



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

Honorable Lorenzo Gonzalez Feliciano
Secretary
Puerto Rico Department of Health
P. O. Box 70184
San Juan, Puerto Rico 00936-8184

Dear Dr. Feliciano:

Thank you for the timely submission of Puerto Rico's Federal fiscal year (FFY) 2008 Annual Performance Report (APR) and revised State Performance Plan (SPP) under Part C of the Individuals with Disabilities Education Act (IDEA).

The Department has determined that, under IDEA sections 616(d)(2)(A)(ii) and 642, Puerto Rico needs assistance in implementing the requirements of Part C of IDEA. The Department's determination is based on the totality of the Commonwealth's data and information including the Commonwealth's FFY 2008 APR and revised SPP, other State-reported data, and other publicly available information. See the enclosure entitled "How the Department Made Determinations under Sections 616(d) and 642 of the IDEA in 2010: Part C" for further details.

The specific factors affecting the Office of Special Education Programs' (OSEP's) determination of needs assistance for Puerto Rico include that it did not report (or demonstrate verification of) correction of findings for, and its FFY 2008 data reflect 93.2% compliance with, the IFSP transition content requirements in Indicator 8A, and its FFY 2008 data reflect 66.67% compliance with the timely correction requirements in Indicator 9. For these reasons, we are unable to determine that Puerto Rico met requirements for FFY 2008 under IDEA sections 616(d) and 642.

OSEP notes other areas that reflect a high level of performance, which include that Puerto Rico reported valid and reliable data for all indicators and FFY 2008 data reflecting a high level of compliance for Indicators 1 (96%), 8B (100%), 8C (97.5%), 10 (100%), and 14 (100%). We hope that Puerto Rico will be able to demonstrate that it meets requirements in its next APR.

The enclosed table provides OSEP's analysis of the Commonwealth's FFY 2008 APR and revised SPP and identifies, by indicator, OSEP's review of any revisions made by the Commonwealth to its targets, improvement activities (timelines and resources), and baseline data in the Commonwealth's SPP. The table also identifies, by indicator: (1) the Commonwealth's reported FFY 2008 data; (2) whether such data met the commonwealth's FFY 2008 targets and reflect progress or slippage from prior year's data; (3) if applicable, that the Commonwealth's data are not valid and reliable; and (4) whether the Commonwealth corrected findings of noncompliance.

The Commonwealth's determination for the FFYs 2005, 2006, and 2007 APRs was also needs assistance. In accordance with sections 616(e) and 642 of the IDEA, if a State is determined to need assistance for two consecutive years, the Secretary must take one or more of the following actions: (1) advise the State of available sources of technical assistance that may help the State

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address the areas in which the State needs assistance; (2) direct the use of State-level funds on the area or areas in which the State needs assistance; or (3) identify the State as a high-risk grantee and impose special conditions on the State's Part C grant award.

Pursuant to these requirements, the Secretary is advising the Commonwealth of available sources of technical assistance related to Indicator 8A, the IFSP transition content requirements, and Indicator 9, timely correction requirements. A list of sources of technical assistance related to the SPP/APR indicators is available by clicking on the "Technical Assistance Related to Determinations" box on the opening page of the SPP/APR Planning Calendar website at <http://spp-apr-calendar.rrfcnetwork.org/>. You will be directed to a list of indicators. Click on specific indicators for a list of centers, documents, web seminars and other sources of relevant technical assistance for that indicator. For the indicator listed above, the Commonwealth must report to OSEP, with its FFY 2009 APR submission, due February 1, 2011: (1) the technical assistance sources from which the Commonwealth received assistance; and (2) the actions the Commonwealth took as a result of that technical assistance. Also, the Commonwealth must report to OSEP by October 1, 2010, how the technical assistance selected by the Commonwealth is addressing the factors contributing to the ongoing noncompliance related to this indicator. The extent to which the Commonwealth takes advantage of available technical assistance for these indicators may affect the actions OSEP takes under sections 616 and 642 should the Commonwealth not be determined to meet requirements next year. We encourage Puerto Rico to take advantage of available sources of technical assistance in other areas as well, particularly if the Commonwealth is reporting low compliance data for an indicator.

As required by IDEA sections 616(e)(7) and 642, the Commonwealth must notify the public that the Secretary of Education has taken the above enforcement action. This notification must be sufficient to notify the public within the Commonwealth and may include such mechanisms as posting on the agency's website, distribution through the media and distribution through public agencies.

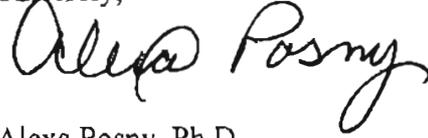
As you know, pursuant to IDEA sections 616(b)(2)(C)(ii)(I) and 642, the Commonwealth must report annually to the public on the performance of each early intervention services program (EIS program) located in the commonwealth on the targets in the SPP. In addition, the Commonwealth must: (1) review EIS program performance against targets in the Commonwealth's SPP, (2) determine if each EIS program 'meets requirements' of IDEA Part C, or 'needs assistance,' 'needs intervention,' or 'needs substantial intervention' in implementing Part C of the IDEA, and inform each EIS program of its determination. For further information regarding these requirements, see the SPP/APR Calendar at <http://spp-apr-calendar.rrfcnetwork.org/explorer/view/id/656>. Finally, if the Commonwealth included revisions to baseline, targets or improvement activities in your APR submission, and OSEP accepted those revisions, please ensure that your SPP is updated accordingly and that the updated SPP is posted on the Commonwealth's website and made available to the public, consistent with IDEA sections 616(b)(2)(C)(ii)(I) and 642.

OSEP is committed to supporting Puerto Rico's efforts to improve results for infants and toddlers with disabilities and their families and looks forward to working with your State over

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the next year. If you have any questions, would like to discuss this further, or want to request technical assistance, please contact Diana Chang your OSEP State Contact, at 202-245-6061.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Alexa Posny". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Alexa Posny, Ph.D.
Acting Director
Office of Special Education Programs

Enclosures

cc: Part C Coordinator