

Submitted December 1, 2005.

Revised January 3, 2006; February 1, 2007; May 21, 2007; February 1, 2008; April 14, 2008; February 2, 2009; January 29, 2010; February 1, 2011; and April 19, 2011

U.S. Department of Education
Office of Special Education Programs
Potomac Center Plaza
Mail Stop 2600, Room 4129
550 12th Street S.W.
Washington, DC 20202

Re: Massachusetts Part B State Performance Plan for FFY 2005-2012

Dear Sir or Madam:

Enclosed is the Massachusetts State Performance Plan (MA SPP) for FFY 2005-2012. The MA SPP was developed in accordance with 20 U.S.C. 1416(b)(1), which states that “not later than 1 year after the date of enactment of the Individuals with Disabilities Education Improvement Act of 2004, each State must have in place a performance plan that evaluates the State’s efforts to implement the requirements and purposes of Part B and describes how the State will improve such implementation.” The MA SPP responds directly to the 20 indicators identified by the Office of Special Education Programs (OSEP) in *Information Collection 1820-0624, Part B State Performance Plan (SPP) and Annual Performance Report (APR)*.

The Massachusetts Department of Elementary and Secondary Education (MASSDE) has engaged in a variety of activities to obtain broad input from stakeholders on the development of the Massachusetts State Performance Plan (MA SPP). An overview of the MA SPP was first presented to the Special Education Advisory Council (SAC), and was also presented to key stakeholders within MASSDE. As a next step, the Massachusetts Statewide Special Education Steering Committee – which consists of SAC members, key MASSDE personnel, local education officials, parents, advocates, and representatives from higher education, charter schools, approved private special education schools, and adult service agencies – met to identify targets, methodologies, and key activities as appropriate for each of the 20 MA SPP indicators. Additionally, I have met with a number of other groups as we have been preparing and revising the MA SPP and Annual Performance Report (APR), and have solicited input and described the activities to date to stakeholders broadly across the state.

The continued input and feedback from the Steering Committee and other groups have been keys in the development of the MA SPP. In addition to discussing targets, methodologies, and improvement activities, Steering Committee members have also discussed dissemination of information about the MA SPP within their respective organizations. Additionally, Steering Committee members signed up to participate in targeted interest groups focused on each indicator. These interest groups incorporate additional members and will meet throughout the upcoming years to help guide Massachusetts’ work in each area.

Regarding public dissemination, the completed MA SPP is made widely available for public discussion. This will be accomplished by broad discussion in interest groups (as previously mentioned) and at the Statewide Advisory Council meeting and other conference and group discussion opportunities. Additionally, MASSDE posts the MA SPP on the MASSDE website at <http://www.doe.mass.edu/sped/spp/>, and distributes hard copies of the report to key constituents and the media.

MASSDE has provided detail and commentary that addresses concerns raised in previous correspondence from OSEP regarding the MA SPP. Where concerns were raised, the response is incorporated fully into the actions that MASSDE describes for the present or future in various sections throughout the MA SPP, as applicable. Please note that the following revisions have been made since the initial submission on December 1, 2005:

- 1) Indicator 4A was revised on January 3, 2006;
- 2) Indicators 1, 2, 4A, 4B, 5, 6, 7, 8, 9, 10, 11, 13, 14, and 18 were revised on February 1, 2007;
- 3) Indicators 9 and 10 were revised on May 21, 2007 at the request of OSEP;
- 4) Indicators 1, 2, 3, 4A, 5, 7, 9, 10, 14, and 20 were revised on February 1, 2008;
- 5) Indicators 7, 9 and 10 were revised on April 14, 2008 at the request of OSEP;
- 6) Indicator 7 was revised according to the SPP submission instructions, the baseline data for Indicator 1 were revised, and improvement activities for Indicators 1, 2, 3, 4A, 5, 6, 8, 9, 10, 11, 13, 14, 15, 16, 17 and 20 were revised on February 2, 2009;
- 7) Indicators 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 7, 11, 12, 16, 17 and 18 were revised, and improvement activities were revised for Indicators 1, 2, 4, 4, 5, 8, 11, 12, 13, 14, 18 and 19 on February 1, 2010; and
- 8) Indicators 1-20 were revised to include targets and new or updated improvement activities for the extended SPP period (FFY 2011 and FFY 2012); Indicators 4B, 13, and 14 have been amended to include new baseline data, targets, and improvement activities; and targets have been amended for Indicators 8, 18, and 19 on February 1, 2011.

MASSDE made the following changes to the MA SPP for FFY 2005-2012 on April 19, 2011:

- 1) Changes to Indicator 4B reflect the accurate measurement for districts that have (a) significant discrepancy by race or ethnicity, in rates of suspensions and expulsions of greater than 10 days in a school year of children with IEPs; and (b) policies, procedures, or practices that contribute to the significant discrepancy and do not comply with requirements relating to the development and implementation of IEPs, the use of positive behavioral interventions and supports, and procedural safeguards. See changes to the baseline data table and the measurable and rigorous target table in the report;
- 2) Indicator 13 includes updated baseline data;
- 3) Indicator 14 was revised to include updated baseline data, and the actual numbers used in the calculation;
- 4) Indicators 15 and 16 were revised to update links to electronic information cited in the report, or to delete obsolete links to resources that are no longer available.
- 5) MASSDE also made edits to several indicator reports and Appendix A to correct non-substantive typographical errors,(e.g., punctuation, capitalization, word choice, spelling, typographical errors, and acronyms) in each indicator report and in Appendix A originally submitted on February 1, 2011.

Additional edits made in response to the Massachusetts Part B FYY 2009 SPP/APR Status Table are included in the MA APR for FFY 2009 submitted on April 19, 2011.

If you have questions or need additional clarification regarding the MA SPP, please contact me at 781.338.3388 or mmmittnacht@doe.mass.edu.

Sincerely,

Marcia Mittnacht
State Director of Special Education
Special Education Planning and Policy Development Office
Massachusetts Department of Elementary and Secondary Education

C: Mitchell D. Chester, Ed.D., Commissioner, Massachusetts Department of Elementary and Secondary Education