

COMMONWEALTH OF PENNSYLVANIA
DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION

August 3, 2018

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 2018 –
Determinations Notification

On June 28, 2018, 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 – "Meets Requirements" – that the federal government awards to states under Part B of the Individuals with Disabilities Education Act (IDEA). Pennsylvania was one of only 22 states and territories that received the distinction this year. Our state's excellent work has been recognized with the "Meets Requirements" designation for 11 of the 12 years that the USDE has been issuing its determinations.

This determination is based on the totality of the state's special education data and information, including the federal fiscal year 2016 State Performance Plan/Annual Performance Report (SPP/APR), other state-reported data, and additional publicly available information. Consistent with the USDE's Results Driven Accountability, 2018 determinations were based on our state's compliance with the regulatory requirements of the IDEA as well as the extent to which positive outcomes are being achieved for students. In making Part B determinations in 2018, the Office of Special Education Programs considered the following results data for students with disabilities: (1) participation on regular statewide assessments; (2) participation and performance on the most recently administered (school year 2016-17) National Assessment of Educational Progress (NAEP); (3) graduation with a regular high school diploma; and (4) dropout rates.

Pennsylvania's Part B SPP/APR is available on the [Pennsylvania Department of Education \(PDE\) website](#) or the [Pennsylvania Training and Technical Assistance Network website](#). The USDE has developed state profiles as a resource for IDEA-related, state-specific information. Persons interested in reviewing that information may visit the Office of Special Education Programs [GRADS360 website](#) and click on Pennsylvania.

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 Ann Hinkson-Herrmann, Director of the PDE Bureau of Special Education, at ahinksonhe@pa.gov.