
- Policies, procedures, and internal controls.
- Service delivery models and staffing practices.
- Fiscal management, budgeting, and use of special education funds.
- Data systems, accountability measures, and monitoring practices.
- Risk areas that may impact compliance, quality of services, and student outcomes.

The selected vendor will conduct document reviews, data analyses, stakeholder interviews, focus groups, and operational reviews to provide an evidence-based assessment of the district's special education program.

**What Are the Benefits to the District?**

The comprehensive audit is expected to provide significant value to the district by:

- Delivering an independent and objective assessment of current practices and performance.
- Identifying strengths that can be replicated and scaled across the district.

- Highlighting gaps, risks, and opportunities for improvement.
- Providing practical and actionable recommendations to improve compliance, operational efficiency, service delivery, and student outcomes.
- Increasing transparency and accountability through data-informed decision-making.
- Developing an implementation roadmap with measurable performance indicators to guide future improvements.
- Informing strategic planning, resource allocation, and long-term decision-making related to Exceptional **Education services and supports.**

### **Expected** Outcomes

Upon completion, the Board and district leadership will receive a comprehensive audit report, findings presentation, and implementation roadmap outlining prioritized recommendations for short-, mid-, and long-term improvements. The audit will support the district's ongoing commitment to excellence, compliance, educational equity, and improved outcomes for students with disabilities.

Fiscal Impact: \$176,700 as outlined in the procurement recommendation and associated RFP process.