MSDE Public Website of State Performance Plan Results

Local School System Results for Special Education
Maryland: Indicator 20
    State reported data (618 and State Performance Plan and Annual Performance Report) are timely and accurate.

Results

	2004/05	2005/06	2006/07	2007/08	2008/09	2009/10	2010/11
State Baseline:	96.4%	-	-	-	-	-	-
State Target:	-	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%
State Results:	-	100% Target Met	-	-	-	-	-

Narrative Description of Indicator

The data system incorporates a variety of information from other MSDE offices. MSDE procedures for data collection are clearly delineated in MSDE data collection manuals to address the specific data collection and reporting requirements of the Department. The DSE/EIS collaborates with staff members from the Division of Accountability and Assessment (DAA), the Division of Instruction (DI), and the Division of Student, Family and School Support (DSFSS) to collect, disaggregate, analyze, report, and/or develop new data collections, as determined appropriate, to ensure data on students with disabilities required in accordance with IDEA are accurate, valid, and reliable.

These collaborations include the following:

• MSDE continues to develop and refine the Part B Report Writer System. The system will be incorporated into mdssis.org as a means of maintaining static data sets to compare and contrast special education data. The process for comparison and contrast of special education data to other MSDE data will be completed in the 2007-2008 school year using the New Maryland's Statewide Longitudinal Data Systems. MSDE will implement the use of a unique student identifier for each student. This is supported by a grant program from the National Center for Education Statistics and U.S. Department of Education Institute of Education Sciences.

• Public agencies complete cross reference documentation between special education data collection and other required state data submissions, including attendance, enrollment, suspension & discipline, and post-graduation data. Refer to Indicator 4 for additional details.

• Maryland measures academic progress on state assessments. Public agencies have the capacity to disaggregate MSA, HSA and Alt-MSA data for students with disabilities at the student level. The capability of online data analysis allows a user to view special education data side by side with

general education data on the public MSDE State Report Card on the MSDE website. Each agency's data are linked at the State, school system, and school level. The Mdk12 website is available to assist schools and other interested parties to analyze state assessment data and guide them in making data-based instructional decisions that support improved performance for all students. Refer to Indicator 3 for additional details.

Data on students with disabilities is located in different data collection sets. The access to newly collected disaggregate data on students with disabilities has allowed for the cross-referencing of data reports between different data sets. Presently relational links are being developed for:

• Maryland School Assessment (MSA) data relative to content areas, grade, and type of assessment in relationship to least restrictive environment (LRE) data on students with disabilities. At present MSDE is testing the ability to match the DSE/EIS Special Services Information System (SSIS) data collection on students with disabilities which generates LRE data with the MSA data collection system. The links are presently based on several logarithms and direct matches and student identifiers. Please refer to Indicators 3 and 5 for more information.

• Report of student participation and performance in Statewide assessments under NCLB. Please refer to Indicator 3 for additional information.

• Comparison of Section 618 data on students with disabilities exiting special education to general education data collections as compared to the number of students with disabilities exiting as high school graduates and dropouts. At present these relational links are being instituted in many local school systems (LSS). MSDE is not presently able to complete this transaction electronically, however manual comparisons are being conducted. This process will be used to check the validity of data reported in Indicator 2.

• Linkage of data from the Maryland Infants and Toddlers Program (MITP) data collection on children, birth to three years old, to SSIS for students with disabilities, ages three through 21 years old. MSDE has added additional fields to the SSIS to track the transition of children served under Part C into services for children under Part B at age 3. It was realized that the additional data fields did not provide the required cumulative data; therefore MSDE used Excel forms for the collection of data for Indicator 12 for the 2005-2006 school year. MSDE will continue to collect data on children served under Part C transitioning into Part B using Excel forms through the 2007-2008 school year. MSDE is researching the feasibility of utilizing a web-based data system to report these data. It is expected that this change would result in enhancements to the data system that would allow for collection of cumulative data through mdssis.org. Please refer to Indicator 12 for additional information.

Most LSS and PA special education data collection elements are collected as a part of the daily information management for all students. However, Department of Juvenile Services (DJS), Adult Correction Education (ACE), and Maryland State Department of Education Juvenile Correctional Education Program (MSDE/JCEP) provide reports on data entry forms and have no electronic web-based management of special education records. MSDE/JCEP has made some progress toward utilizing an electronic web based management system and anticipates the use of the statewide IEP system by the 2007-2008 school year.

The SSIS presently functions as a centralized data submission for Section 618 data. Personnel data are collected annually in Excel spreadsheets. Section 618 data are submitted via a secure server file transfer of data from public agencies, including LSS, Department of Juvenile Services (DJS), Adult Corrections Education (ACE), Maryland School for the Blind (MSB), and Maryland School for the Deaf (MSD) who monitor and verify their data collection systems on a local level. Most PA special education data collection elements are collected as a part of the daily information management for all students.

Other LSS and PA utilize electronic file transfers twice a year to an MSDE secure server for web-based data submission of the annual child count, census data, and exit data. Six LSS and one PA who are utilizing the Statewide IEP System are presently testing submission of data to the SSIS nightly utilizing a scripting program (Tumbleweed from Apache Software, Inc). Personnel data continue to be collected annually in Excel

spreadsheets.

Accuracy of the data is dependent upon the accuracy of the submitted school level data. Questions and discrepancies in the data are always verified by MSDE staff with the LSS/PA. The LSS/PA SSIS Database Manager corrects errors and resubmits the entire data file to MSDE to ensure that corrections are made in both the database and the error file. The new mdssis.org system allows two methods of data submission:

• Data submitted as one large file and then corrected and resubmitted; or
• Data submitted as a large file and error records are held in a suspense file until the LSS/PA corrects the errors online. Once corrected records are accepted LSS/PA can extract the corrected file and repopulate the LSS/PA system with the corrected records.

Data on students with disabilities is submitted electronically from public agencies. Each LSS and PA is responsible for submitting data for each student using an electronic file transfer over a secure server website. Each of the data elements contained on the SSIS records is required and must be accurately maintained. The database consists of two types of records: the SSIS Student Record that contains student demographic information; and the SSIS Service Record that contains information about the services provided to the student. Twice a year public ag