



Kevin C. Brown  
Interim Commissioner of Education

**KENTUCKY DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION**

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June 5, 2020

Charles Adams, Superintendent  
Spencer County Schools District  
207 West Main Street  
Taylorsville, Kentucky 40071

**RE: 2020 Determination Letter**  
**Status: *Meets Requirements***

Dear Superintendent Adams:

The purpose of this letter is to provide the **Spencer County Schools** with its 2020 special education “*Annual Determination*” as required under the Individuals with Disabilities Education Act (IDEA).

The United States Department of Education (USED) is required to make annual determinations under the IDEA for state education agencies (SEAs). Determinations serve as a public acknowledgement of the state’s progress in meeting requirements of the IDEA. Similarly, states are required to make annual determinations for local school districts based on their status in meeting federal special education law.

There are four levels of determinations for both SEAs and school districts. They are:

- 1) *Meets Requirements*;
- 2) *Needs Assistance*;
- 3) *Needs Intervention*; or,
- 4) *Needs Substantial Intervention*.

The attached *Kentucky Determination Process* document describes the various levels of Determinations and what actions, if any, are required based on this Determination. This document can also be downloaded from the [KDE website](#). The Office of Special Education and Early Learning (OSEEL) within KDE will provide districts with the degree of support needed depending upon its individual level of Annual Determination.

Originally, the Office of Special Education Programs (OSEP) within the USED made SEA determinations based solely upon whether the state had complied with IDEA requirements. This was accomplished by using compliance data from the SEA’s State Performance Plan (SPP) and Annual Performance Report (APR). The Division of IDEA Monitoring and Results (DIMR) within the Kentucky Department of Education (KDE) followed OSEP’s model and used only IDEA compliance data from the SPP and APR in determining whether a Kentucky school district “met requirements” under the IDEA.

A few years ago, OSEP changed its process in making SEA determinations to a *Results Driven Accountability* (RDA) model. Under the new system, OSEP uses both the data from a state’s



educational outcomes of students with disabilities and its IDEA compliance data when making its state specific Annual Determination.

For the past few years, Kentucky was found to **Meet Requirements** by OSEP, for both educational outcomes for students with disabilities and legal compliance with the IDEA. In reaching this conclusion, OSEP used the totality of Kentucky’s education data, including compliance and student outcome data from Kentucky’s most recent SPP and APR, along with other State-reported data and publicly available information.

Given the focus at the federal level on RDA and the KDE’s emphasis on reduction in novice performance in statewide testing, the DIMR decided to change its process in making district determinations to include student outcomes. To obtain input from outside the KDE, the DIMR surveyed district superintendents and other shareholders and asked the question, “*What results data should the KDE use in making annual district determinations under the IDEA?*”

The DIMR used the survey results and the KDE’s focus on novice reduction to develop *outcome* measures for making district determinations. The educational outcomes for students with disabilities, as well as IDEA compliance comprise the elements DIMR used to make its 2020 Annual Determinations for Kentucky school districts.

The KDE used district performance from the SPP indicators, performance measures and compliance as described in the tables below to make its determinations. These tables specifically report the status of the **Spencer County Schools** in each area.

**Table 1 – Indicator Measures:**

<i>Compliant</i>	<i>Measure</i>	<i>Measure Description</i>
<b>No Visit</b>	On-Site Visit	Results, if Applicable of On-Site Monitoring Visit
<b>Yes</b>	Indicator 1	Graduation Rate of Students with Disabilities
<b>Yes</b>	Indicator 2	Dropout Rate of Students with Disabilities
<b>Yes</b>	Indicator 4b	Suspensions of Students with IEPs Over 10 Days
<b>Yes</b>	Indicator 9	Disproportionate Representation of Students with IEPs ( <i>racial and ethnic groups</i> )
<b>Yes</b>	Indicator 10	Disproportionate Representation by Specific Disability Category
<b>Yes</b>	Indicator 11	Child Find ( <i>students evaluated within 60 school days after parental consent received by the district</i> )
<b>Yes</b>	Indicator 12	IEPs in Place by the Student’s Third Birthday ( <i>transitioning from First Steps</i> )
<b>Yes</b>	Indicator 13	Secondary Transition with IEP Including Postsecondary Goals



**Table 2 – Outcomes:**

<i>Compliant</i>	<i>Outcomes</i>	<i>Assessment Outcome Description</i>
<b>Yes</b>	Math Participation	4 <sup>th</sup> Grade Math
<b>Yes</b>	Math Participation	8 <sup>th</sup> Grade Math
<b>Yes</b>	Reading Participation	4 <sup>th</sup> Grade Reading
<b>Yes</b>	Reading Participation	8 <sup>th</sup> Grade Reading
<b>No</b>	Math Performance	Proficient and Above for 8 <sup>th</sup> Grade Math

**Table 3 – Compliance:**

<i>Compliant</i>	<i>Status of District's Ability to Comply with Special Education Standards</i>
<b>No Finding</b>	Persistent Failure to Comply/Not Able to Comply

Based on the performance of the **Spencer County Schools** in the areas listed above, the district's overall 2020 Special Education Determination is "***Meets Requirements***" (***MEETS***).

If you have questions regarding your 2020 Annual Determination, please contact Stacy Liguori via email at [stacy.liguori@education.ky.gov](mailto:stacy.liguori@education.ky.gov) or by phone at (502) 564-4970.

Sincerely,

Sylvia Starkey, Director  
Division of IDEA Monitoring and Results

CC: Gretta Hylton, Associate Commissioner, OSEEL  
Angela Gould and Stacy Liguori, Program Consultants, DIMR  
Todd Russell, Director of Special Education, Spencer County Schools  
Christel Bogar, Regional Special Education Cooperative Director