

## Evaluation of Preschool Special Education Practices (EPSEP)

### Responses to Public Comment for 1850-0916

1. The evaluation project, Evaluation of Preschool Special Education Practices, is a needed study. My comment is on the impact evaluation of the study. It was not clear if the study was using a comparative design to assess impact. Given the expense incurred and the focus of IES on understanding outcomes (not to mention the increased emphasis of strong research designs when evaluating intervention programs), it is strongly recommended that a strong comparative design be used to assess impacts on both children with and without disabilities.

RESPONSE: We appreciate and agree with your comments. We are pleased to clarify that the impact evaluation does use a comparative design. We will be randomly assigning schools to either a treatment group (which will implement IEP<sub>M</sub>) or a control group (which will continue its usual instruction). The study's impact findings will be based on the difference in outcomes between the treatment and control groups.