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

Honorable Keith O. Moore
Director
Bureau of Indian Education
1849 C St. NW
Washington, DC 20240

JUN 20 2011

Dear Director Moore:

Thank you for the timely submission of the Bureau of Indian Education's (BIE) Federal fiscal year (FFY) 2009 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), the BIE needs assistance in implementing 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 2009 APR and revised SPP (including targets and improvement activities for each year through FFY 2012), other BIE-reported data, information obtained through verification visits and the State's submissions under any Special Conditions on the BIE's FFY 2010 Part B grants, and other publicly available information. However, we did not consider whether a State was in compliance with the requirement in section 612(a)(18)(A) to maintain State financial support for special education and related services. This is a key component of a State's eligibility for a grant under Part B of the IDEA. However, because the statute provides a specific remedy when a State is not in compliance with this provision (and the Department is taking action consistent with the statute) and recognizing that this is the first time that a number of States have failed to meet this requirement, the Department decided not to include compliance with this provision in the determinations process this year. The Department is actively considering including a State's compliance with this requirement in the 2012 determinations. See the enclosure entitled "How the Department Made Determinations under Section 616(d) of the IDEA in 2011: Part B" for further details.

The specific factors affecting the Office of Special Education Programs' (OSEP's) determination of needs assistance for the BIE were that: (1) the BIE did not provide valid and reliable data for Indicator 3C; (2) the BIE's FFY 2009 data reflect 58.01% compliance for Indicator 15; and (3) the BIE's FFY 2009 data reflect 89.65 % compliance for Indicator 20. For these reasons, we were unable to determine that the BIE met requirements for FFY 2009 under IDEA section 616(d).

OSEP notes other areas that reflect a high level of performance, including that BIE reported valid and reliable data for all indicators but for Indicator 3C and a high level of compliance for Indicator 11 (98.93%). We hope that BIE will be able to demonstrate that it meets requirements in its next APR.

The enclosed table provides OSEP's analysis of the State's FFY 2009 APR and revised SPP and identifies, by indicator, OSEP's review of any revisions made by the State 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 2009 data; (2) whether such data met the BIE's FFY 2009 targets and reflect progress or slippage from the prior year's data; (3) if applicable, that the State's data are not valid and reliable; and (4) whether the BIE corrected findings of noncompliance.

The BIE's determination for FFY 2008 was also needs assistance. In accordance with section 616(e)(1) of the IDEA and 34 CFR §300.604, if a State is determined to need assistance for two consecutive years, the Secretary must take one or more of the following actions: (1) advise the State of available sources of technical assistance that may help the State address the areas in which the State needs assistance; (2)

direct the use of State-level funds on the area or areas in which the State needs assistance; or (3) identify the State as a high-risk grantee and impose Special Conditions on the State's Part B grant award.

Pursuant to these requirements, the Secretary is advising the BIE of available sources of technical assistance related to Indicator 3C, Indicator 15, and Indicator 20. A list of sources of technical assistance related to the SPP/APR indicators is available by clicking on the "Technical Assistance Related to Determinations" box on the opening page of "The Right IDEA" Web site at: http://therightidea.tadnet.org/technicalassistance. You will be directed to a list of indicators. Click on specific indicators for a list of centers, documents, Web seminars and other sources of relevant technical assistance for that indicator. For the indicators listed above, the BIE must report with its FFY 2010 APR submission, due February 1, 2012, on: (1) the technical assistance sources from which the State received assistance; and (2) the actions the State took as a result of that technical assistance. The extent to which the BIE takes advantage of available technical assistance for these indicators may affect the actions OSEP takes under section 616 should the BIE not be determined to meet requirements next year. We encourage the BIE to take advantage of available sources of technical assistance in other areas as well, particularly if the State is reporting low compliance data for an indicator.

As required by section 616(e)(7) of the IDEA and 34 CFR §300.606, the State must notify the public within the State that the Secretary of Education has taken the above enforcement action, including, at a minimum, by posting a public notice on the agency's Web site and distributing the notice to the media and through public agencies.

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, 2011. 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 Right IDEA" Web site at: http://therightidea.tadnet.org/determinations. Finally, please ensure that your updated SPP is posted on the BIE's Web site and made available to the public, consistent with 34 CFR §300.602(b)(1)(i)(B).

OSEP is committed to supporting the BIE'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 Matthew Schneer, your OSEP State Contact, at 202 245-6755.

Sincerely,

Melody Musgrove, Ed.D.
Director
Office of Special Education Programs

Enclosures

cc: State Director of Special Education