

April 18, 2012

Dear Superintendent/Agency Director:

This letter is to provide you with information regarding the process your agency will need to complete in order to be eligible to receive federal funds under the Individuals with Disabilities Education Act (IDEA) for State FY 2013.

Each responsible public agency in the state that provides services to students with disabilities must submit annual assurances to DESE regarding their compliance with the applicable federal and state statutes and regulations.

Most agencies submit their assurances via the Web when opening their Part B budget with Funds Management System. As you may know, the Department of Elementary and Secondary Education (DESE) is moving forward with the web based Electronic Planning and Electronic Grants System (ePeGS), and Part B IDEA applications will be processed through this system. Assurances for special education will be covered by a set of core assurances that will be part of the ePeGS application process. A copy of the core assurances that will be applicable to all DESE grants, including the Part B special education grant, may be accessed at: <http://dese.mo.gov/divspeced/Compliance/Assurances.html>.

In the past, we required that the agency's governing board approve the Assurance Statement prior to submission of the Part B grant application; however, nothing in state or federal regulations requires that governing boards approve the assurance statement. Therefore, the Office of Special Education is not requiring prior Board approval, and each district should follow its own policy on how to make assurances to DESE

The due date for submitting Part B applications is July 1, 2012. As in the past, responsible public agencies will not send a hard copy of the assurance to DESE, but at the time your district submits its application, the individual submitting the application will need to confirm that the district is agreeing to the core assurance statement as part of the ePeGS application process.

If you have any questions regarding the Core Assurances Statement or the requirements for submitting assurances, please contact the Compliance Section at 573-751-0186 or via e-mail at secompliance@dese.mo.gov.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Bonnie Aaron". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Bonnie Aaron, Director, Special Education Compliance

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cc: Director of Special Education