



Wyoming Department of Education

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MEMORANDUM NO. 2007 - 167

TO: School District Superintendents; Special Education Directors

FROM: Peg Brown-Clark, State Special Education Director

DATE: October 5, 2007 

SUBJECT: District Special Education Determinations

For the first time, the Wyoming Department of Education is issuing determination letters to each local education agency on implementation of the Individuals with Disabilities Education Act (IDEA) for Part B. The determinations, required under the statute, are part of the on-going efforts to improve results for children and youth with disabilities.

As amended in 2004, IDEA requires the WDE to make an annual determination as to whether each district is meeting the requirements of the statute. IDEA details four categories for the State's determination:

- Meets the requirements and purposes of the IDEA
- Needs assistance in implementing the requirements of the IDEA
- Needs intervention in implementing the requirements of the IDEA
- Needs substantial intervention in implementing the requirements of the IDEA

The Department's determination is based on the totality of the district's data in the WDE-425, WDE-427, self-assessments, and other publicly available information. Using State Performance Plan Indicators 1, 2, 3b, 3c, 5a, 5b, 5c, 11, and 20, the WDE calculated a "Determinations Total Score" for each district. The district's Total Score is the sum of the district's scores on these nine Indicators. Each district Total Score was then compared to the "Determinations Standard Score," which is the sum of the state's scores on the same Indicators. If a district's Total Score met or exceeded the Standard Score, then the district was determined to "Meet Requirements." If a district's Total Score amounted to 80-99% of the Standard Score, the district was found to "Need Assistance." A Total Score of 70-79% of the Standard Score placed districts in the "Needs Intervention" determination category. Although Wyoming did not have any districts in the lowest category, a Total Score of less than 70% of the Standard Score would have placed a district in the "Needs Substantial Intervention" category. For specific information on your district's scores on each indicator, please refer to your District Special Education Report Card, which will be issued by the WDE later this month.

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In summary, the WDE found that nine districts “Meet Requirements,” thirty-four districts “Need Assistance,” and five districts “Need Intervention.” Although the WDE will not publically disseminate which districts were placed into each determination category, district superintendents will receive a letter informing them of their district’s level of determination.

IDEA and Wyoming’s Chapter 7 Rules identify specific technical assistance or enforcement actions aligned with each of the determinations (with the exception of “Meets Requirements”) that the Department must take under specific circumstances. These actions are consistent with the level of concern signaled by the determination; however, consistent with the IDEA, none of the enforcement actions will be applied to districts this year.

If you have any questions or need more information, please contact Michael Harris at (307) 777-2577. Thank you.