

Subject: State Performance Plan and OSEP's Evaluation of Missouri's Part C Program, First Steps

Source: Stephen Barr, Assistant Commissioner

Intended Audience: System Points of Entry (SPOEs), Early Intervention Providers, State Interagency Coordinating Council (SICC) Members

Date: July 2, 2014

For Your Information:

Missouri recently received notification that the U.S. Department of Education, Office of Special Education Programs (OSEP) has completed its evaluation of Missouri's performance under Part C of the Individuals with Disabilities Education Act (IDEA). These are the regulations that govern the First Steps Early Intervention Program. OSEP has identified Missouri in the determination category of "Needs Intervention." The determination was based on slippage in two compliance indicators that previously had 100% performance and two compliance indicators that were based on new federal requirements for specific documentation in the Individualized Family Service Plan (IFSP). The determination did not include an evaluation of Missouri's results data which indicate a high level of performance in delivering services in the natural environment, child find activities, and positive child and family outcomes.

To view the 2014 Determination Letter to Missouri, Response Table, Explanation of Determination, and Compliance Matrix go to <http://www.dese.mo.gov/se/SPPpage.html> (under the OSEP Correspondence and Rankings Section).

Missouri's Part C State Performance Plan (SPP), required by IDEA, provided measurable and rigorous targets for Missouri in the area of 14 required indicators identified by OSEP. On January 24, 2014, Missouri filed the Part C Annual Performance Report (APR) with OSEP; this reported the state's performance on the indicators and targets. To view the 2014 SPP and APR go to: <http://www.dese.mo.gov/se/SPPpage.html>.

The APR for each state underwent an evaluation process by OSEP over the last few months. This evaluation involved a review of Missouri's performance on all of the indicators as well as a review of the state's ability to provide valid, reliable, and timely data for each of the indicators. I encourage you to be familiar with these documents as the SPP drives our monitoring focus and reflects the connection between compliance and performance.

Today, a letter will be sent electronically to each SPOE Director containing the Determination their SPOE agency received as a result of a review of their performance on selected SPP Indicators and other requirements. A chart explaining the indicators reviewed and the SPOE's performance on each will be included with the letter.

Thank you for all your hard work on behalf of infants and toddlers with disabilities and their families.