



**Chapter 501
of the Laws of New York, 2012**

*“Protection of People with
Special Needs Act”*



Key Elements of the Legislation:

- Establishes the Justice Center for the Protection of People with Special Needs
- Creates standard definitions of abuse, neglect and significant incidents in covered facilities and schools
- Increases criminal penalties for individuals with substantiated cases of abuse or neglect
- Promotes transparency and information sharing among state oversight agencies and impacted stakeholders



Primary Objectives of the Justice Center

- Operate a centralized statewide 24-hour hotline and incident reporting system staffed by trained personnel
- Maintain a centralized register that contains the names of individuals found responsible for egregious or repeated acts of abuse or neglect
- Establish Codes of Conduct to ensure staff who work with individuals acknowledge their responsibility to support the safety, dignity and welfare of those they serve.
- Institute common standards for investigations of alleged abuse and neglect and establish training curricula for investigators
- Analyze abuse patterns and trends in order to prevent future occurrences
- Consolidate Background Check Functions



Implications for SED

- Develop and implement revised regulations
 - It is anticipated that emergency regulations will come before the Board of Regents in June
- Establish internal procedures and capacity to implement new requirements:
 - Track and monitor corrective actions of substantiated abuse and neglect findings
 - Investigate and monitor corrective action plans for significant incidents in residential schools
 - Assist in the delivery of information and training materials to mandated reporters, residential schools and other stakeholders



Schools Subject to the Law

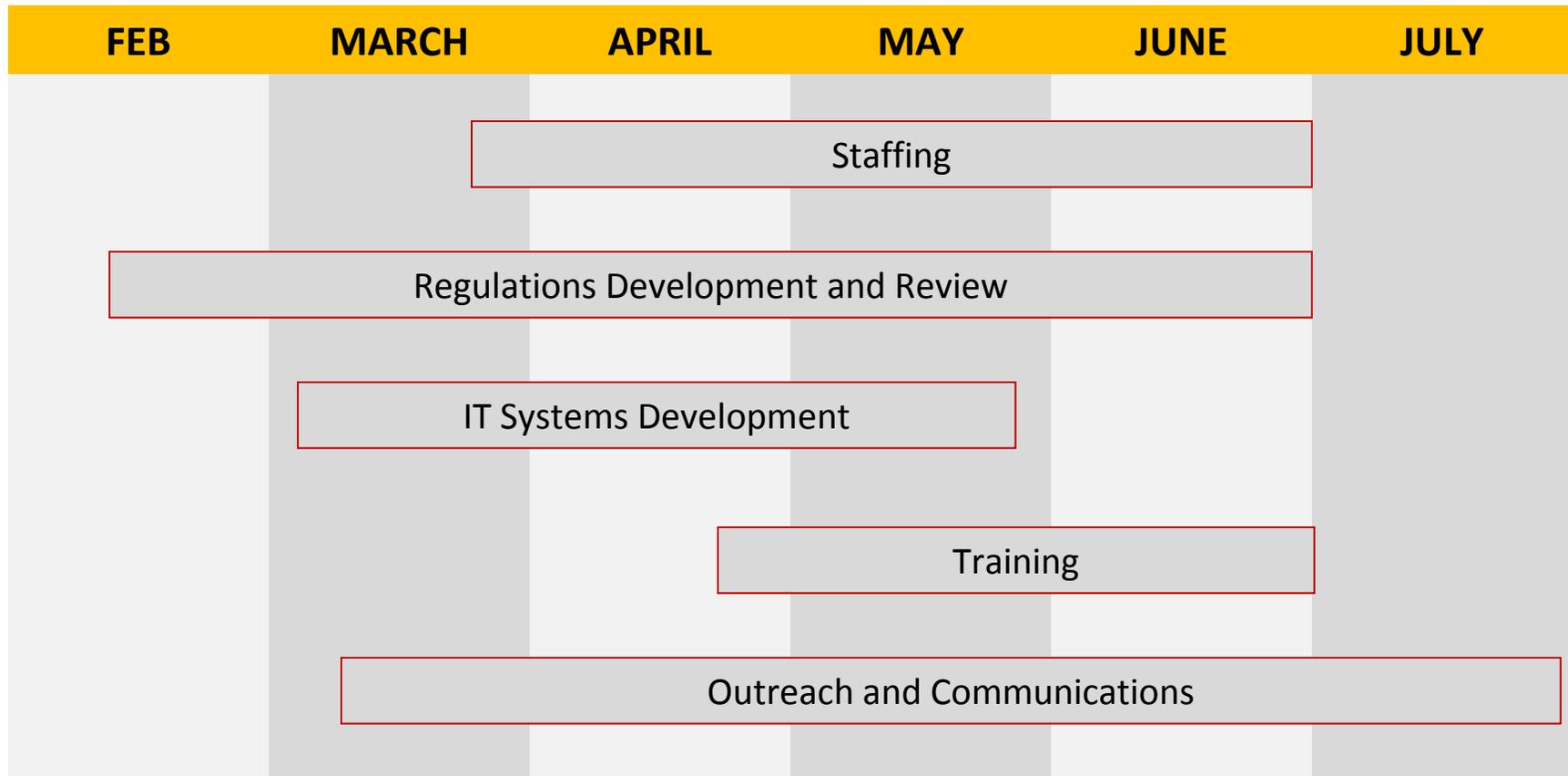
- New York State School for the Blind and the New York State School for the Deaf (2)
- Institutions for the Instruction of the Blind and Deaf (also known as 4201 Schools) which have a residential component (4)
- Approved Private Schools for Students with Disabilities (also known as 853 Schools) which have a residential component (53)
- Special Act School Districts (10)
- Out-of-State Approved Residential Schools (22)



Implications for Schools

- Establish incident management procedures and incident review committees
- When directed, conduct investigations of certain significant incidents
- Revise hiring and employee termination procedures
- Train staff on Chapter 501 requirements
- Enforce the Code of Conduct created by the Justice Center

Steps to Prepare for Implementation





Thank You