

COMMONWEALTH OF PENNSYLVANIA

DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION

July 28, 2016

Penn*Link

TO: School District Superintendents
School District Special Education Directors
Charter School Administrators
Charter School Special Education Directors
Intermediate Unit Executive Directors
Intermediate Unit Special Education Directors
Intermediate Unit PennData Managers

FROM: Pedro A. Rivera
Secretary of Education

SUBJECT: Pennsylvania's Individuals with Disabilities Education Act (IDEA) Part B 2016
Determination

On June 28, 2016, I was notified by the United States Department of Education's (USDE) Office of Special Education Programs that Pennsylvania has received the highest level of determination that the federal government awards to states under Part B of the IDEA. Pennsylvania was one of only 26 states and territories that received the distinction this year. Our state's excellent work has been recognized with the "Meets Requirements" designation for nine of the ten years that the USDE has been issuing its determinations.

In making determinations, the USDE considers the totality of each state's special education information including the State Performance Plan/Annual Performance Report (SPP/APR) and other state-reported data and publicly available information. Consistent with the USDE's new Results Driven Accountability, 2016 determinations were based on a state's compliance with the regulatory requirements of the IDEA as well as the extent to which positive outcomes are being achieved for students. The following results data for students with disabilities were considered: (1) participation on regular statewide assessments, (2) participation and performance on the 2014-15 National Assessment of Educational Progress, (3) dropout rates, and (4) graduation with a regular high school diploma.

Pennsylvania's SPP/APR is available on the Pennsylvania Department of Education's website at <http://www.education.pa.gov/K-12/Special%20Education/Pages/State-Performance-Plan-and-Annual-Report.aspx#tab-1> or the Pennsylvania Training and Technical Assistance Network's website at http://www.pattan.net/category/Legal/Federal%20Law%20and%20Regulations/page/Pennsylvania_State_Performance_Plan_and_Annual_Performance_Report.html. The USDE has developed state profiles as a resource for IDEA-related, state-specific information. Persons interested in reviewing that information may visit <https://osep.grads360.org/#communities/pdc/documents/11898>.

I want to express my sincere appreciation for your hard work in delivering high quality services to students with disabilities and their families. Questions regarding this information may be directed to Patricia Hozella, Director of the Bureau of Special Education, at pathozella@pa.gov.