FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
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ALABAMA MEETS THE REQUIREMENTS OF PART B OF IDEA
USDOE Results-Driven Accountability Framework

Montgomery, AL—According to the June 28, 2016, letter addressed to the State Superintendent of the Alabama State Department of Education (ALSDE), the U.S. Department of Education (USDOE), Office of Special Education Programs (OSEP), has determined that under IDEA, Section 616(d)(2)(A)(i) the ALSDE meets the requirements of Part B of the IDEA.

This status determination is based on the totality of the state’s data and information, including the state’s FFY 2014 Annual Performance Report (APR), revised State Performance Plan (SPP), state-reported data, and other publicly available information.

“Our goal is to continually improve the services and success of students in our state, especially those most vulnerable and in need. We are proud to see the improvement in meeting the requirements of IDEA. This work does not stop. We strive every day to teach and serve all students so they may leave our schools ready for their next step in life”, said Dr. Mark Kirkemier, Interim Deputy State Superintendent, Division of Teaching and Learning/Coordinator of Educator Effectiveness.

The data and information used by OSEP to make this determination may be accessed on GRADS360 at https://osep.grads360.org/#program/idea-part-b-profiles. When you access the link, please click on the map or use the dropdown menu to the right of the page to navigate to Alabama’s Part B Profile. Currently, each state profile includes the most recent SPP/APR and OSEP’s response, including any required actions; a State data profile; a link to the current determination letter; the State’s Results Driven Accountability determination matrix; and other related documents.

Since 2013, the USDOE has been implementing a major shift in the way it oversees the effectiveness of states’ special education programs in order to improve the educational outcomes of America’s 6.5 million children and youth with disabilities. Prior to 2013, the USDOE’s primary focus was to determine whether states were meeting procedural requirements such as timelines for evaluations, due process hearings, and transitioning children into preschool services. While these compliance indicators remain important to children and families, under the new framework known as Results-Driven Accountability, the USDOE now includes educational results and outcomes for students with disabilities in making each state’s annual determination under the Individuals with Disabilities Education Act (IDEA).

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The IDEA requires that the U. S. Secretary of Education make an annual determination as to whether each state meets the requirements of the statute based on the data submitted in the APR and other available information. The USDOE 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.”

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 8, 2016. The ALSDE submitted its FFY 2014 APR on February 2, 2016. These documents have been posted on the ALSDE’s Web site (www.alsde.edu) and may be accessed by hovering over Department Offices, selecting the link Special Education Services under Office of Learning Support. In the data menu on the right, select Data/Reporting and then click SPP/APR listed in the topics menu.

For further information, please contact Ms. Crystal Richardson at (334) 242-8114.

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