
Accreditation, Good News, Exit 2017 Survey Results, Special Needs Students

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Members of the Accreditation CEAS Team (ACT),

Hello! I have good news. **The results of our Spring 2017 internal survey of exiting candidates shows that we are doing a better job of preparing our completers to work with students who receive special education services.**

As we have done for the last four years, our Spring 2017 exiting candidates completed a survey on their mobile devices. As you might recall, the results of the 2014 survey were less than we hoped in regards to the perception our exiting candidates in their ability to teach students who receive special education services.

Item 2 on the survey, reads "How well prepared are you to provide services to children who receive special education services? There are four possible responses: (1) well prepared, (2) adequately prepared, (3) somewhat prepared, and (4) not at all prepared.

For analysis, we summed the responses for "well prepared" and "adequately prepared."

For the 2014 Spring exiting candidates, across all programs, **65%** responded that they were either "well prepared" or "adequately prepared." And, we decided we could do better.

Thus, in the Fall of 2014, ACT defined a Unit Improvement Objective in response to these results: "Develop program-specific plans to increase the number of exiting candidates who consider themselves to be well or adequately prepared to provide services that help children who receive special education services." And, both the Unit and the program made it a priority to improve and we took action.

The results were better in 2015 and 2016, each year **75%** responded that they were well or adequately prepared (a 10% improvement over the 2014 results).

341 exiting candidates answered item #2 . . . and 271 responded that they were well or adequately prepared to provide services to children who receive special education services. That is 79% !!! Our best results ever and 14 % points higher than 2014. Of course, we can still do better, but this is real progress.

Thank you!

Jim Zarrillo