



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

Honorable Gary Alexander
Director
Rhode Island Department of Human Services
Louis Pasteur Building
600 New London Ave.
Cranston, Rhode Island 02920

Dear Director Alexander:

Thank you for the timely submission of Rhode Island 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) and 642, Rhode Island needs assistance in meeting the requirements of Part C of IDEA. The Department's determination is based on the totality of the State's data and information including the State'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.

Specific factors affecting the Office of Special Education Programs' (OSEP's) determination of needs assistance for Rhode Island include that the State did not report (or demonstrate verification of) correction of findings for the following indicators, and its FFY 2008 data reflect: (1) 88.17% compliance with the timely service provision requirements in Indicator 1; and (2) 91.07% compliance with the 45-day timeline requirements in Indicator 7. The State also reported 87.55% compliance with the timely correction of noncompliance requirements in Indicator 9. For these reasons, we are unable to determine that Rhode Island 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 Rhode Island reported valid and reliable data for all indicators and a high level of compliance for Indicators 8B (96.65%) and 14 (100%). We hope that Rhode Island will be able to demonstrate that it meets requirements in its next APR.

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

Your State may want to consider taking advantage of available sources of technical assistance. 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.rfcnetwork.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.

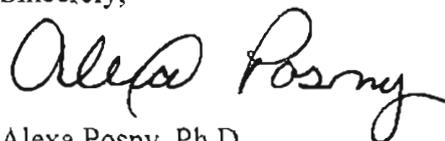
400 MARYLAND AVE. S.W., WASHINGTON, DC 20202-2600
www.ed.gov

The Department of Education's mission is to promote student achievement and preparation for global competitiveness by fostering educational excellence and ensuring equal access.

As you know, pursuant to IDEA sections 616(b)(2)(C)(ii)(I) and 642, your State must report annually to the public on the performance of each early intervention services program (EIS program) located in the State on the targets in the SPP. In addition, your State must: (1) review EIS program performance against targets in the State'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; (3) take appropriate enforcement actions; and (4) inform each EIS program of its determination. For further information regarding these requirements, see the SPP/APR Calendar at <http://spp-apr-calendar.rfcnetwork.org/explorer/view/id/656>. Finally, if your State 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 State'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 Rhode Island's efforts to improve results for infants and toddlers with disabilities and their families and looks forward to working with your State over the next year. If you have any questions, would like to discuss this further, or want to request technical assistance, please contact Ginger Sheppard, your OSEP State Contact, at 202-245-7353.

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