



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

Honorable Armando Vilaseca  
Commissioner  
Vermont Department of Education  
120 State Street  
Montpelier, Vermont 05620-2501

**JUN 27 2012**

Dear Commissioner Vilaseca:

Thank you for the timely submission of Vermont'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), Vermont 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 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 Vermont was that Vermont's FFY 2010 data for Indicator 13, which measures compliance with secondary transition requirements, reflect 57% compliance. For this reason, we are unable to determine that Vermont met requirements for FFY 2010 under IDEA section 616(d).

OSEP notes that other areas that reflect a high level of performance, which include that Vermont reported valid and reliable data for all indicators and a high level of compliance for Indicators 4B (0%), 9 (0%), 10 (0%), 12 (100%), 16 (100%), and 20 (97.73%). We hope that Vermont 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.

The State's determinations for FFYs 2007, 2008, and 2009 were also needs assistance. In accordance with section 616(e)(1) of the IDEA and 34 CFR §300.604(a), 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 State of available sources of technical assistance related to Indicator 13, which measures compliance with secondary transition requirements. 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:

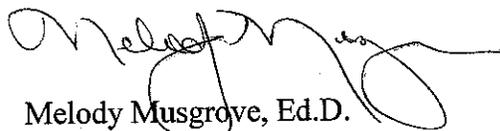
<http://therightidea.tadnet.org/technicalassistance>. You will be directed to a list of indicators. Click on specific indicators for a list of centers, documents, Web seminars and other sources of relevant technical assistance for that indicator. For the indicator listed above, your State must report with its FFY 2011 APR submission, due February 1, 2013, 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 your State takes advantage of available technical assistance for these indicators may affect the actions OSEP takes under section 616 should your State not be determined to meet requirements next year. We encourage Vermont 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)(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 Vermont’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,



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

Enclosures

cc: State Director of Special Education