FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
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STATE DETERMINATION STATUS CATEGORIZED AS “NEEDS ASSISTANCE” IN MEETING REQUIREMENTS OF PART B OF THE IDEA

Montgomery, AL – To improve the educational outcomes of America’s 6.5 million children and youth with disabilities, the U.S. Department of Education (USDE) is continuing a major shift in the way it oversees the effectiveness of states’ special education programs. Under the new framework known as Results-Driven Accountability (RDA) that began last year, the Department also includes educational results and outcomes for students with disabilities in making each state’s annual determination under the Individuals with Disabilities Education Act (IDEA) in addition to the compliance indicators that have been previously used in making determinations.

The IDEA requires that the Secretary make an annual determination as to whether each State meets the requirements of the statute, based on the data submitted in the Annual Performance Report (APR) and other available information. The USDE has determined that, under IDEA section 616(d)(2)(A)(i), the ALSDE Needs Assistance in meeting the requirements of Part B of the IDEA. This determination status is based on the totality of the State’s data and information, including the State’s FFY 2013 APR, revised State Performance Plan (SPP), state-reported data, and other publicly available information. The USDE makes annual determinations in implementing Part B of the IDEA according to the following categories: “Meets Requirements, Needs Assistance, Needs Intervention, or Needs Substantial Intervention.”

The USDE has made the FFY13 annual determinations for each state available electronically on the State Profile Pages in GRADS 360, the Department’s online submission portal. Currently, each State profile includes the most recent State Performance Plan/Annual Performance Report (SPP/APR) and the USDE, Office of Special Education Program’s response, including any required actions; and other related documents of interest to the public.

Under section 616(d) of the IDEA, States are required to report annually to the Secretary on the performance of the State according to the targets established in the SPP under Part B of the IDEA. Each State’s APR was due February 2, 2015. The ALSDE submitted its FFY 2013 APR on January 30, 2015. These documents have been posted on the ALSDE’s Web site (www.alsde.edu) and may be accessed by clicking on Department Offices, scrolling down to Office of Learning Support, and clicking on Special Education Services. The SPP/APR and the State Profiles are available under Data/Reporting.

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