



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

DEC 1, 2017

Honorable Nancy Bargmann
Director
California Department of Developmental Services
1600 9th Street
Sacramento, CA 95814

Dear Director Bargmann:

The purpose of this letter is to provide you a summary of the results of the monitoring and support activities conducted by the Office of Special Education Programs (OSEP) during an on-site visit during the week of June 13, 2017 to the California Department of Developmental Services (DDS). Participants during the visit included staff from DDS, the regional Technical Assistance Center, and OSEP.

In 2016, OSEP began providing differentiated monitoring and support (DMS) to States as part of its Results Driven Accountability (RDA) framework. Under RDA, OSEP made a shift from monitoring based solely on compliance to monitoring and support focused on both compliance and improving results for infants and toddlers with disabilities. OSEP differentiates its approach for each State based on the State's unique strengths, progress, challenges, and needs.

As part of the DMS process, OSEP conducts an organizational assessment (OA) of risk factors to identify States' progress in meeting performance standards and complying with the requirements of Part C of the Individuals with Disabilities Education Act (IDEA) and its implementing regulations, the Education Department General Administrative Regulations, and the Uniform Administrative Requirements, Cost Principles, and Audit Requirements for Federal Awards. OSEP uses the information from the OA and an Engagement Decision Tree to make designations of universal, targeted, or intensive monitoring and support that a State will receive for the fiscal year. For 2016-2017, OSEP identified five areas for DMS: 1) results; 2) compliance; 3) State Systemic Improvement Plan (SSIP); 4) child find; and 5) fiscal.

On October 31, 2016, OSEP sent the State's DMS notice to the Part C Coordinator, Sharon DeRego. That notice provided a designation of universal or intensive engagement for each of five areas OSEP identified for DMS. The information in the notice was based on Federal fiscal year (FFY) 2014 data in the corresponding five areas, along with information about the factors contributing to elevated need for monitoring and support, the support the State has accessed, the State's capacity to improve results and compliance, and additional contextual information. The notice also identified the monitoring and support activities that would be carried out to address the factors contributing to the elevated need for monitoring and support in each of the areas that were designated for intensive engagement. We have attached a copy of the DMS notice for your convenience.

As part of its DMS activities, including the on-site monitoring of State level policies and interviews with DDS staff, OSEP examined issues related to DDS's State Systemic Improvement

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Plan, and compliance with IDEA requirements related to the identification and correction of noncompliance, timely provision of services, meeting the 45 day timeline and providing timely transition conferences. Attached is a summary of the results of the specific areas that were the subject of OSEP's monitoring and support activities. OSEP did not identify any findings of noncompliance with IDEA requirements related to the requirements identified above. However, we have provided specific information related to technical assistance, within the attachments for the specific DMS areas.

We appreciate your efforts to improve results for infants and toddlers with disabilities. If you have any questions, please contact Kate Moran, your OSEP State Lead, at 202-245-7315.

Sincerely,

/s/

Ruth E. Ryder

Acting Director

Office of Special Education Programs

cc: Sharon DeRego, Part C Coordinator

Attachments