



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

FEB 29 2012

Honorable Richard M. Armstrong
Director
Department of Health and Welfare
450 West State Street, 10th Floor
Boise, Idaho 83720-0036

Dear Director Armstrong:

This letter is to inform you of the results of the Office of Special Education Programs' (OSEP's) Continuous Improvement Visit (CIV) to the Idaho Department of Health and Welfare (DHW) during the week of December 5, 2011. As indicated in our letter to you dated March 29, 2011, the visit consisted of two components: (1) the verification of State systems for implementing key requirements of Part C of the Individuals with Disabilities Education Act (IDEA); and (2) a collaborative focus on improving results.¹ The CIV is designed to ensure compliance and improve performance with Part C of the IDEA, consistent with sections 616 and 642 of the IDEA.

The purpose of the verification component of the visit is to review the State's systems for general supervision and fiscal management. OSEP developed critical elements that were used to guide its evaluation of Idaho's general supervision (including data) and fiscal systems. The Enclosure to this letter describes the scope of OSEP's review of the State's systems and briefly outlines relevant statutory and regulatory requirements for each critical element.

OSEP is currently in the process of conducting a comprehensive review of States' systems for implementing the fiscal requirements of the IDEA and related statutes and regulations, through the CIVs and other mechanisms, including the desk audits that OSEP's Recovery Act Facilitators are conducting with all States. In order to provide each State with a comprehensive, integrated response based on its review of States' fiscal systems, OSEP will be sending the State a separate letter addressing any fiscal issues, and has not included a fiscal section in the Enclosure.

Generally, the Enclosure to this letter does not include descriptions of the State's systems because this information is available on the State's Web site in Idaho's State Performance Plan. OSEP's analysis of each critical element and any required actions, if noncompliance was identified during the visit, are provided in the Enclosure to this letter.

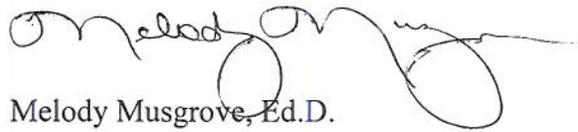
OSEP also notes in the Enclosure that the State must review and revise its interagency agreement, or other written methods, to ensure financial responsibility for IDEA Part C services provided, or paid for, by other State-level agencies. That method must be consistent with the requirements under subpart F of the new IDEA Part C regulations and must be current as of the time the State submits its fiscal certification with its FFY 2012 IDEA Part C grant application.

¹ During the week of December 5, 2012, OSEP also conducted its Part B CIV to the Idaho Department of Education.

During the CIV, Idaho also focused on increasing the number of infants with disabilities, birth to one, receiving early intervention services. Prior to the visit, Idaho participated in a process with OSEP to focus its efforts on Indicator 5, the percent of infants and toddlers birth to one with individualized family service plans (IFSPs) compared to national data. With OSEP's participation, DHW and stakeholders, which included participants from the Idaho State Department of Education, Early Head Start, Idaho Sound Beginnings, Service Integration, Division Administrators, Regional Supervisors, the State's Interagency Coordinating Council (SICC), and the Western Regional Resource Center, engaged in a facilitated process to examine the data, as well as current and past efforts to improve results in the Child Find area, and formulate strategies that Idaho will employ to improve results for children with disabilities in its selected area. Idaho is developing a plan that includes specific benchmarks for improvement, as well as timelines, resources, and measurements for DHW to improve results. DHW will publish this plan with updates on the State lead agency's Web site at <http://healthandwelfare.idaho.gov/Children/InfantToddlerProgram/tabid/78/Default.aspx>.

OSEP appreciates the cooperation and assistance provided by your State staff and others, including staff from the Idaho Parent Training and Information Center, the Idaho Protection and Advocacy Agency, the SICC, and parents of infants and toddlers with disabilities in providing feedback and input on the State's systems for providing early intervention services to infants and toddlers with disabilities. We look forward to collaborating with all stakeholders and actively working with the State to improve results for infants and toddlers 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, Christine Pilgrim, at 202-245-7351.

Sincerely,



Melody Musgrove, Ed.D.
Director
Office of Special Education Programs

Enclosure

cc: Mary Jones
Part C Coordinator