



## OSEP: What is it?

The Office of Special Education Programs (OSEP) is dedicated to improving results for infants, toddlers, children and youth with disabilities ages birth through 26 by providing leadership and financial support to assist states and local districts.

The Individuals with Disabilities Education Act (IDEA) authorizes formula grants to states, and discretionary grants to institutions of higher education and other non-profit organizations to support research, demonstrations, technical assistance and dissemination, technology and personnel development and parent-training and information centers.

Georgia's parent-training information center is **Parent to Parent of GA**. OSEP is the government department which originated and monitors the survey project. The Georgia Department of Education, Division for Special Education, works with OSEP to administer and track the survey response data.



Visit **OSEP** on the web.



## From the Source

**Steve Cramer** is the Associate Director, Sr. Academic Professional for the **Georgia Center for Assessment**. The Georgia Center for Assessment is the administrator of the Parent Satisfaction surveys.

### ***How can Georgia Schools benefit from participating in the OSEP parent satisfaction surveys?***

Some of the ways are direct, some indirect. It is always useful to have parent feedback on what a school is doing for SWDs and their parents.

Since each of the items on the survey is reported separately, it's possible to pat yourself on the back for some of them, and recognize that there's work to be done on others. Also, the data collection process itself seems to result in schools, Parent Mentors and parents communicating more with each other, and that's always a good thing.

### ***What does your office do and why is your department involved in the surveys?***

Georgia Center for Assessment has been working with the state testing programs since 1984: CRT, BST, Writing, GKAP-R, GAA, GKIDS, and now CRCT-M, the new CRCT for SWDs.

We have also done a lot of survey research for such groups as SREB, Cobb County, GAE, and many others. Thus, when the Special Education Division was looking for a contractor who had experience with large scale data collection and analysis, they took the advice of the Testing Division and came to us.