

Subject: REMINDER: Public Comment Period for Part C Application for Federal Funds under IDEA

Source: Pam Schroeder, Assistant Director, First Steps Compliance

Intended Audience: Stakeholders interested in Part C of the Individuals with Disabilities Education Act (IDEA)

Date: February 14, 2014

Public Comment Period for the Part C Application Opens Today (February 14, 2014)

All states making application for funds under Part C of the Individuals with Disabilities Education Act (IDEA) are required to make available for public review and comment the application packet for the federal funds. These are the federal funds that support the First Steps Early Intervention Program for children, birth to three years, and their families. The Department of Elementary and Secondary Education has developed the draft application packet for the IDEA Part C funds and, through this notice, is making the application available for review and comment until March 17, 2014, at the following link: <http://dese.mo.gov/se/compliance/Part-C/index2.html>.

The application packet, developed by the U.S. Department of Education, Office of Special Education Programs (OSEP), includes a summary of the assurances, certifications, and description of IDEA use of funds that the state will use to implement Part C of IDEA. Upon OSEP's approval of Missouri's Part C application, the state will receive a federal grant award under Part C of the IDEA for the period of July 1, 2014, to June 30, 2015.

As you review the application, please note the following:

- * The application is in a format required by OSEP.
- * The costs included in this application only reflect those attributable to the federal IDEA Part C funds that are allocated to the state of Missouri and not the total cost of the First Steps program.
- * The amounts listed in Section III, Description of the Use of Part C Funds, are based on the current state fiscal year (SFY 14) allocation since OSEP has yet to give the anticipated award amounts for SFY 15.
- * The application indicates new or revised policies based on recent changes to the Missouri Part C State Plan approved by the Missouri State Board of Education on December 3, 2013. A copy of the plan approved by the State Board of Education is available at the following link: <http://dese.mo.gov/se/stateplan/documents/se-fs-partcstateplanproposed2014final.pdf>.

The Part C application is available for review from January 15, 2014, through March 17, 2014. Written public comments on the draft Part C application may be submitted from February 14, 2014, until the close of business on March 17, 2014, to the attention of Pam Schroeder, Assistant Director of First Steps Compliance, Office of Special Education, P.O. Box 480, Jefferson City, MO 65102-0480, or by email at sefirststeps@dese.mo.gov or by fax at 573-526-4404.