



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

Honorable Larry K. Shumway
Superintendent of Public Instruction
Utah State Office of Education
250 East 500 South
P.O. Box 144200
Salt Lake City, Utah 84114-4200

JAN 24 2011

Dear Superintendent Shumway:

This letter is to inform you of the results of the Office of Special Education Programs' (OSEP's) verification visit to the Utah Department of Education during the week of October 11, 2010. As indicated in our letter to you dated July 22, 2010, 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 of the Individuals with Disabilities Education Act (IDEA).¹ Section 616 of the IDEA requires 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 early intervention and educational results for children and youth with disabilities.

The purpose of the verification visit is to review 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. OSEP developed critical elements that were used to guide its evaluation of Utah's general supervision, data, and fiscal systems. The Enclosure to this letter describes the scope of OSEP's review of the State's systems and briefly outlines relevant statutory and regulatory requirements for each critical element. Generally, the Enclosure to this letter does not include descriptions of the State's systems because this information is available on the State's website in the State's State Performance Plan. OSEP's analysis of each critical element and any required actions, if noncompliance was identified during the verification visit, are provided in the Enclosure to this letter.

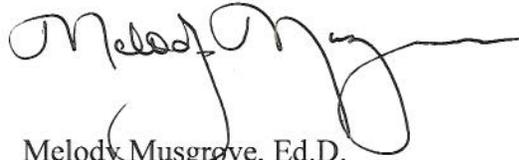
OSEP would like to recognize Utah's success in achieving and maintaining a high level of compliance with the SPP compliance indicators. OSEP also recognizes Utah's focus on improving performance for children with disabilities. For example, Utah's Academic, Behavior and Coaching Initiative (ABC-UBI) has been successful in assisting LEAs in the implementation of Positive Behavioral Supports and Interventions (PBIS) and Response to Interventions (RTI). The State reported that both PBIS and RTI are viewed as effective and proactive processes for improving social competence and academic achievement for all students. The State told OSEP that schools using these models have reported that office discipline referrals and in-school and out-of-school suspensions are dropping and administrators and teachers are gaining valuable instructional time. ABC-UBI is becoming a model of successful statewide implementation for

¹ During the week of October 11, 2010, OSEP also conducted its Part C verification visit to the Utah Department of Health.

widespread replication, dissemination and review. The ABC-UBI State leadership team has set goals of increasing evaluation and defining key features of sustainability to achieve successful student outcomes.

Additionally, OSEP appreciates the cooperation and assistance provided by your State staff and others, including staff from the Utah Special Education Advisory Panel and the Utah Parent Center in providing feedback and input on the State's systems for special education. We look forward to collaborating with all stakeholders and actively working with the State to improve results for children and youth 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, Sheila Friedman at 202-245-7349.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Melody Musgrove', with a long horizontal flourish extending to the right.

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

Enclosure

cc: Ms. Glenna Gallo
State Director of Special Education