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

JUN - 3 2010

Honorable Tom Oster
Secretary
South Dakota Department of Education
700 Governors Drive
Pierre, South Dakota 57501-2291

Dear Secretary Oster:

Thank you for the timely submission of South Dakota's Federal fiscal year (FFY) 2008 Annual Performance Report (APR) and revised State Performance Plan (SPP) under Part B of the Individuals with Disabilities Education Act (IDEA).

The Department has determined that, under IDEA section 616(d)(2)(A)(i), South Dakota meets the requirements of Part B of IDEA. The Department's determination is based on the totality of the State's data and information, including the State's FFY 2008 APR and revised SPP, other State-reported data, and other publicly available information. See the enclosure entitled "How the Department Made Determinations under Section 616(d) of the IDEA in 2010: Part B" for further details.

Specific factors affecting the determination made by the Office of Special Education Programs (OSEP) that South Dakota meets requirements under IDEA section 616(d) include: (1) South Dakota provided valid and reliable FFY 2008 data reflecting the measurement for each indicator; and (2) South Dakota reported high levels of compliance or correction for Indicators 9, 10, 11, 12, 15, 16, 17, and 20. We commend South Dakota for its performance.

The enclosed table provides OSEP's analysis of the State's FFY 2008 APR and revised SPP and identifies, by indicator, OSEP's review of any revisions the State made to its targets, improvement activities (timelines and resources), and baseline data in the State's SPP. The table also identifies, by indicator: (1) the State's reported FFY 2008 data; (2) whether such data met the State's FFY 2008 targets and reflect progress or slippage from prior year's data; and (3) whether the State corrected findings of noncompliance.

As you know, pursuant to IDEA section 616(b)(2)(C)(ii)(l) and 34 CFR §300.602(b)(1)(i)(A), your State must report annually to the public on the performance of each local educational agency (LEA) located in the State on the targets in the SPP as soon as practicable, but no later than June 1, 2010. In addition, your State must: (1) review LEA performance against targets in the State's SPP; (2) determine if each LEA "meets requirements" of Part B, or "needs assistance," "needs intervention," or "needs substantial intervention" in implementing Part B of the IDEA; (3) take appropriate enforcement action; and (4) inform each LEA of its determination. 34 CFR §300.600(a)(2) and (3). For further information regarding these requirements, see the SPP/APR Calendar at: http://spp-apr-calendar.rrfcnetwork.org/explorer/view/id/656. Finally, if your State included revisions to baseline, targets or improvement activities in its APR submission, and OSEP accepted those revisions, please ensure that your SPP is updated accordingly and that the updated SPP is posted on the State's website and made available to the public, consistent with 34 CFR §300.602(b)(1)(i)(B).

OSEP is committed to supporting South Dakota's efforts to improve results for children and youth with disabilities and looks forward to working with your State over the next year. If you have any questions, would like to discuss this further, or want to request technical assistance, please contact James A. Williams, your OSEP State Contact, at 202-245-7574.

Sincerely,

Alexa Posny

Alexa Posny, Ph.D.
Acting Director
Office of Special Education Programs

Enclosures

cc: State Director of Special Education