

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION

OFFICE OF SPECIAL EDUCATION AND REHABILITATIVE SERVICES

October 22, 2024

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OSEP 25-02

## **MEMORANDUM**

- **TO:** Lead Agency Directors, Part C Coordinators, State Interagency Coordinating Council Chairpersons, and State Data Managers
- **FROM:** Valerie C. Williams, Director Office of Special Education Programs (OSEP)
- **SUBJECT:** Individuals with Disabilities Education Act (IDEA) Part C State Performance Plan/Annual Performance Report (Part C SPP/APR)

## ACTION

**REQUIRED:** Submission of the IDEA Part C SPP/APR by February 3, 2025

This memo confirms that each State lead agency must submit its IDEA Part C SPP/APR for Federal fiscal year (FFY) 2023 by February 3, 2025, through the online SPP/APR submission tool. Each State's FFY 2023 IDEA Part C SPP/APR must include the required information outlined in the Part C SPP/APR General Instructions (SPP/APR Instructions) and the Part C Indicator Measurement Table. The Part C SPP/APR is now available electronically at: <u>https://sites.ed.gov/idea/grantees/#SPP-APR,FFY20-25-SPP-APR,</u>

This memo also reminds States that received a 2024 determination of needs assistance for two or more consecutive years that they must report with their FFY 2023 SPP/APR submission on:

- (1) the technical assistance sources from which the State received assistance; and
- (2) what actions the State took as a result of that technical assistance.

The extent to which your State takes advantage of available technical assistance may affect the actions we take under Sections 616 and 642, should your State not be identified as meets requirements in 2025. The State should also review IDEA Section

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616(e) regarding the potential enforcement actions the Department is required to take as a result of, and the potential future impact of, the Department's annual determination.

The Department will review the information provided in the State's FFY 2023 SPP/APR, other State-reported data, information obtained through monitoring visits, and other public information, and will determine, under IDEA Section 616(d) and 642, if the State meets the requirements and purposes of Part C of the IDEA or needs assistance, needs intervention, or needs substantial intervention in implementing the requirements of Part C of the IDEA. As noted in the Department's 2024 IDEA determination letters, for the Department's 2025 determinations and beyond, the Department is considering as a potential additional factor, OSEP-identified longstanding noncompliance (i.e., unresolved findings issued by OSEP at least three years ago). This factor would be reflected in the determination for each State through the "longstanding noncompliance" section of the Compliance Matrix beginning with the 2025 determinations. In implementing this factor, the Department is also considering, beginning in 2025, whether a State that would otherwise receive a score of meets requirements would not be able to receive a determination of meets requirements if the State had OSEPidentified longstanding noncompliance (i.e., unresolved findings issued by OSEP at least three or more years ago). Second, the Department is reviewing whether and how to consider IDEA Part C results data reported under three indicators in order to improve results for all infants, toddlers, and children with disabilities. This review would include considering alternative scoring options for child outcome Indicator C-3 and considering as potential additional factors, the information and data that States report under child find Indicators C-5 and C-6.

Prior to issuing the Department's 2025 determination for each State, OSEP will offer the State the opportunity to clarify or correct the data submitted in its FFY 2023 SPP/APR. OSEP will provide feedback through the SPP/APR reporting platform on the State's FFY 2023 SPP/APR data that OSEP will consider in making the Department's determination under IDEA Sections 616(d) and 642. In response to OSEP's feedback, the State must submit to OSEP, through the SPP/APR reporting platform, any corrected data and clarify any misunderstandings by OSEP about the data submitted. In order for the State's clarifications or corrections to data to be considered, the State's response must be certified and submitted in the SPP/APR reporting platform no later than close-of-business on the date specified by OSEP. Any State that does not meet the timeline for submitting its FFY 2023 SPP/APR may not be permitted to submit clarifications or corrections for purposes of the Department's 2025 determination under IDEA Sections 616(d) and 642.

As you know, on July 24, 2023, the Department issued *State General Supervision Responsibilities Under IDEA Parts B and C of the IDEA* (OSEP QA 23-01). OSEP QA 23-01 consolidated and clarified States' general supervision responsibilities in the implementation of a reasonably designed general supervision system, including clarifying relevant reporting requirements in the SPP/APR. The FFY 2023 SPP/APR Instructions require States to provide a description of their reasonably designed general supervision system in the Introduction, as well as reporting the actions States took to Page 3 – Lead Agency Directors, Part C Coordinators, State Interagency Coordinating Council Chairpersons, and State Data Managers

verify the correction of child-specific and regulatory/systemic noncompliance (consistent with OSEP QA 23-01) in the specific compliance indicators. Additionally, beginning with the FFY 2023 SPP/APR, the SPP/APR includes a new general supervision indicator, Indicator 12. Under Indicator 12, States are required to report on the identification and correction of all findings of noncompliance issued by the State related to SPP/APR compliance indicators (i.e. findings of noncompliance that relate to provisions cited in the FFY 2023 Part C SPP/APR Related Requirements document).

In addition, under Indicator 12, in the last row of the General Supervision Data Table, States *may* also provide additional information related to other findings of noncompliance that do not relate to the compliance indicators. This row would include reporting on all other findings of noncompliance that were not reported by the State under the compliance indicators (e.g., Results indicators, including related requirements, Fiscal, Dispute Resolution, etc.). In future years (e.g., with the FFY 2026 SPP/APR), States may be required to further disaggregate findings by results indicators (2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 9, 10, and 11), fiscal and other areas.

If you have any further questions about the IDEA Part C SPP/APR, please contact your OSEP Part C State Lead.

cc: Early Childhood Technical Assistance (ECTA) Center