



UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION
OFFICE OF SPECIAL EDUCATION AND REHABILITATIVE SERVICES

June 8, 2018

Honorable Christopher Ruskowski
Secretary of Education
New Mexico Public Education Department
300 Don Gaspar Avenue
Santa Fe, New Mexico 87501-2786

Dear Secretary Ruskowski:

The purpose of this correspondence is to provide a summary of the monitoring and support activities conducted by the Office of Special Education Programs (OSEP) for the New Mexico Public Education Department (NMPED) during the July 10 and 11, 2017 on-site visit. In 2016, OSEP began providing differentiated monitoring and support (DMS) to States as part of its Results Driven Accountability (RDA) framework. Under RDA, OSEP made a shift from monitoring based solely on compliance to monitoring and support focused on both compliance and improving results for students with disabilities. OSEP differentiates its approach for each State based on the State's unique strengths, progress, challenges, and needs.

With the DMS process, OSEP conducts an organizational assessment (OA) of risk factors to identify States' progress in meeting performance standards and compliance with the legal requirements of the Individuals with Disabilities Education Act, the Education Department General Administrative Regulations and the Uniform Administrative Requirements, Cost Principles, and Audit Requirements for Federal Awards. OSEP uses the information from the OA and an Engagement Decision Tree to make designations of universal, targeted, or intensive monitoring and support (DMS) for the fiscal year. The 2016 DMS areas were: 1) results; 2) compliance; 3) State Systemic Improvement Plan (SSIP); 4) dispute resolution (special focus area); and 5) fiscal.

On October 19, 2016, OSEP sent Denise Koscielniak, New Mexico's Federal Programs Director, the DMS notice for New Mexico. That notice provided a designation of universal, targeted, or intensive engagement in each of five areas: results, compliance, SSIP, dispute resolution, and fiscal. The information in the notice was based on FFY 2015 data in the five areas, along with information about the factors contributing to elevated needs, the support your State has accessed, your State's capacity to improve results and compliance, and additional contextual information. We have attached a copy of the DMS notice for your convenience.

As part of the engagement, OSEP discussed issues related to fiscal requirements. Attached is a summary, for the fiscal area of the engagement provided by OSEP during the monitoring and support activity. If OSEP identified findings of noncompliance with IDEA requirements, you will find specific instructions, within the attachments for each DMS area, regarding corrective actions the State must take to address the noncompliance.

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The Department of Education's mission is to promote student achievement and preparedness for global competitiveness by fostering educational excellence and ensuring equal access.

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We appreciate your efforts to improve results for students with disabilities. If you have any questions, please contact Marion Crayton, your OSEP State Lead, at (202) 245-6474.

Sincerely,

/s/

Ruth E. Ryder

Acting Director

Office of Special Education Programs

cc: State Director of Special Education

Attachments