



STATE OF MICHIGAN
DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION
LANSING

GRETCHEN WHITMER
GOVERNOR

MICHAEL F. RICE, Ph.D.
STATE SUPERINTENDENT

MEMORANDUM

DATE: June 1, 2021

TO: ISD Superintendent Name
ISD Special Education Director Name
Sample ISD Name

FROM: Teri L. Rink, Ed. S., Director
Office of Special Education

SUBJECT: Determinations Notification

I am writing to advise you of the Michigan Department of Education's (MDE) 2021 determination under section 616 of the *Individuals with Disabilities Education Act* (IDEA). The MDE has determined that Sample ISD Name Meets Requirements in implementing the purposes and requirements of Part B of IDEA. This determination is based on the totality of the Intermediate School District's (ISD) data and information, including the Federal fiscal year (FFY) 2019 State Performance Plan/Annual Performance Report (SPP/APR), other federally reported data, as well as other ISD-reported data.

The ISD's 2021 determination is based on the data reflected in the ISD's "2021 MDE Part B Results-Driven Accountability Matrix" (MDE-RDA Matrix). The MDE-RDA Matrix is individualized for each ISD and consists of:

- Results Matrix that includes scoring on Results Elements.
- Compliance Matrix that includes scoring on Compliance Indicators and other compliance factors.
- Results Score and a Compliance Score.
- RDA Percentage based on both the Results Score and Compliance Score.
- ISD's Determination.

The MDE-RDA Matrix and data are more fully explained in the document, entitled "How the Michigan Department of Education Made 2021 ISD Determinations under Section 616(d) of the *Individuals with Disabilities Education Act*."

The MDE is continuing to use both results data and compliance data in making determinations in 2021. In making Part B determinations in 2021, the MDE used results data related to:

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- English Language Arts (ELA) and Math participation of students with individualized education programs (IEPs) on regular Statewide assessments at fourth and eighth grades.¹
- ELA and Math proficiency of students with IEPs on any Statewide assessment at fourth and eighth grades.
- Percentage of students with IEPs who graduated with a regular high school diploma.
- Percentage of students with IEPs who dropped out.

The MDE used compliance data related to:

- Suspension and Expulsion of students with IEPs.
- Disproportionate Representation in Special Education of students with IEPs due to inappropriate identification.
- Disproportionate Representation of students with IEPs in Specific Disability Categories due to inappropriate identification.
- Timely initial evaluations.
- Timeliness of Part C to Part B Transition.
- Secondary Transition of students with IEPs.
- Timeliness of IDEA Data Reported through the Michigan Student Data System.
- Special Education Single Audit Findings.
- Longstanding Noncompliance.

The MDE is pleased to inform you that your ISD data for results and compliance data meet the purposes and requirements of section 616(b) as described in the above reference document - "How the Michigan Department of Education Made 2021 ISD Determinations under Section 616(d) of the *Individuals with Disabilities Education Act*." Even as the ISD meets the purposes and requirements of IDEA for 2021, there continues to be a need for improvement in individual districts in the ISD. Through an analysis of member district data, the ISD may determine appropriate technical assistance on the identified needs for improvement.

Thank you for your continued work to improve results for children and youth with disabilities and their families. MDE will continue to provide technical assistance and resources to improve educational results and functional outcomes for children with IEPs, as well as all Michigan children, in the coming school year. We encourage the ISD to take advantage of the assistance and resources. MDE looks forward to reviewing the ISD's new determinations data, next year in 2022. If you have any questions, please contact Teri Rink at rinkt1@michigan.gov.

¹ Statewide assessments were waived for school year 2019-2020, therefore assessment data is from school year 2018-2019.



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The MDE reviewed Sample ISD Name's data on results and compliance using criteria in the above referenced document - "How the Michigan Department of Education Made 2021 ISD Determinations under Section 616(d) of the *Individuals with Disabilities Education Act*." The ISD must closely examine the MDE-RDA matrix to identify the specific indicators below the criteria. Through an analysis of member district data, the ISD can determine appropriate technical assistance on the identified needs for improvement.

2021 is the first year of the ISD receiving a Needs Assistance in implementing the requirements of IDEA. According to IDEA, when an ISD receives a determination of "Needs Assistance" for a second consecutive year, one of three actions must occur, in accordance with § 300.604 of the IDEA, the MDE will require the ISD to:

- Provide technical assistance to districts performing below the identified criteria; or
- Re-direct the use of federal flow-through funds; or
- Impose special conditions on the use of flow-through funds.

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2021 is the second consecutive year of the ISD receiving a Needs Assistance in implementing the requirements of IDEA. According to IDEA, when an ISD receives a determination of "Needs Assistance" for a second consecutive year, one of three actions must occur, in accordance with § 300.604 of the IDEA, the MDE will require the ISD to:

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MDE will continue to provide technical assistance and resources to improve results for students with IEPs and meet the compliance requirements of IDEA. The ISD is required in accordance with § 300.604 of the IDEA to receive technical assistance from the MDE Office of Special Education (OSE). See the [Catamaran Technical Assistance Website](https://training.catamaran.partners) (<https://training.catamaran.partners>) for technical assistance resources on the SPP/APR. SPP/APR technical assistance resources can also be found at the [IDEA Data Center](https://ideadata.org/) website (<https://ideadata.org/>).

