



UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION

OFFICE OF SPECIAL EDUCATION AND REHABILITATIVE SERVICES

Honorable Susan N. Dreyfus
Secretary
Department of Social and Health Services
P.O. Box 45010
Olympia, Washington 98504-5010

JAN 27 2010

Dear Secretary Dreyfus:

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 Washington Department of Social and Health Services during the week of September 7, 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 B and C¹ 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 Washington, OSEP staff met with Karen Walker, State Part C Coordinator and State personnel responsible for implementing the general supervision, data or fiscal systems, and local agency staff. Prior to and during the visit, OSEP staff reviewed a number of documents, including the following: (1) Washington's Federal Fiscal Year (FFY) 2007 APR submitted to OSEP in February 2009; (2) Washington's SPP submitted to OSEP in December 2005 and updated in 2007, 2008 and 2009; (3) Washington's eligibility document submissions under Part C of the IDEA for FFY 2008; (4) OSEP's Verification Visit letter to Washington dated June 13, 2005; (5) Washington's Infant and Toddler Early Intervention Program (ITEIP) website; and (6)

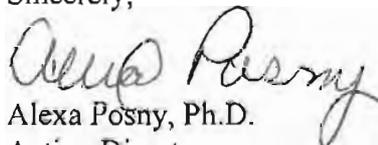
¹ During the week of September 7, 2009, OSEP also conducted its Part B verification visit to the Washington Office of the Superintendent of Public Instruction.

other pertinent information.² OSEP also collected and reviewed stakeholder input from the State's Parent Training and Information Center (PTI) and the State Interagency Coordinating Council (SICC).

OSEP applied the Part C critical elements to evaluate Washington'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 the Enclosure, the State must: (1) report in the appropriate APRs on the correction of any findings of noncompliance identified through all of the components of its revised general supervision system; (2) submit to OSEP, within 60 days of this letter, a training schedule for complaint staff on implementing ITEIP's complaint procedures, and a procedure for monitoring the correct implementation of 34 CFR §§303.400, 303.420, and 303.510 through 303.512; and (3) provide to OSEP, with the State's Part C FFY 2009 Application, (A) a separate written assurance that the State has met the IDEA Maintenance of Effort (MOE) requirements in IDEA section 637(b)(5)(B) and 34 CFR §303.124(b); and (B) a copy of the correspondence in which ITEIP has informed its State audit office of the need to review under the State's Single Audit, conducted under the Single Audit Act, the State's procedures to ensure that the State portion under the Medicaid reimbursement match for early intervention services funded through Medicaid are included in the tracking of expenditures to meet the IDEA Part C MOE requirements in IDEA section 637(b)(5)(B) and 34 CFR §303.124(b).

OSEP appreciates the cooperation and assistance provided by PTI staff, SICC members and parents in providing feedback and input on the State's early intervention system. 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, Tammy Proctor, at (202) 245-7333.

Sincerely,



Alexa Posny, Ph.D.

Acting Director

Office of Special Education Programs

Enclosure

cc: Karen Walker, 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.