



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

November 30, 2018

Honorable Shereef Elnahal  
Commissioner  
New Jersey Department of Health  
P.O. Box 360  
Trenton, New Jersey 08625

Dear Commissioner Elnahal:

The purpose of this letter is to provide you a summary of the results of the monitoring activities conducted by the Office of Special Education Programs (OSEP) during an on-site visit with the New Jersey Department of Health (DOH), New Jersey Early Intervention System (NJEIS), on May 29, 2018<sup>1</sup>.

Participants from DOH, NJEIS included<sup>2</sup>:

- Terry Harrison, Part C Coordinator
- Susan Evans, Results Accountability Coordinator
- Alvina Seto, Family Cost Participation Coordinator
- Christine Nogami-Engime, Monitoring Coordinator

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.

---

<sup>1</sup> This monitoring activity was originally scheduled for spring 2017, but was delayed due to personnel changes and other circumstances.

<sup>2</sup> In addition, NJEIS invited two contracted consultants to participate in the meetings.

On October 31, 2016, OSEP sent New Jersey's IDEA Part C DMS notice to Terry Harrison. 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 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, OSEP conducted fiscal monitoring with the NJEIS. During this activity, OSEP addressed implementation of the State's System of Payments policy. Attached is a summary of the results of OSEP's monitoring. If OSEP identified findings of noncompliance with IDEA requirements, you will find specific information, within the attachment including the corrective actions DOH must take to address the noncompliance.

We appreciate your efforts to improve results for infants and toddlers with disabilities. If you have any questions, please contact Jennifer Miley, your OSEP State Lead, at 202-245-6049.

Sincerely,

/s/

Laurie VanderPloeg  
Director  
Office of Special Education Programs

cc: Terry Harrison, Part C Coordinator

Attachments