



Karen B. Salmon, Ph.D.
State Superintendent of Schools

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February 15, 2017

Dr. Barbara Brookmyer
Health Officer
Frederick County
350 Montevue Lane
Frederick, MD 21702

Dear Dr. Brookmyer:

The Maryland State Department of Education (MSDE), Division of Special Education/Early Intervention Services (DSE/EIS) is required to make determinations annually on the performance of each local Infants and Toddlers Program (LITP) using one of the following four determination categories: “Meets Requirements,” “Needs Assistance,” “Needs Intervention,” or “Needs Substantial Intervention” [34 CFR §§303.700 and 300.703]. The MSDE, DSE/EIS uses a results-based rubric for specific indicators to evaluate each LITP performance in meeting the State’s targets for Federal Fiscal Year (FFY) 2015 (2015-2016). Attached please find the FFY 2015 Determination Overview that identifies the Part C Indicators used to assign a local determination, the FFY 2015 Local Determination Scoring Criteria, and the Graduated Results-Driven Accountability Plan. The attached FFY 2015 Annual Data Table on SPP/APR Part C Indicators provides a three-year data analysis and required actions for the Frederick County Infants and Toddlers Program. Based on the FFY 2015 data, as well as information obtained through monitoring and complaint investigations, the Frederick County Infants and Toddlers Program has achieved the determination status of “Meets Requirements.”

In correspondence sent to your attention on March 20, 2014, you were informed that beginning with the FFY 2013 local determinations, the DSE/EIS would implement a six-year graduated results-driven accountability plan. As part of this plan, all Part C results indicators are used in the determination process. The results indicators include:

- Indicator 2: Provision of Services in the Natural Environment;
- Indicator 3: Child Outcomes¹;
- Indicator 4: Family Outcomes;
- Indicator 5: Child Find Birth to One; and
- Indicator 6: Child Find Birth to Three.

As part of the results-driven accountability system, the DSE/EIS has developed one set of baselines and targets that are inclusive of children who receive services from birth to three, as well as children who receive services through an Extended Individualized Family Service Plan (IFSP). Please see the *Part C Child Outcomes Baselines and Targets for Local Determinations* document. The decision to examine child outcomes as one group independent of age was unanimously supported by LITP

¹ The MSDE, DSE/EIS did not include Indicator 3: Child Outcomes in the FFY 2015 Part C Determinations because of the change in methodology that resulted in the establishment of a new baseline for FFY 2015.

Dr. Barbara Brookmyer
February 15, 2017
Page Two

Directors and Preschool Coordinators through a stakeholder discussion held during the April 29, 2014 Professional Learning Institute. The attached baselines for local determinations of Maryland's LITPs will not be included in the Maryland's Annual Performance Report (APR) to the Office of Special Education Programs (OSEP). For federal reporting, the OSEP requested that Maryland report child outcomes data for children birth to three years separately from child outcomes data for children older than three so that comparisons could be made with other states that are not serving children through an IFSP after age three.

The shift to a more balanced accountability approach does not relieve the DSE/EIS from ensuring compliance, correction of identified noncompliance, and the receipt of timely and accurate data. As a result of the accountability shift to an increased emphasis on results, an LITP's determination status may be impacted in the future.

LITPs are strongly encouraged to work closely with their Local Interagency Coordinating Council (LICC) to perform an analysis of local data and infrastructure. The analysis should guide the development of strategies for data-informed decision-making, increased parent partnerships, strategic collaboration, and the use of evidence-based practices to improve the results for infants, toddlers, and young children with disabilities and their families. As we continue this shift in focus to results-driven accountability, the MSDE, DSE/EIS will provide State and local professional learning opportunities.

Thank you for your hard work and commitment to excellence, equity, and efficiency. The MSDE is committed to supporting the efforts of the Frederick County Infants and Toddlers Program to improve results for infants, toddlers, and preschool age children with disabilities and their families. If you have any questions or wish to request technical assistance, please do not hesitate to call me at 410-767-0238.

Sincerely,



Marcella E. Franczkowski, M.S.
Assistant State Superintendent
Division of Special Education/
Early Intervention Services

MEF/BMM/cc
Attachments

c: Karen B. Salmon
Carol A. Williamson
Monica Grant
Branch Chiefs