



STATE OF MICHIGAN
DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION
LANSING



JENNIFER M. GRANHOLM
GOVERNOR

THOMAS D. WATKINS, JR.
SUPERINTENDENT OF
PUBLIC INSTRUCTION

October 8, 2003

MEMORANDUM

TO: State Board of Education

FROM: Thomas D. Watkins, Jr., Chairman

SUBJECT: Report on the Conditional Approval of the St. Joseph Intermediate School District Plan for the Delivery of Special Education Programs and Services

Pursuant to Section 380.1711 of the Revised School Code, each intermediate school district (ISD) must develop, establish, continually evaluate, and modify its Plan for the Delivery of Special Education Programs and Services (Plan). Approval indicates that intermediate school districts' and local constituent districts' special education programs and services described in the Plan meet standards which are consistent with federal and state requirements. Approval also allows intermediate school districts to receive reimbursement pursuant to the State School Aid Act.

Staff has reviewed, and I have granted, the conditional approval of the St. Joseph ISD Plan. The conditions for approval are described in a letter from Dr. Jacquelyn Thompson, Director, Office of Special Education and Early Intervention Services, to Dr. Jay Newman, Superintendent, St. Joseph ISD, dated September 16, 2003 (Attachment A). The St. Joseph ISD may submit the Plan for full approval after July 1, 2004.

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September 16, 2003

Dr. Jay Newman
Superintendent
St. Joseph Intermediate
School District
62445 Shimmel Road
P.O. Box 219
Centreville, Michigan 49032-0219

Dear Dr. Newman:

The Office of Special Education and Early Intervention Services (OSE/EIS) has reviewed the draft of your Intermediate School District Plan for the Delivery of Special Education Programs and Services (Plan). Enclosed you will find a checklist of corrections that needs to be completed prior to resubmitting your Plan for conditional approval. Please submit a complete, original Plan, as well as a copy, no later than September 26, 2003.

We have enclosed signature pages for submission **only** if there were significant changes to your Plan, or we did not receive them with your first draft.

The OSE/EIS will recommend conditional approval of your Plan to the Superintendent of Public Instruction and the State Board of Education. It is anticipated that this action will occur at the October 23, 2003 meeting. You will then be notified of the action taken.

Conditional approval will be recommended if the following details are met:

Details of the strategies for the implementation of the Plan by July 1, 2004;

- 2. Develop a technical guide with the assistance of OSE/EIS staff; and**
- 3. An impact/evaluation plan to measure the effectiveness of this Plan, developed with the involvement of teachers, parents, administrators, and students.**

The 2003-2004 school year will be a planning year for the processes to be documented, explained, and discussed so that there is a mutual understanding of how the levels of service were determined, how they will operate, and be evaluated.

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Dr. Jay Newman
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The St. Joseph ISD Plan is innovative and appears to be designed to create a learning environment that is all about the individual needs of each student. The OSE/EIS would like to support the St. Joseph ISD to make this a successful example of how an ISD can use Rule 340.1832(e), which allows an alternative to Part 3 of the Revised Administrative Rules for Special Education, to help better serve students in Michigan.

Sincerely,



Jacquelyn J. Thompson, Ph.D.
Director
Office of Special Education and
Early Intervention Services

Enclosure

c: Ms. Pamela Zandt
Ms. Sharon Melko