
MEMORANDUM

TO: Superintendents
FROM: Zoie Saunders, M.Ed., Interim Secretary
SUBJECT: USED IDEA B Determination 2024
DATE: September 27, 2024

Purpose

The Federal Office of Special Education Programs (OSEP) released [Vermont's state determination](#) for IDEA Part B, by its authority under 34 CFR § 300.603. This regulation states, in part, that the U.S. Secretary of Education will annually review states' Special Education performance, as described in the annual State Performance Plan/Annual Performance Report (SPP/APR). It also states that the federal Secretary will determine, as a result, what supports or interventions, if any, each state will need from the federal government.

As a result of Vermont's SPP/APR review, OSEP has determined that Vermont is in Needs Assistance – Year 2 status for IDEA Part B programs based on data from school years 2021-22 and 2022-2023. [34 CFR § 300.604](#) describes the possible consequences for Needs Assistance status. The U.S. Secretary of Education has advised Vermont of available sources of technical assistance, including OSEP-funded technical assistance centers and resources, and is requiring Vermont to work with appropriate entities.

Determination Status

The Needs Assistance determination status reflects several factors that will be areas of focus for our state, including:

- Increasing the percentage rate of children with disabilities participating in statewide assessments in grade 8 math and increasing rates of proficiency in reading and math in grade 4 on the National Assessment on Educational Progress.
- Increasing graduation rates for children with disabilities while simultaneously decreasing dropout rates.
- Working with local education agencies to ensure that each student with a disability transitioning out of secondary education has a fully compliant transition plan.



Vermont continues to meet our state targets in several areas, including ensuring all applicable students have an IEP developed and implemented by their third birthday, completing timely initial evaluations to determine eligibility for special education services and educating children with disabilities in inclusive educational environments.

The Vermont Agency of Education will continue to collaborate with OSEP funded technical assistance centers to support Vermont's ongoing improvement planning related to areas of noncompliance and results indicators. The Agency will continue to work with our school district and supervisory unions to develop the resources and supports necessary to improve outcomes for students with disabilities.