



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

Honorable Denise Juneau
Superintendent of Public Instruction
Montana Office of Public Instruction
PO Box 202501
Helena, Montana 59620-2501

JUN 27 2012

Dear Superintendent Juneau:

Thank you for the timely submission of Montana's Federal fiscal year (FFY) 2010 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)(ii), Montana needs assistance in meeting 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 2010 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 2012: Part B" for further details.

The specific factor affecting the Office of Special Education Programs' (OSEP's) determination of needs assistance for Montana was that Montana's FFY 2010 data for Indicator 13, which measures compliance with secondary transition requirements, reflect 51.5% compliance. For this reason, we are unable to determine that Montana met requirements for FFY 2010 under IDEA section 616(d).

OSEP notes other areas that reflect a high level of performance, including that Montana reported valid and reliable data for all indicators and a high level of compliance for Indicators 4B (0%), 9 (0%), 10 (0%), 11 (97.4%), 15 (100%), 16 (100%), and 20 (100%). We hope that Montana will be able to demonstrate that it meets requirements in its FFY 2011 APR.

The enclosed table provides OSEP's analysis of the State's FFY 2010 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 2010 data; (2) whether such data met the State's FFY 2010 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 State corrected findings of noncompliance.

Your State may want to consider taking advantage of available sources of technical assistance. 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.

As you know, pursuant to IDEA section 616(b)(2)(C)(ii)(I) 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

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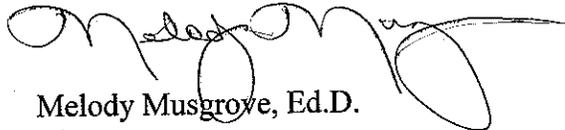
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than June 1, 2012. In addition, your State must: (1) review LEA performance against targets in the State's SPP; (2) determine if each LEA "meets requirements of Part B," or "needs assistance," "needs intervention," or "needs substantial intervention" 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 State educational agency's Web site and made available to the public, consistent with 34 CFR §300.602(b)(1)(i)(B).

OSEP is committed to supporting Montana'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 Brenda Wilkins, your OSEP State Contact, at 202-245-6920.

Sincerely,



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

Enclosures

cc: State Director of Special Education