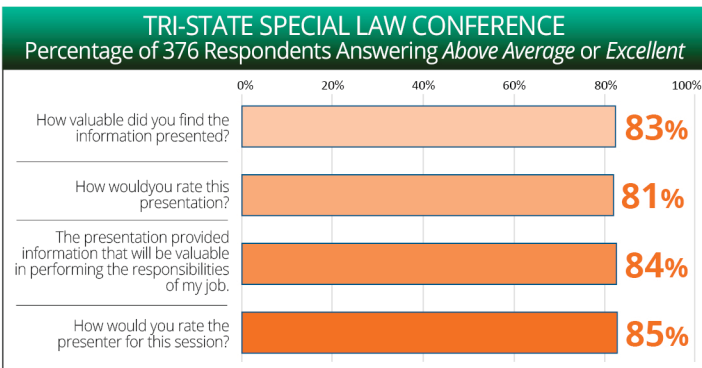


In collaboration with the **Kansas State Department of Education (KSDE)**, the **Center for Technical Assistance for Excellence in Special Education (TAESE)** provides the Capacity Development Project. Through this project, TAESE supports Kansas mediators, complaint investigators, due process hearing officers, KSDE staff, and state and local school district administrators and practitioners to maintain and increase their understanding of special education law and related issues necessary for them to perform their respective roles.

## BUILDING CAPACITY THROUGH PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT

TAESE assisted with the planning, facilitation, implementation, and evaluation of the annual Tri-State Special Education Law Conference. The first conference was held in 2003 and had 186 participants, while, in November 2021, the 19th annual conference had 975 virtual registrants from Nebraska, Iowa, and Kansas. Participants were provided with the option to review recordings outside of the conference schedule, leading to 12,530 views across the 12 sessions. Of the 376 responses to an evaluation survey, 83% rated the overall conference as above average or excellent and 85% rated the presenters as above average or excellent.

*The Tri-State  
Special Education Law  
Conference sessions  
were viewed  
**12,530** times!*



TAESE facilitated three dispute resolution workgroups to improve and maintain an effective and efficient dispute resolution system as part of IDEA general supervision responsibilities. The workgroups included due process hearing officers, mediators, and complaint investigators. In addition to supporting the dispute resolution workgroups, TAESE also created and maintains the National Resource Center for

*"Everything presented at this conference was useful! I enjoyed the summaries of the court cases and the variety of topics that were covered."*  
— Conference Participant

Paraeducators (NCRP). During 2021–22, NCRP provided interactive professional development training and resources for paraeducators across 33 states, including Kansas.

## EXPANDING ACCESS TO SCHOOL-BASED SIGN LANGUAGE INTERPRETERS

TAESE coordinates the TASK12 Assessment for school-based sign language interpreters to improve services and outcomes for children and youth who are deaf or hard of hearing. As part of this service, TAESE administers a valid and research-based educational interpreter performance assessment to eligible school-based sign language interpreters in Kansas and facilitates a multi-state TASK12 Advisory Board. During the 2021–22 school year, 14 Kansas interpreters completed the TASK12 Assessment.

## ANALYZING DATA TO INFORM DECISIONS

TAESE, in collaboration with Data Driven Enterprises, supported the KSDE by collecting, analyzing, and reporting data for Indicators 4, 8, 9, 10, and 14 within the Kansas State Performance Plan. Highlights of this technical assistance included interviewing 397 former students, guardians, parents, and others to determine post-school outcomes. TAESE also analyzed data from 1,274 parent surveys. Results indicate the parents of students with IEPs feel encouraged to participate in the decision-making process.

In May 2022, a survey was disseminated to KSDE staff. Four individuals provided feedback by rating the effectiveness of the TAESE project, with 100% of respondents saying the project is working very well when it comes to:

- Responding in a timely manner;
- Providing information/data in an easily interpretable manner;
- Collaborating to ensure that the work (e.g., products, processes, and data) meets the needs of the KSDE;
- Collaborating to ensure that the work meets the needs of the KSDE;
- Collaborating to ensure that the work meets the needs of the district(s)

