



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

Honorable Terrell I. Murphy  
Commissioner  
Texas Department of Assistive and Rehabilitative Services  
4800 North Lamar Blvd., 3rd Floor  
Austin, Texas 78756

MAR 21 2006

Dear Commissioner Murphy:

Thank you for your timely submission of Texas's State Performance Plan (SPP) for review under Part C of the Individuals with Disabilities Education Act (IDEA). Section 616(b) requires States to submit, within one year after the date of enactment of the reauthorized IDEA, an SPP that evaluates the State's efforts to implement the requirements and purposes of IDEA and describes how the State will improve implementation. We appreciate the State's efforts in preparing the SPP in the face of many other competing priorities. In the SPPs, States were to include: (1) baseline data that reflect the State's efforts to implement Part C of the IDEA; (2) measurable and rigorous targets for the next six years for each of the indicators established by the Secretary in the priority areas under section 616(a) of the IDEA; and (3) activities the State will undertake to improve implementation of Part C.

The Office of Special Education Programs (OSEP) is pleased to inform you that your State's SPP under Part C meets the requirements of section 616(b) to include measurable and rigorous targets and improvement activities. The State must make its SPP available through public means, including posting on the State lead agency's website, distribution to the media, and distribution through public agencies. (Section 616(b)(2)(C)(ii)(I))

The SPP included a description of the broad stakeholder input that went into its development and clearly delineated both how the State solicited that involvement and how the State used the responses received through the process. The State involved both the State Interagency Coordinating Council (SICC), representatives from the local programs and local directors in orientation sessions and in workgroups to provide multiple opportunities for input on the measurement issues, targets and improvement strategies.

Analysis of the State's baseline data for Indicators 2, 5-10 and 13 was thorough and complete. The results of that analysis were displayed in an easy-to-use format and the descriptions were useful in understanding the presentation of the data.

Under section 616(b)(2)(C)(ii)(II) of the Act, the State must annually report to OSEP on its performance under the SPP. The State's first Annual Performance Report (APR) on its progress in meeting its targets is due to OSEP by February 1, 2007. Attached to this letter you will find Table A that addresses issues identified during our review of the SPP that – while not requiring disapproval of your plan – will affect our annual determination of State performance and compliance based on data presented in the State's APR. As a result, your State needs to provide

additional information as part of its Federal fiscal year (FFY) 2005 APR submission due February 1, 2007.

In addition to reporting to OSEP, the State must report annually to the public on the performance of each early intervention service (EIS) program located in the State on the targets in the State's performance plan. (Section 616(b)(2)(C)(ii)(I)) The requirement for public reporting on EIS program performance is a critical provision related to ensuring accountability and focusing on improved results for infants and toddlers with disabilities. OSEP will be providing technical assistance regarding the reporting on EIS program performance at the National Accountability Conference, September 18 and 19, 2006 in Denver and through periodic technical assistance conference calls.

We hope that your State found the August 5, 2005 guidance on submission of the SPPs and the technical assistance that we provided through the August 11-12, 2005 Summer Institute, periodic conference calls, and the [SPP Resources](#) website helpful in this endeavor. If you have any feedback on our past technical assistance efforts or the needs of States for guidance, we would be happy to hear from you as we work to develop further mechanisms to support State improvement activities.

Thank you for your continued work to improve results for infants and toddlers with disabilities and their families. We encourage you to work closely with your State Contact as you proceed in implementing improvement activities and developing your APR. If you have any questions regarding the SPP or the APR, please contact Ginger Johnson at 202-245-7353.

Sincerely,



Troy R. Justesen  
Acting Director  
Office of Special Education Programs

Enclosures  
Table A

cc: Mary Beth O'Hanlon  
Part C Coordinator