



OSEP

Office of Special Education Programs

DIFFERENTIATED MONITORING AND SUPPORT SYSTEM

What is the Differentiated Monitoring and Support (DMS) System?

DMS is an important component of the Office of Special Education Programs' (OSEP) Results Driven Accountability (RDA) system.

OSEP designed DMS to mitigate potential risks and to help OSEP use its resources wisely.

How does OSEP use DMS?

OSEP uses DMS to:

- Fulfill its responsibility to monitor grantees
- Differentiate its level of monitoring and support
- Address State-specific needs
- Allocate its resources

What areas does the DMS review?

DMS focus areas for every State include quantitative and qualitative reviews of:

- Results
- Compliance
- State Systemic Improvement Plan (SSIP)
- Fiscal

What does OSEP do with the DMS review?

OSEP uses DMS to determine the levels of engagement States need in each focus area.

The three levels of engagement are:

- Universal
 - Available to all States
 - Includes webinars, National Technical Assistance (TA) calls, Q-and-A documents and other guidance documents
- Targeted
 - Offered individually or in small groups
 - Technical assistance and/or monitoring focused on a discrete issue
- Intensive
 - Required for a small number of States
 - Sustained and in-depth engagement



What is in the DMS Notices?

OSEP sends Part B State Directors or Part C Coordinators a DMS notice that includes:

- A narrative that explains the DMS process
- The level of engagement in each of the four areas
- The major factors that led to a targeted or intensive level of engagement, if applicable
- Technical assistance already being accessed by the State
- Additional technical assistance proposed

What does it mean if my State has one or more targeted or intensive levels of engagement?

The level of engagement represents potential risk to the Department, not the level of compliance or performance of the State.

Some of the factors OSEP considers are structural and outside of a State's control.

For example, the size of a State's grant is considered because a concern in a very large grant represents a bigger potential risk for the Department than a small grant.

The DMS process is designed to mitigate potential risk and to help us use our resources wisely. An intensive level of engagement means that OSEP has determined the State would benefit from a greater level of attention and support from OSEP, to identify potential problems and help improve performance.

What will the engagement look like?

Activities will differ based on the focus area and the level of engagement. OSEP and the State will collaboratively determine specific activities based on State context and the level of engagement.

Intensive fiscal and compliance engagements may include monitoring that could result in findings of noncompliance with required actions.

Results and SSIP engagements will be technical assistance activities designed to increase States' capacity to improve outcomes for infants, toddlers, children and youth with disabilities.

Will the activities be onsite or virtual?

It depends. The level of OSEP's engagement does not determine the engagement location.

The nature of the engagement and the circumstances of the State will determine if DMS activities are best performed onsite or through virtual meetings. Consideration will be given to the most effective and efficient use of OSEP's resources.

Will there be a written report?

OSEP will issue a written report covering any area that received an intensive level of engagement within 120 days of the end of the engagement activity.

