

# **Common Questions Regarding Michigan's Part B SPP/APR Data for Districts and Service Areas**

## **1. Why are these data being released to the public?**

The Individuals with Disabilities Education Improvement Act (IDEA) 2004 requires states to report annually to the public on the performance of each district and service area located in the state on the targets in the state's performance plan [§ 300.602(b)(1)(i)(A)]. The specific indicators for public reporting are designated by the United States Department of Education (USED), Office of Special Education Programs (OSEP).

## **2. What are the sources of the data?**

Data are primarily collected through the Michigan Student Data System and the Continuous Improvement Monitoring System which includes verification processes and surveys. In addition, the Division of Accountability Services provided Michigan Education Assessment System data.

## **3. What is the time period covered in this report?**

These data are primarily from the 2014-2015 school year as federally required. (Per OSEP, there is a required one year data lag for Indicators 1, 2, and 4.) On February 1, 2016, each state was required to submit a State Performance Report/Annual Performance Report (SPP/APR) to the USED, OSEP. The SPP/APR summarized the FFY 2014 state level performance on State Performance Plan indicator targets. The current public reporting summarizes district performance on many of those indicators.

## **4. Why are there no data for some districts?**

A district would be "N/A" if it did not meet the criteria for reporting. Some examples include: A graduation rate could not be reported for a district without a 12th grade, a dropout rate could not be reported for a district if there are no 14-21 year olds, or if there were not a sufficient number of students to make calculation meaningful. In addition, data are not shown when a district has 10 or fewer students in a subgroup, as the information is considered personally identifiable and therefore is not publicly reported in order to comply with federal and state privacy laws. Why might some of the data differ from that seen on other state reports? The public reporting data, as prescribed under the IDEA, are compiled according to requirements from the USED, OSEP for students with an IEP. These may differ from the requirements for other Michigan Department of Education (MDE) or USED offices.

## **5. Can my district's data be amended?**

The 2014-2015 data sets are final. When the data were originally being prepared for submission, districts had opportunities to verify the accuracy and amend data as needed.