



**child
development
services**

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CDS Informational Letter: Number 1

DATE: March 12, 2008

TO: Child Development Services Board Chairs, State Level Advisory
Committee Members, and Regional Site Directors

FROM: David Noble Stockford, Team Leader and Policy Director,
Debra Hannigan, State Director, Child Development Services

RE: Child Development Services Site (Local Educational Agency/LEA)]
Results from Profiled Data under State Performance Plan Determinations

Under the Individuals with Disabilities Education Act (IDEA), section 616, each state has a State Performance Plan (SPP) that evaluates the state's efforts to implement the requirements and purposes of IDEA and describes how the state will improve its implementation of IDEA.

Based on an analysis of each state's data, the Office of Special Education Programs (OSEP) classifies each state's performance into one of four incremental levels of determination: meets the requirements of IDEA; needs technical assistance to meet the requirements of IDEA; needs intervention to meet the requirements of IDEA; or needs substantial intervention to meet the requirements of IDEA. To determine the state's status in meeting the requirements, OSEP uses information provided in the state's Annual Performance Report (APR) and SPP, other state-reported data, information obtained through monitoring visits, and other public information relative to each LEA.

The Department must use the same four levels of need used by OSEP when making LEA determinations. The Department is required under IDEA to report annually to the public on the performance of each LEA in meeting targets set by the SPP. The requirement for public reporting on LEA performance is a critical provision in ensuring accountability and focusing on improved results for children with disabilities. The Department will report on eight accountability indicators: graduation, dropout, exit by dropout, suspension and expulsion, regular education classroom placement, self-contained classroom placement, out-of-district placement and parent involvement for students with disabilities. This process requires that Maine's Child Developmental Services review LEA performance against targets in the SPP, determine if each LEA meets the

requirements of IDEA, inform each LEA of its determination and provide technical assistance to the LEAs that have not met the targets.

The profiles, without determinations, are now on the website at the SPP page : <http://www.state.me.us/education/speced/spp/cdsprofiles.html>

The Department has determined that all CDS (LEA) sites, at a minimum, need technical assistance in meeting the requirements of IDEA. The Department is committed to supporting LEA efforts to improve results for children with disabilities and will continue to provide technical assistance opportunities to assist LEAs. There are two types of services that are available and are briefly displayed in this letter. The LEA should contact Erica Thompson who is acting as the Department's agent, at 624-666 by email at Erica.thompson@maine.gov to engage in dialogue that includes information that further explains the target to be achieved and methods for achieving that target, some of which are:

- Conduct a general needs assessment based on review of profiles and latest monitoring documentation;
- Determine needs for professional development or technical assistance based on analysis of student performance data;
- Identify and categorize available professional development and technical assistance resources to use for Improvement Plans; and,
- Identify professional development and technical assistance resources for research based practices.

If you need additional information, please contact Debra Hannigan by email: debra.hannigan@maine.gov or Erica Thompson Erica.thompson@maine.gov.