



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

JAN 13 2010

Honorable Nicholas Toumpas  
Commissioner  
Department of Health and Human Services  
105 Pleasant Street  
Concord, New Hampshire 03301-3857

Dear Commissioner Toumpas:

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 New Hampshire Department of Health and Human Services (DHHS) during the week of September 21, 2009. As indicated in our letter to you dated July 8, 2009, OSEP is conducting verification visits to a number of States as part of our Continuous Improvement and Focused Monitoring System (CIFMS). CIFMS is designed to ensure compliance and improve performance with Parts B and C of the Individuals with Disabilities Education Act (IDEA). 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 results for infants, toddlers, and 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 for 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 data DHHS submitted for selected indicators as part of the New Hampshire's Part C FFY 2007 Annual Performance Report (APR)/State Performance Plan (SPP).

As part of the verification visit to New Hampshire, OSEP staff met with administrators in the Bureau of Development Services, (Mr. Matthew Ertas and Ms. Lorene Reagan), the Part C Coordinator, (Ms. Carolyn Stiles), other personnel responsible for implementing the general supervision, data or fiscal systems within DHHS, and staff from Area Agencies and local Part C programs. Prior to and during the visit, OSEP staff reviewed a number of documents, including the following: (1) New Hampshire's Federal Fiscal Year (FFY) 2007 APR submitted to OSEP in February 2009; (2) New Hampshire's SPP submitted to OSEP in December 2005 and updated in 2007, 2008 and 2009; (3) New Hampshire's application submissions under Part C of the IDEA for FFY 2009; (4) OSEP's Verification Visit letter to DHHS dated November 1, 2006; (5) DHHS' website; and (6) other pertinent information.<sup>1</sup>

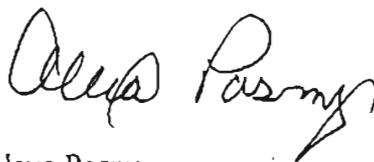
OSEP applied the Part C critical elements to evaluate New Hampshire's general supervision, data, and fiscal systems. OSEP's analysis of each critical element is set out in the enclosure to

<sup>1</sup> 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.

this letter. If OSEP identifies noncompliance during the verification visit, the enclosure also includes an explanation of the noncompliance with applicable Part C requirements and the required actions that OSEP has determined the State must take to address the noncompliance. OSEP did not identify any noncompliance during the verification visit to DHHS.

We appreciate the cooperation and assistance provided by DHHS' personnel before and during our visit. We look forward to continuing to collaborate with the State as you continue to work 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, Sheryl Parkhurst, at 202-245-7472.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Alexa Posny". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a long, sweeping tail on the final letter.

Alexa Posny  
Acting Director  
Office of Special Education Programs

Enclosure

cc: Carolyn Stiles  
Part C Coordinator