



STATE OF MICHIGAN
DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION
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PUBLIC INSTRUCTION

TO: LEA and ISD Superintendents, Public School Academy Authorizers and Directors and State Agency Directors

FROM: Jeremy M. Hughes, Ph.D. *JMH*
Deputy Superintendent/Chief Academic Officer

DATE: July 14, 2005

SUBJ: **NEW SPECIAL EDUCATION MONITORING PROCEDURES AND UPCOMING DATA REVIEW**

The Individuals with Disabilities Education Improvement Act (IDEA 2004) requires each state to ensure that school districts and other publicly funded educational agencies in the State comply with the requirements of the IDEA and its implementing regulations. Both state and federal law require local school districts to provide appropriate special education and related services. In addition, the Michigan Department of Education (MDE) is required to monitor and enforce regulations governing special education programs in public schools and in all agencies in the State serving eligible children.

The Continuous Improvement & Monitoring System (CIMS) has been designed to meet requirements of law as well as support accountability measures for student outcomes. To support agencies in their implementation of CIMS, funding is being provided through a non-competitive grant. Further grant information will be provided through Intermediate School Districts (ISDs) Special Education Directors.

The Service Provider Self-Review (SPSR) is one component of CIMS; it has been developed for use in each agency that provides direct services to students with disabilities. The CIMS also contains two other components: Data Verification tied to the SPSR, and Focused Monitoring (FM).

The FM process will target those Local Educational Agencies (LEAs) in most need of attention for improvement in priority areas. The priority areas for FY 2005-06 include:

1. Identification rates of eligible students with disabilities;
2. Special education services delivery location/Least Restrictive Environment (LRE) data;
3. Drop-out/graduation rates for students with disabilities, based on the required federal formula for these data.

Data submitted by LEAs/PSAs and ISDs for the federal December 1 Student Count (required under the IDEA) are used to generate district status on these priority areas. Information on district status based on these data will be provided to Superintendents for review prior to

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publication. Notification to districts being considered for selection for Focused Monitoring will be sent to districts in late July/early August. Verification teleconferences for purposes of validating data will occur in August, with final determination of selected LEAs by September 1, 2005.

Enclosed is a CIMS summary for your use in dissemination of information regarding the CIMS process. Additional information will be available on a continuous basis at the following link: www.cenmi.org/cims/ On-going technical assistance for CIMS will be made available through ISD special education personnel. For further information, contact Kathy Barker, Monitoring Coordinator at (517) 335-0465 or barkerk@michigan.gov.

Enclosures

cc: ISD Directors of Special Education
ISD Special Education Monitors
LEA Special Education Directors
PSA Special Education Contacts