

ENCLOSURE D

ALTERNATE ASSESSMENT SPECIAL CONDITIONS

1. Basis for Requiring Special Conditions

The requirements that States ensure that children with disabilities participate in State and district-wide assessment systems; develop and administer alternate assessments, if necessary; and report publicly on the participation and performance of children with disabilities in State and district-wide assessments are crucial to ensuring that children with disabilities are provided access to high-quality instruction in the general curriculum, and that States and districts are held accountable for the progress of these children. 20 U.S.C. 1412(a)(16)-(17); 34 CFR §§300.137-300.139. The requirements regarding performance goals and indicators and the participation of children with disabilities in, and reporting on participation and performance of children with disabilities in regular assessments have been in effect since July 1, 1998; the requirements regarding reporting on alternate assessments have been in effect since July 1, 2000. According to the information reported to the Department in the Puerto Rico Department of Education's (PRDE) Biennial Performance Report for the 2000-2001 school year, PRDE has not developed and administered alternate assessments, if necessary and is not reporting publicly, and to the Secretary, on the participation and performance of children with disabilities on alternate assessments as required by Part B of the Individuals with Disabilities Education Act (IDEA).

Therefore, Puerto Rico has not complied with all the terms and conditions of the Federal Fiscal Year 2001 awards under Part B of IDEA. Under the authority of the Education Department General Administrative Regulations, 34 CFR §80.12, the Department is imposing these Special Conditions on Puerto Rico's Federal Fiscal Year 2002 awards under Part B of the IDEA.

2. Nature of the Special Conditions

By May 30, 2003, PRDE must demonstrate that it has developed and administered alternate assessments, if necessary and is reporting publicly, and to the Secretary, on the participation and performance of children with disabilities on alternate assessments as required at 20 U.S.C. 1412(a)(16)-(17); 34 CFR §§300.137-300.139.

a. By September 30, 2002, PRDE will submit a plan detailing the steps and timelines for developing and administering alternate assessments, if necessary, and reporting publicly, and to the Secretary, on the participation and performance of children with disabilities on alternate assessments by May 30, 2003. The plan must ensure that students with disabilities, including students who take the alternate assessment, are assessed in the same grades as non-disabled students and that the results of their assessments are reported in the same frequency and detail as non-disabled students.

b. PRDE will submit progress reports on November 29, 2002, January 31, 2003, March 28, 2003 and the final submission due on May 30, 2003. The final submission that includes information on reporting publicly on the participation and performance of children with disabilities on alternate assessments is to be submitted on the Biennial Performance Report

format provided by OSEP. (This format is available at <http://www.ed.gov/offices/OSERS/OSEP/Monitoring/>).

3. Evidence Necessary for Conditions To Be Removed

The Department will remove the special conditions if, at any time prior to the expiration of the grant year, PRDE provides documentation, satisfactory to the Department, that it has fully met the requirements to develop and administer alternate assessments, if necessary, and to report publicly, and to the Secretary, on the participation and performance of children with disabilities on alternate assessments. This information is to be submitted on the Biennial Performance Report format provided by OSEP. (This format is available at <http://www.ed.gov/offices/OSERS/OSEP/Monitoring/>).

4. Method of Requesting Reconsideration

At any time, PRDE may request reconsideration of the above special conditions by contacting Assistant Secretary Robert H. Pasternack and stating reasons why PRDE believes particular conditions are no longer needed. Additionally, the Department may impose additional special conditions or modify these special conditions as appropriate. The Department will remove the special conditions at such time as PRDE meets, to the Department's satisfaction, the conditions mentioned above.

5. Submission of Reports

All reports that are required to be submitted by PRDE to the Department under the Special Conditions should be submitted to:

Dr. Gregory Corr
US Department of Education
330 C. Street SW, Room 3622
Washington, DC 20202