



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

Honorable Tom Luna
Superintendent of Public Instruction
Idaho State Department of Education
Len B. Jordan Office Building
P.O. Box 83720
Boise, Idaho 83720-0027

FEB 27 2009

Dear Superintendent Luna:

The purpose of this letter is to inform you of the results of the Office of Special Education Programs' (OSEP's) verification visit to the Idaho State Department of Education (IDSDE) during the week of October 27, 2008. As indicated in my letter to you dated August 7, 2008, OSEP is conducting verification visits to a number of States as part of our Continuous Improvement and Focused Monitoring System (CIFMS) for ensuring compliance with, and improving performance under, Part B and Part C of the Individuals with Disabilities Education Act (IDEA). CIFMS is designed to ensure compliance and improve performance with Parts B and C of the IDEA. Sections 616 and 642 of the IDEA require the Department to monitor States with a focus on: (1) improving early intervention and educational results and functional outcomes for infants, toddlers, children, and youth with disabilities; and (2) ensuring that States meet the program requirements, particularly those most closely related to improving results for infants, toddlers, and children with disabilities.

The purpose of the verification visit is to verify the effectiveness of the State's systems for general supervision, collection of State-reported data, and fiscal management, as well as the State's systems for improving child and family outcomes and protecting child and family rights. During the verification visit, OSEP: (1) analyzed the components of the State's Part B general supervision, data and fiscal systems to determine whether they are reasonably designed to ensure compliance and improve performance; and (2) reviewed the accuracy of the data the State submitted for selected indicators in the State's FFY Part B 2006 Annual Performance Report (APR)/State Performance Plan (SPP).

As part of the verification visit to Idaho, OSEP staff met with Jacque Hyatt and Jean Taylor, State Directors of Special Education, State personnel responsible for implementing the general supervision and data or fiscal systems. Prior to and during the visit, OSEP staff reviewed a number of documents, including the following: (1) Idaho's Part B Federal Fiscal Year (FFY) 2006 APR submitted to OSEP in February 2008; (2) Idaho's Part B SPP submitted to OSEP in 2005 and updated in 2007 and 2008; (3) Idaho's eligibility document submissions under Part B of the IDEA for FFY 2008; (4) IDSDE website; and (5) other pertinent information.

OSEP developed critical elements that were used to guide its evaluation of Idaho's general supervision, data, and fiscal systems. OSEP's analysis of each critical element is set out in the enclosure to this letter. If OSEP identifies noncompliance during the verification visit, the enclosure also includes an explanation of the noncompliance with applicable Part B requirements and the required actions that OSEP has determined the State must take to address the noncompliance. As further detailed in the enclosure to this letter, OSEP found noncompliance with sections 616(a) and (e) of IDEA with respect to the requirements related to making annual determinations on the performance of the State's LEAs.

We appreciate the cooperation and assistance provided by IDSDE personnel during our visit. We look forward to collaborating with the State as you continue to work to improve results for infants, toddlers, and children with disabilities and their families. If you have any questions or wish to request technical assistance, please do not hesitate to call your OSEP State Contact, Ellen Safranek, at 202-245-7515.

Sincerely,



Patricia J. Guard
Acting Director
Office of Special Education Programs

Enclosure

cc: Jacque Hyatt and Jean Taylor
Directors of Special Education