



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

November 25, 2013

Guy M. McBride, Ph.D.
5309 Lisa Lane
Hickory, North Carolina 28602

Dear Dr. McBride:

This is in response to your letter to the Office of Special Education Programs (OSEP), Office of Special Education and Rehabilitative Services at the U.S. Department of Education (Department). In your letter, you raise concerns about the criteria used by the State of Maine for the identification of children with specific learning disabilities, specifically the use of what you refer to as “cognitive referencing.”

Thank you for sharing your concerns with the Department. OSEP received a similar letter from Buckley J. Hugo, regarding Maine’s criteria for identification of children with specific learning disabilities, and we are enclosing OSEP’s response to that letter because, in it, we address concerns that are similar to yours. As a result of the concerns raised by you and Mr. Hugo regarding the Maine Unified Special Education Regulations at §VII.2.L(2)(a) and the Maine Department of Education’s Learning Disability Evaluation Report, OSEP is working with the Maine State Director of Special Education to resolve this matter.

We thank you for your continued interest in children with disabilities in Maine. If you have additional questions, please do not hesitate to contact Jennifer Wolfsheimer at 202-245-6090 or by email at Jennifer.Wolfsheimer@ed.gov.

Sincerely,

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

cc: State Director of Special Education

Enclosure