

December 21, 2000

Ruth E. Ryder, Director
Monitoring and State Improvement Planning Division
Office of Special Education Programs
United States Department of Education
Office of Special Education and Rehabilitative Services
400 Maryland Avenue
Washington, D.C. 20202

Dear Ms. Ryder:

Enclosed please find Virginia's Part C Self-Assessment Report, which has been completed as part of the Office of Special Education Program's Continuous Improvement Monitoring Process. The report includes an executive summary, a summary of the process, self-assessment findings in each of the cluster areas, and copies of the information that was used by the Part C OSEP Monitoring Workgroup to answer each of the indicators. The Workgroup felt that it was important to address financial issues related to Part C in order to present a full picture of early intervention services in Virginia. Therefore, financial indicators were developed and analyzed. A summary of the findings concerning the financial indicators, as well as the indicators themselves can be found in Appendix H. Virginia's Part B Self-Assessment Report is being forwarded under separate cover.

Virginia is proud of its accomplishments over the past decade in implementing early intervention services for infants and toddlers with disabilities and their families. One major accomplishment is the significant increase in the number of children identified and receiving Part C services. Virginia has successfully met the needs of the increasing number of children without waiting lists by accessing a wide variety of financial resources including private insurance. In December 2000, additional Part C funds were made available to localities to ensure that services are made available to all eligible children in response to a 15% increase in children served. All states, however, must still face the remaining challenge of the continuing lack of federal resources available to support states in complying with the Part C federal entitlement.

Virginia looks forward to working with the Office of Special Education Programs as we move into validation and improvement planning phases of the federal monitoring process. Please feel free to contact Anne Lucas, Virginia Part C Coordinator at 804-371-6595 if you have questions or need additional information.

Sincerely,

Richard E. Kellogg

cc: Lois Taylor, Assistant Director, US Dept of Education
Sheryl Parkhurst, Part C Project Officer, US Dept of Education
Anne Lucas, Virginia Part C Coordinator