

Office of Special Education Programs (OSEP) Fiscal Monitoring Instrument

Vermont Agency of Education (VAE)

Scope of Review:

The Office of Special Education Programs (OSEP) monitored the Vermont Agency of Education (VAE) procedures for ensuring compliance with the fiscal components of the Individuals with Disabilities Education Act (IDEA) and other related Federal fiscal requirements. In performing this review, OSEP reviewed publicly available information, State-submitted documentation, and Office of Management and Budget Circular A-133 and Office of Inspector General audits, and conducted both on-site and telephone interviews with State staff.

Please note the following abbreviations are used in the Fiscal Monitoring Instrument:

AMI – The American Recovery and Reinvestment Act (ARRA) of 2009 Monitoring Inventory

CrEAG – Critical Elements Analysis Guide

EDGAR – Education Department General Administrative Regulations

FFY – Federal Fiscal Year

FS – fiscal systems element of the CrEAG

GEPA – General Education Provisions Act

LEA – local educational agency

MFS – maintenance of financial support

SEA – State educational agency

**IDEA Part B
Summary of Monitoring Criterion**

Monitoring Area 1, IDEA Part B: Obligation/Liquidation

Criterion Number	Description	Noncompliance identified?	Applicable Requirements
Criterion 1.1	The SEA has procedures to allocate the IDEA section 611 and section 619 subgrants to eligible LEAs based upon the correct formula.	N	34 CFR §§300.200, 300.705(a)-(b), 300.815-300.816
Criterion 1.2	The SEA has procedures to ensure that LEAs are provided 27 months to obligate funds.	N	34 CFR §76.709(a)
Criterion 1.3	The SEA has procedures to obligate funds solely during the 27 month period of availability and liquidate funds not later than 90 days after the end of the funding period or an extension of that timeline authorized by the Department.	N	34 CFR §§76.703, 76.709, 80.23
Criterion 1.4	The SEA has procedures to ensure that LEAs obligate funds solely during the 27 month period of availability and liquidate funds not later than 90 days after the end of the funding period or an extension of that timeline authorized by the Department.	N	34 CFR §§76.709, 80.23
Criterion 1.5	The SEA has procedures to reallocate IDEA section 611 and section 619 subgrants, when appropriate, consistent with the regulations.	N	34 CFR §§300.705(c), 300.817
Criterion 1.6	The SEA has procedures to draw down funds based on immediate needs; any interest accrued by the SEA or LEAs in excess of \$100 per year per account is returned to the Department.	N	34 CFR §80.21(c)&(i)

Finding: None

Monitoring Area 2, IDEA Part B: Use of Funds

Criterion Number	Description	Noncompliance identified?	Applicable Requirement
Criterion 2.1	The SEA has procedures to ensure that funds are expended in accordance with the requirements of the IDEA Part B.	N	34 CFR §§300.162(a), 300.202(a)(1)
Criterion 2.2	The SEA has procedures to ensure that LEAs use IDEA funds only to pay the excess costs of providing special education and related services to children with disabilities in accordance with IDEA.	N	34 CFR §§300.16, 300.202(a)(2)
Criterion 2.3	The SEA has procedures to ensure that LEAs spend the required amount on providing special education and related services to parentally-placed private school children with disabilities.	N	34 CFR §300.133
Criterion 2.4	The SEA has procedures to provide an approved restricted indirect cost rate (RICR) for its LEAs.	N	34 CFR §§76.560-76.569
Criterion 2.5	The SEA has procedures to provide IDEA funds to LEA charter schools in accordance with IDEA and EDGAR.	N	34 CFR §§76.788-76.797, 300.209(c), 300.705(a)-(b), 300.815-300.816
Criterion 2.6	The SEA has procedures to ensure that each LEA provides funds to charter schools that are part of the LEA in the same manner it provides funds to its other schools.	N	34 CFR §§76.799, 300.209(b)

Finding: None

Monitoring Area 3, IDEA Part B: ARRA

Criterion Number	Description	Noncompliance identified?	Applicable Requirement
Criterion 3.1	The SEA ensures that infrastructure investments are properly certified and posted.	N	ARRA §1511
Criterion 3.2	The SEA has procedures to ensure that LEAs comply with the “Buy American” requirements.	N	2 CFR §§176.60-176.170
Criterion 3.3	The SEA has procedures to ensure that LEAs comply with the prevailing wage requirements.	N	2 CFR §§176.180, 176.190
Criterion 3.4	The SEA has procedures to ensure that it prevents and detects fraud, waste, and abuse.	N	Inspector General Act of 1987 (P.L. 100-504)

Finding: None

Monitoring Area 4, IDEA Part B: Level of Effort

Criterion Number	Description	Noncompliance identified?	Applicable Requirement
Criterion 4.1	The State has procedures to calculate its financial support for special education and related services for children with disabilities in accordance with the IDEA.	N	34 CFR §300.163(a)
Criterion 4.2	The SEA has procedures to ensure that each LEA budgets, for the education of children with disabilities, at least the same amount as the LEA spent for that purpose in the most recent prior year for which information is available.	Y	34 CFR §300.203(b)
Criterion 4.3	The SEA has procedures to ensure that each LEA expends at least the same amount as it expended in the immediate prior year for the education of children with disabilities, unless the LEA has allowable exceptions or adjustments.	N	34 CFR §§300.203(a), 300.204-300.205

