



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

**May 1, 2017**

Honorable Paolo DeMaria  
Superintendent of Public Instruction  
Ohio Department of Education  
26 South Front Street  
Columbus, Ohio

Dear Superintendent DeMaria:

The purpose of this letter and attachment is to provide a summary of the monitoring activities conducted by the Office of Special Education Programs (OSEP) to the Ohio Department of Education (ODE) during the week of September 19, 2016. In 2016, OSEP began providing differentiated monitoring and support (DMS) to States as part of its Results Driven Accountability System (RDA). 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 (IDEA), the Education Department General Administrative Regulations (EDGAR) 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 for the fiscal year. The 2016 DMS areas were: 1) results; 2) compliance; 3) dispute resolution (Special Focus Area); and 4) fiscal.

On April 26, 2016, OSEP sent Dr. Sue Zake, Director, Office for Exceptional Children, the DMS notice for Ohio. That notice provided a designation of universal, targeted, or intensive in four areas: results, compliance, dispute resolution, and fiscal. The information in the notice was based on FFY 2013 data in the four 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 enclosed a copy of the DMS notice for your convenience.

Based on information in your State's DMS notice, OSEP conducted a fiscal DMS visit in Ohio. Enclosed is the Fiscal Monitoring Inventory that was developed based on the information provided and interviews conducted by OSEP during the DMS visit. As OSEP identified findings of noncompliance with IDEA and EDGAR requirements, you will find specific instructions, within the attachments, regarding corrective actions and timelines the State must take to address the noncompliance. If you have any questions regarding the DMS visit or the required corrective

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actions, please contact Daniel Schreier, Ohio's Fiscal Accountability Facilitator at Daniel.schreier@ed.gov or (202) 245-6552.

Finally, OSEP would like to thank Dr. Zake and her staff for their cooperation and collaboration with OSEP before, during and after the DMS visit. OSEP appreciates Ohio's efforts to improve results for children with disabilities.

Sincerely,

/s/

Ruth E. Ryder

Acting Director

Office of Special Education Programs

cc: Dr. Sue Zake, Director, Office for Exceptional Children

Enclosures