

## MSDE Public Website of State Performance Plan Results

### Local School System Results for Special Education

Maryland: Indicator 12

Percent of children referred by Part C prior to age 3, who are found eligible for Part B, and who have an IEP developed and implemented by their third birthdays.

### Results

	2004/05	2005/06	2006/07	2007/08	2008/09	2009/10	2010/11
State Baseline:	6.21%	-	-	-	-	-	-
State Target:	-	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%
State Results:	-	83.60%	-	-	-	-	-

### Narrative Description of Indicator

At the time of the first State Performance Plan submission (December 1, 2005), data to address Indicator 12 were not being systematically collected as part of Maryland's annual Student Services Information System (SSIS). MSDE submitted what was referred to at the time as data from the web-based Part C database to address this indicator. In a March 20, 2006 letter, OSEP indicated that Maryland must report Part B data for FFY 2004, and that this data would constitute appropriate baseline data for this Indicator.

By way of clarification as to the relevance of the data submitted with the first SPP, the following explanation is offered, and should have been included with the original submission.

Prior to a site visit conducted by OSEP in March 2004 for both Part C and Part B, Maryland had in place jointly developed Part C/Part B Transition At Age Three State Policies and Procedures that allowed local lead agencies and local school systems to conduct the Part C Transition Planning Meeting and the initial Part B eligibility determination meeting as a combined meeting, as long as each part of the combined meeting met respective regulatory requirements (e.g., informed parental consent, personnel present). In conjunction with this provision, the MSDE and MITP agreed that, since the Part C database was web-based and "real-time" Part C would collect and enter the outcome of each eligibility determination meeting, i.e., Part B data would be collected and maintained in the Part C database. With MSDE as the lead agency for Part C, this coordinated approach to data collection was intended to assist with oversight of the Transition At Age Three process. In response the findings resulting from the March 2004 site visit by OSEP, the MSDE and MITP determined that by allowing the two meetings to be combined, issues of programmatic responsibility had become confused, and therefore remedies to address full compliance were difficult to implement. The MSDE and MITP subsequently revised the State Policies and Procedures to clarify the distinct responsibilities of both programs, separating the formerly combined meetings into separate Part C and Part B functions, and eliminating the collection of outcome data for Part B eligibility determination from the Part C database.

To fully comply with OSEP's March 20, 2006 Directions, Maryland instituted the following procedures to collect and validate data to establish the baseline for FFY 2004:

- Identification of the timeframe of July 1, 2004 to June 30, 2005 as the baseline data period; (this is consistent with the established period for cumulative Exit data collection).
- The Maryland Infants and Toddlers Program provided a data set from the Part C web-based database covering the same time period; this data set included all children entered into the Part C database by Local Infants and Toddlers Program staff as having been referred to local school systems for Part B eligibility determination and found eligible. Social Security numbers are used as the child identification number for the Part C database however parents are not required to provide SSN.
- The MSDE Part B data manager conducted a comparison of the Part C data set with the SSIS data set, using Social Security numbers as the basis for making a match. Part B data includes SSN and pseudo-SSN. Though limited in terms of comparability of the information in both data sets, it was the selected approach due to the lack of connectedness between the Part C and Part B databases. The lack of a consistent assignment of student identification numbers between Part C and Part B, as well as across local school systems contributed to matching inconsistencies.

Results of procedures:

- 209 (6.21%) out of a total of 3,368 children reported by Part C as referred to Part B for eligibility determination could be verified by Part B as having been found eligible with an IEP in effect at age 3.
- Data on the number of children reported by Part C as referred to Part B and determined NOT eligible prior to the third birthday were not collected for July 1, 2004-June 30, 2005. It was not until August 2005 that States were advised at a national meeting on State Performance Plan requirements sponsored by OSEP that these data must be collected and reported. Maryland established data collection procedures for local school systems to capture these data beginning with the July 1, 2005-June 30, 2006 collection period. Results are reported as part of Actual Target Data for FFY 2005.

For the collection of FFY 05 performance data, MSDE directed all local school systems to:

- Conduct manual reviews of all preschool student records to identify three year-olds who had been referred by Part C to Part B from July 1, 2005 to June 30, 2006 for eligibility determination;
- Identify the outcome of each eligibility determination meeting (eligible/not eligible);
- Document whether the IEP was implemented by the child's third birthday;
- Document accepted reasons and range of days beyond the third birthday if either eligibility determination did not occur prior to or the IEP was not in effect by the child's third birthday; and
- Submit this manually compiled data concurrent with the electronic submission of all other SSIS data. NOTE: The required reporting fields have been incorporated into Maryland's statewide IEP system. All local school systems must implement an electronic collection and reporting of Transition at Age 3 data beginning on July 1, 2007 using either the Maryland IEP or, if using a private vendor, with the required fields incorporated

into the vendor's web-based tool. However, data on students determined to be not eligible for Part B Special Education services will still need to be maintained manually until the procedure for collecting this data electronically can be finalized and included as a component of Maryland's statewide IEP system.

**Discussion of Improvement Activities Completed and Explanation of Progress or Slippage that occurred for FFY 2005:**

Maryland did not meet the target of 100% established by OSEP for this Indicator, but did show an 77.19% improvement (83.4%) over the FFY 2004 (2004-2005) revised baseline of 6.21%. Division data management and program staff worked closely with local school system staff to ensure the integrity of the data reported for FFY 05. Support and technical assistance provided by Division staff to LSS staff will continue to be part of ongoing improvement activities to maintain accurate reporting of local data, and to address issues that surface as the web-based IEP is implemented and data is electronically captured and submitted on a more real-time, as opposed to one-time annual, basis.