Criterion Number	Description	Noncompliance identified?	Applicable Requirement
Criterion 4.4	The SEA's procedures for reviewing LEA MOE consider each of the following ways to calculate MOE: total local funds; per capita local funds; total local and State funds; or per capita local and State funds. The SEA's procedures for reviewing LEA MOE find an LEA to have met MOE if the LEA met MOE based on one or more of those comparisons.	N	34 CFR §300.203(b)

Finding: Criterion 4.2:

During the AMI telephone interview conducted on January 5, 2012 and in an email dated January 17, 2013, the SEA reported that it was not ensuring, as part of its determination that an LEA is eligible for a Part B IDEA subgrant, that each LEA had met the eligibility standard for maintenance of effort (MOE), as provided in 34 CFR §300.203(b). The regulation in 34 CFR §300.203 includes both an eligibility standard and a compliance standard. This finding relates only to the eligibility standard.

Citation: Under 34 CFR §300.203(a), except as provided in 34 CFR §§300.204 and 300.205, funds provided to an LEA under Part B must not be used to reduce the level of expenditures for the education of children with disabilities made by the LEA from local funds below the level of those expenditures for the preceding fiscal year. The regulation in 34 CFR §300.203 includes both a standard to be used as part of determining an LEA's eligibility for an IDEA Part B subgrant (eligibility standard) and a separate standard for determining whether an LEA in fact spent as much local, or State and local, funds as required on the education of children with disabilities (compliance standard). Under the eligibility standard in 34 CFR §300.203(b)(1), the SEA must determine that an LEA has budgeted, for the education of children with disabilities, at least the same total or per capita amount of local, or State and local, funds as it spent for that purpose from the same source during the most recent prior year for which there is information available. Under 34 CFR §300.203(b)(2), if an LEA relies on local funds only to meet the eligibility standard, the LEA must budget for the education of children with disabilities at least the same total or per capita amount of local funds as it spent for that purpose in the most recent fiscal year for which information is available and for which the LEA met the MOE compliance standard based on local funds only.

Further Action Required: Within 60 days of the date of this letter, the State must submit to OSEP:

1. Revised State policies and procedures that demonstrate the SEA will ensure that each LEA budgets, for the education of children with disabilities, at least the same total or per capita amount of local, or State and local, funds as the LEA spent for that purpose from the same source in the most recent prior year for which information is available, consistent with 34 CFR §300.203(b)(1); and if an LEA relies on local funds only to meet the eligibility standard, the LEA budgets for the education of children with disabilities at least the same total or per capita amount of local funds as it spent for that purpose in the most recent fiscal year for which information is available and for which the LEA met the MOE compliance standard based on local funds only, consistent with 34 CFR §300.203(b)(2).

2. A copy of the correspondence in which the State has informed its State audit office that is responsible for conducting audits in accordance with the Single Audit Act and Office of Management and Budget (OMB) Circular A-133, of this finding of noncompliance and OSEP’s required corrective actions.

Within 30 days of OSEP’s notification to the State that it has approved the revisions made to the policies and procedures, the State must provide documentation that it has notified the LEAs of the revisions.

Monitoring Area 5, IDEA Part B: Procurement, Property, and Record Retention

Criterion Number	Description	Noncompliance identified?	Applicable Requirement
Criterion 5.1	The SEA obtains approval from the Department prior to using its State-level IDEA funds for equipment, construction, or alteration of facilities.	N	34 CFR §300.718
Criterion 5.2	The SEA has procedures to ensure that an LEA obtains its approval prior to using IDEA funds for equipment, construction, or alteration of facilities.	N	34 CFR §300.718
Criterion 5.3	The SEA has procedures to ensure that its procurement mechanisms, and those used by its LEAs, conform to applicable Federal law and State procurement rules.	N	34 CFR §80.36
Criterion 5.4	The SEA has procedures to ensure that each LEA maintains a physical inventory of property acquired with IDEA funds and conducts inventories to reconcile with property records at least once every two years.	N	34 CFR §80.32(d)(2)
Criterion 5.5	The SEA has procedures to ensure that it, and its LEAs, do not award or obligate funds to any party that has been debarred or suspended.	N	34 CFR §80.35
Criterion 5.6	The SEA has procedures to ensure it, and its LEAs, maintain financial and programmatic records for the period of time required by Federal law.	N	34 CFR §80.42

Finding: None

Monitoring Area 6, IDEA Part B: Fiscal Monitoring

Criterion Number	Description	Noncompliance identified?	Applicable Requirement
Criterion 6.1	The SEA has a reasonably designed system to monitor subgrantees to ensure compliance with applicable Federal fiscal requirements.	N	34 CFR §§80.26, 80.40, 300.149, 300.600

Finding: None