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

Honorable Deborah A. Gist
Commissioner
Rhode Island Department of Education
Shepard Building
255 Westminster Street
Providence, Rhode Island 02903-3400

JUN 27 2012

Dear Commissioner Gist:

Thank you for the timely submission of Rhode Island'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)(i), Rhode Island 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 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.

Specific factors affecting the determination made by the Office of Special Education Programs (OSEP) that Rhode Island meets requirements under IDEA section 616(d) include that: (1) Rhode Island provided valid and reliable FFY 2010 data reflecting the measurement for each indicator; and (2) Rhode Island reported high levels of compliance or correction for Indicators 4B, 9, 10, 11, 12, 13, 15, 16, 17, and 20. We commend Rhode Island for its performance.

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 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 2010 data; (2) whether such data met the State's FFY 2010 targets and reflect progress or slippage from the 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)(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 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 Rhode Island'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 Melissa Turner, your OSEP State Contact, at 202-245-6415.

Sincerely,

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

Enclosures

cc: State Director of Special Education