



UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION

OFFICE OF SPECIAL EDUCATION AND REHABILITATIVE SERVICES

JUN 6 2008

Honorable Mark K. McQuillan
Commissioner of Education
Connecticut Department of Education
165 Capitol Avenue, Room 305
Hartford, CT 06106

Dear Commissioner McQuillan:

Thank you for the timely submission of Connecticut's FFY 2006 Annual Performance Report (APR) and revised State Performance Plan (SPP) under Part B of the Individuals with Disabilities Education Act (IDEA), as amended in 2004. We also acknowledge the revisions to Connecticut's APR received on April 14, 2008. We appreciate the State's efforts in preparing these documents.

The Department has determined that, under IDEA section 616(d), Connecticut needs assistance in meeting the requirements of Part B of the IDEA. The Department's determination is based on the totality of the State's data and information including the State's FFY 2006 APR and revised SPP, other State-reported data, and other publicly available information. See the enclosure entitled "How the Department Made Determinations under Section 616(d) of the IDEA in 2008" for further details.

Specific factors affecting OSEP's determination of needs assistance for Connecticut included that the State reported: (1) no data for FFY 2006 for Indicator 4A (significant discrepancies in suspensions and expulsions); and (2) noncompliance with 34 CFR §300.170(b) that was not corrected. The failure of Connecticut to collect data in a timely fashion, and conduct the review required by 34 CFR §300.170(b), represents noncompliance with 34 CFR §300.170. This is the second year in a row that Connecticut has reported data for this indicator that lags behind one year. For this reason, we were unable to determine that Connecticut met requirements under section 616(d). OSEP notes other areas that reflect a high level of performance, which included that the State reported a high level of compliance for Indicators 12, 13, 15, 16 and 17, and correction of noncompliance for Indicators 11, 12, and 13. We hope that Connecticut will be able to demonstrate that it meets requirements in its next APR.

The enclosed table provides OSEP's analysis of the State's FFY 2006 APR and revised SPP and identifies, by indicator, OSEP's review of any revisions made by the State to its targets, improvement activities (timelines and resources) and baseline data in the State's SPP. It also identifies, by indicator, the State's status in meeting its targets, whether the State's data reflect progress or slippage, and whether the State corrected noncompliance and provided valid and reliable data.

Your State may want to consider taking advantage of available sources of technical assistance. A list of sources of technical assistance related to the SPP/APR indicators is available by clicking on the "Technical Assistance Related to Determinations" box on the opening page of the SPP/APR Planning Calendar website at <http://spp-apr->

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calendar.rrfcnetwork.org/. You will be directed to a list of indicators. Click on specific indicators for a list of centers, documents, web seminars and other sources of relevant technical assistance for that indicator.

As you know, your State must report annually to the public on the performance of each local educational agency (LEA) located in the State on the targets in the SPP under IDEA section 616(b)(2)(C)(ii)(1). In addition, your State must review LEA performance against targets in the State's SPP, determine if each LEA meets the requirements of the IDEA and inform each LEA of its determination. For further information regarding these requirements, see the SPP/APR Planning Calendar website at <http://spp-apr-calendar.rrfcnetwork.org/>. Finally, if you included revisions to baseline, targets or improvement activities in your APR submission, and OSEP accepted those revisions, please ensure that you update your SPP accordingly and that the updated SPP is made available to the public.

OSEP is committed to supporting Connecticut's efforts to improve results for children with disabilities and looks forward to working with your State over the next year. If you have any questions, would like to discuss this further, or want to request technical assistance, please do not hesitate to call Richard Steffan, your OSEP State Contact, at 202-245-6759.

Sincerely,



William W. Knudsen
Acting Director
Office of Special Education Programs

Enclosures

cc: State Director of Special Education