About GAO:

The U.S. Government Accountability Office (GAO) is an independent, nonpartisan agency that works for Congress. Often called the "congressional watchdog," GAO investigates how the federal government spends taxpayer dollars and runs programs. GAO's work leads to laws and acts that improve government operations, saving the government and taxpayers billions of dollars.

About Questions for the CASE BOARD:

- 1. What (if anything) have you heard from your membership on how burdensome IDEA paperwork is on for them? Has this changed over time?
- 2. Are you aware of any states or school districts that are using the "model forms" that the Department of Education was required to develop following the 2004 reauthorization of IDEA? (IEP, consent, and procedural safeguards) What are some reasons why they may have chosen not to adopt them?
- 3. How did your members react to the pilot programs that were included in the 2004 reauthorization (i.e., multi-year IEPs, paperwork waivers)?
- 4. Are there any IDEA paperwork requirements that you believe to be unnecessary, or overly burdensome? If so, which ones and why?
- 5. Are you aware of any "model practices" for streamlining paperwork? (e.g., use of software, use of goal-banks for IEP formulation, IEP amendment or processing methods, etc.)
- 6. We are considering using focus groups or structured interviews with stakeholder groups as a key method for this review. Would any of your members be interested in participating?
- 7. Are there any associations representing other stakeholders that we should contact?

About the "GAO Small Group Discussions" – 3 sessions, must sign up at registration to participate—only room for 12 persons per session:

GAO is conducting small discussion groups about paperwork and administrative tasks associated with special education laws and regulations. These discussion groups will give participants the opportunity to share their views on federal, state, local requirements and the amount of work that goes into compliance and steps that might help professionals in managing this work. These discussions will inform an upcoming GAO report about paperwork and administrative requirements in special education requested by the Chairman and a majority member of the US House of Representatives Committee on Education and the Workforce. Space is limited.

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