



Mohammed Choudhury
State Superintendent of Schools

June 16, 2023

Mr. Robert Hair
Superintendent
Maryland School for the Blind
3501 Taylor Avenue
Baltimore, MD 21236

Dear Mr. Hair:

The Maryland State Department of Education (MSDE), Division of Early Intervention and Special Education Services (DEI/SES), is required by the United States Department of Education (USDE), Office of Special Education Programs (OSEP), to make determinations annually regarding the performance of students with disabilities for each local preschool and special education program using one of the following four determination categories: "Meets Requirements," "Needs Assistance," "Needs Intervention," or "Needs Substantial Intervention" [34 CFR §§300.600 and 300.604]. The MSDE, DEI/SES, uses a results-based rubric for given indicators to evaluate the performance of each local education agency (LEA) in meeting the State's identified targets. For Federal Fiscal Year (FFY) 2021 Part B determinations, the Maryland School for the Blind has achieved the determination status of **"Meets Requirements."**

Attached please find supporting documents:

1. *FFY 2021 Determination Overview* (identifies the Part B Indicators used to assign a local determination status on page two – please note that fiscal and complaints/due process hearing data continues to be used);
2. *FFY 2021 Local Determination Scoring Criteria* (provides a graduated results-driven accountability plan used to make a local determination by year);
3. *FFY 2021 Annual Report Card on State Performance Plan (SPP)/Annual Performance Reports (APR) Part B Indicators* (provides a three-year local data analysis and required actions for students with disabilities ages three through 21); and
4. *DEI/SES Differentiated Framework: Tiers of Supervision and Support* (provides the framework used by the DEI/SES to guide the level of monitoring and corresponding level of performance support provided to LEAs).

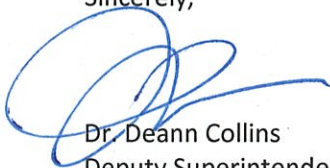
To support Maryland's commitment to narrow the opportunity and achievement gaps for students with disabilities and their families, the implementation of the DEI/SES five-year strategic plan, *Moving Maryland Forward*, provides a statewide differentiated framework for general supervision and performance support. Based upon a comprehensive data analysis (including the SPP/APR local determination status), the Maryland School for the Blind has been assigned the **"Universal"** tier for the delivery of the DEI/SES technical assistance model for results. LEAs/public agencies assigned to the Universal tier will receive comprehensive monitoring from the DEI/SES every four years.

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Each LEA is strongly encouraged to work closely with their local Special Education Citizens Advisory Committee (SECAC) and Family Support Center to analyze local data and infrastructure for the implementation of specially designed instruction. 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 with fidelity to improve the results for children and youth with disabilities and their families. As we continue this shift in focus to results-driven accountability, the MSDE, DEI/SES, will provide State and local professional learning opportunities with coaching.

Thank you for your hard work and commitment to equity and efficiency for excellence. MSDE is committed to supporting the efforts of the Maryland School for the Blind to improve results for children and youth with disabilities and their families. If you have any questions or wish to request technical assistance, please do not hesitate to call Dr. Brian Morrison, Branch Chief, Policy and Accountability, DEI/SES, at 410-767-0863.

Sincerely,



Dr. Deann Collins
Deputy Superintendent
Office of the Deputy Superintendent of Teaching and Learning

DC/BMM:mj

Attachments

c: Joshue Irzyk
Alison Barmat
Carmen Brown
Molly Conner
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