



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

MAR 25 2010

Honorable Rita Landgraf
Cabinet Secretary
Department of Health and Social Services
Herman Holloway Administration Building
1901 N. Dupont Highway
New Castle, Delaware 19720

Dear Secretary Landgraf:

The purpose of this letter is to inform you of the results of the Office of Special Education Programs' (OSEP's) verification visit to the Delaware Department of Health and Social Services during the week of November 2, 2009. As indicated in our letter to you dated July 2, 2009, OSEP is conducting verification visits to a number of States as part of our Continuous Improvement and Focused Monitoring System (CIFMS) for ensuring compliance with, and improving performance under Part C of the Individuals with Disabilities Education Act (IDEA). CIFMS is designed to ensure compliance and improve performance with Parts B¹ and C of the IDEA in accordance with 20 U.S.C. 1416 and 1442. Sections 616 and 642 of the IDEA require the Department to monitor States with a focus on: (1) improving early intervention and educational results and functional outcomes for infants, toddlers, children, and youth with disabilities; and (2) ensuring that States meet the program requirements, particularly those most closely related to improving early intervention and educational results for children with disabilities.

The purpose of the verification visit is to review the State's systems for general supervision, collection of State-reported data, and fiscal management, as well as the State's systems for improving child and family outcomes and protecting child and family rights. During the verification visit, OSEP: (1) analyzed the components of the State's general supervision, data and fiscal systems to determine whether they are reasonably designed to ensure compliance and improve performance; and (2) reviewed the accuracy of the data the State submitted for selected indicators in the State's FFY 2007 Annual Performance Report (APR)/State Performance Plan (SPP).

As part of the verification visit to Delaware, OSEP staff met with Rosanne Griff-Cabelli, Part C Coordinator and State personnel responsible for implementing the general supervision, data or fiscal systems, and State contractors involved in the monitoring process. Prior to and during the visit, OSEP staff reviewed a number of documents, including the following: (1) Delaware's Federal Fiscal Year (FFY) 2007 APR submitted to OSEP in February 2009; (2) Delaware's SPP submitted to OSEP in December 2005 and updated in 2007, 2008 and 2009; (3) Delaware's application submissions submitted under Part C of the IDEA for FFY 2009; (4) OSEP's Verification Visit letter to Delaware dated December 15, 2003; (5) Delaware's Department of

¹ During the week of November 2, 2009, OSEP also conducted its Part B verification visit to the Delaware Department of Education (DOE). OSEP is sending the Part B verification letter and enclosure to DOE under separate cover.

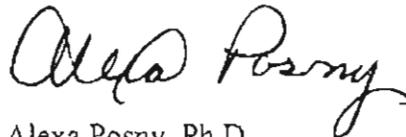
Health and Social Services website; and (6) other pertinent information². OSEP also collected and reviewed stakeholder input from the State's Parent Training and Information Center (PTI) and the State's Interagency Coordinating Council (SICC).

OSEP applied the Part C critical elements to evaluate Delaware's general supervision, data, and fiscal systems. OSEP's analysis of each critical element is provided in the Enclosure to this letter. As further detailed in that Enclosure, the State must:

- 1) Submit, within 60 days of the date of this letter, an assurance that when it verifies the correction of noncompliance, it reviews updated data to ensure that each EIS program with noncompliance is correctly implementing the specific regulatory requirements (i.e., has achieved 100% compliance); and
- 2) Confirm, in its FFY 2009 APR, due February 1, 2011, whether it conducted on-site monitoring visits in March 2010, and issued findings in June 2010.

OSEP appreciates the cooperation and assistance provided by PTI staff, SICC members and parents in providing feedback and input on the State's systems for early intervention. We look forward to collaborating with all stakeholders and actively working with the State to improve results for infants, toddlers, and children with disabilities and their families. If you have any questions or wish to request technical assistance, please do not hesitate to call your OSEP State Contact Jennifer Miley, at 202-245-6049.

Sincerely,



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

Enclosure

cc: Rosanne Griff-Cabelli, Part C Coordinator

² Documents reviewed as part of the verification process were not reviewed for legal sufficiency, but rather to inform OSEP's understanding of your State's systems.