MDE looks forward to reviewing the ISD's new determination data next year, in 2022. If you have any questions, please contact Teri Rink at rinkt1@michigan.gov.



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- Prepare a corrective action plan or improvement plan, if MDE determines the ISD can correct the problem within one year.
- Enter into a compliance agreement, if MDE determines the ISD cannot correct the problem within one year.

Additionally, for each year of the determination, the MDE may:

- Withhold a percentage of the ISD funds under section 611(e) of the IDEA.
- Seek to recover funds.
- Withhold any further payments to the ISD.
- MDE may also impose other sanctions as outlined in the Michigan Administrative Rules for Special Education R 340.1855.

MDE will continue to provide technical assistance and resources to improve results for students with IEPs and meet the compliance requirements of IDEA. We encourage the ISD to take advantage of all assistance offered and resources available. MDE looks forward to reviewing the ISD's new determinations data, next year in 2022. If you have any questions, please contact Teri Rink at rinkt1@michigan.gov.



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- RDA Percentage based on both the Results Score and Compliance Score.
- ISD's Determination.

The MDE-RDA Matrix and data are more fully explained in the document, entitled "How the Michigan Department of Education Made 2021 ISD Determinations under Section 616(d) of the *Individuals with Disabilities Education Act*."

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The MDE is using both results data and compliance data in making determinations in 2021. In making Part B determinations in 2021, The MDE used results data related to:

- English Language Arts (ELA) and Math participation of students with individualized education programs (IEPs) on regular Statewide assessments at fourth and eighth grades.¹
- ELA and Math proficiency of students with IEPs on any Statewide assessment at fourth and eighth grades.
- Percentage of students with IEPs who graduated with a regular high school diploma.
- Percentage of students with IEPs who dropped out.

The MDE used compliance data related to:

- Suspension and Expulsion of students with IEPs.
- Disproportionate Representation in Special Education of students with IEPs due to inappropriate identification.
- Disproportionate Representation of students with IEPs in Specific Disability Categories due to inappropriate identification.
- Timely initial evaluations.
- Timeliness of Part C to Part B Transition.
- Secondary Transition of students with IEPs.
- Timeliness of IDEA Data Reported through the Michigan Student Data System.
- Special Education Single Audit Findings.
- Longstanding Noncompliance.

The MDE reviewed Sample ISD Name's data on results and compliance using criteria in the above referenced document - "How the Michigan Department of Education Made 2021 ISD Determinations under Section 616(d) of the *Individuals with Disabilities Education Act*." Sample ISD Name was below the state identified criteria for both the results indicators and the compliance indicators. The ISD must closely examine the MDE-RDA matrix to identify the specific indicators that resulted in being below the criteria. Through an analysis of member district data, the ISD must determine appropriate technical assistance on the identified needs for improvement. See the [Catamaran Technical Assistance Website](https://training.catamaran.partners/) (<https://training.catamaran.partners/>) for technical assistance resources on the SPP/APR. SPP/APR technical assistance resources can also be found at the [IDEA Data Center](https://ideadata.org/) website (<https://ideadata.org/>).

2021 is the third year of the ISD's determination in Needs Intervention in meeting the requirements of IDEA. According to IDEA, when an ISD "Needs Intervention" for three consecutive years, one or more of the following actions must occur. In

¹ Statewide assessments were waived for school year 2019-2020, therefore assessment data is from school year 2018-2019.

accordance with § 300.604 of the *Individuals with Disabilities Education Act* (IDEA), the MDE will require the ISD to:

- Prepare a corrective action plan or improvement plan, if MDE determines the ISD can correct the problem within one year.
- Enter into a compliance agreement, if MDE determines the ISD cannot correct the problem within one year.

Additionally, for each year of the determination, the MDE may:

- Withhold a percentage of the ISD funds under section 611(e) of the IDEA.
- Seek to recover funds.
- Withhold any further payments to the ISD.
- MDE may also impose other sanctions as outlined in the Michigan Administrative Rules for Special Education R 340.1855.

The ISD will be notified under separate cover of the specific actions the MDE Office of Special Education will require of the ISD. During this time, the ISD should review the ISD and member district data to identify problem areas for the past three consecutive years.

MDE will continue to provide technical assistance and resources to improve results for students with IEPs and meet the compliance requirements of IDEA. We encourage the ISD to take advantage of all assistance offered and resources available. MDE looks forward to reviewing the ISD's new determinations data, next year, in 2022. If you have any questions, please contact Teri Rink at rinkt1@michigan.gov.