

HOW THE DEPARTMENT MADE DETERMINATIONS

UNDER SECTION 616(D) OF THE
INDIVIDUALS WITH DISABILITIES EDUCATION ACT IN 2021:
FREELY ASSOCIATED STATES, OUTLYING AREAS, AND THE
BUREAU OF INDIAN EDUCATION
PART B

REVISED 06/24/2021



INTRODUCTION

In 2021, the U.S. Department of Education (Department) is continuing to use both results and compliance data in making our determination for each freely associated State, outlying area, and the Bureau of Indian Education (BIE) (Entities) under section 616(d) of the Individuals with Disabilities Education Act (*IDEA*). We considered the totality of the information we have about an Entity, including information related to the participation of children with disabilities (CWD) on regular Statewide assessments; exiting data on CWD who dropped out and CWD who graduated with a regular high school diploma¹; the Entity’s Federal fiscal year (FFY) 2019 State Performance Plan/Annual Performance Report (SPP/APR); information from monitoring and other public information, such as Department-imposed Specific Conditions on the Entity’s grant award under Part B; the impact of COVID-19 on the State’s ability to collect and report valid and reliable data; and other issues related to the Entity’s compliance with the *IDEA*. Below is a detailed description of how the Office of Special Education Programs (OSEP) evaluated the Entities’ data using the Results Driven Accountability (RDA) Matrix.

The RDA Matrix consists of:

1. a **Compliance Matrix** that includes scoring on SPP/APR Compliance Indicators and other compliance factors;
2. a **Results Matrix** that includes scoring on Results Elements;
3. a **Compliance Score** and a **Results Score**;
4. an **RDA Percentage** based on the Compliance Score and the Results Score; and
5. the Entity’s **Determination**.

The scoring of each of the above evaluation criteria is further explained below in the following sections:

- A. 2021 Part B Compliance Matrix and Scoring of the Compliance Matrix
- B. 2021 Part B Results Matrix and Scoring of the Results Matrix
- C. 2021 RDA Percentage and 2020 Determination

In making the 2021 determinations based on FFY 2019 APR data, OSEP specifically considered whether and to what extent States and Entities included in the narrative for each impacted indicator: (1) a description of the impact on data completeness, validity, and/or reliability for the indicator; (2) an explanation of how COVID-19 specifically impacted that State’s or Entity’s ability to collect or verify the data for the indicator; and (3) a description of any steps the State or Entity took to mitigate the impact

¹ When providing exiting data under section 618 of the *IDEA*, Entities are required to report on the number of students with disabilities who exited an educational program through receipt of a regular high school diploma. These students meet the same standards for graduation as those for students without disabilities. As explained in 34 C.F.R. § 300.102(a)(3)(iv), in effect June 30, 2017, “the term regular high school diploma means the standard high school diploma awarded to the preponderance of students in the State that is fully aligned with State standards, or a higher diploma, except that a regular high school diploma shall not be aligned to the alternate academic achievement standards described in section 1111(b)(1)(E) of the *ESEA*. A regular high school diploma does not include a recognized equivalent of a diploma, such as a general equivalency diploma, certificate of completion, certificate of attendance, or similar lesser credential.”

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of COVID-19 on the data collection and verification. OSEP appreciates States' and Entities' level of transparency regarding the impact of COVID-19 on the data reported in the FFY 2019 SPP/APR. For 2021 determinations, no State or Entity received a determination of "Needs Intervention" due solely to data impacted by COVID-19.

A. 2021 PART B COMPLIANCE MATRIX

In making each Entity's 2021 determination, the Department used a Compliance Matrix, reflecting the following data:

1. The Entity's FFY 2019 data for applicable Part B Compliance Indicators² 4B, 9, 10, 11, 12, and 13 (including whether the Entity reported valid and reliable data for each indicator); and whether the Entity demonstrated correction of all findings of noncompliance it had identified in FFY 2018 under such indicators;
2. The timeliness and accuracy of data reported by the Entity under sections 616 and 618 of the *IDEA*;
3. The Entity's FFY 2019 data, reported under section 618 of the *IDEA*, for the timeliness of State complaint and due process hearing decisions;
4. Longstanding Noncompliance:

The Department considered:

- a. Whether the Department imposed Specific Conditions on the Entity's FFY 2020 *IDEA* Part B grant award and those Specific Conditions are in effect at the time of the 2021 determination, and the number of years for which the Entity's Part B grant award has been subject to Specific Conditions; and
- b. Whether there are any findings of noncompliance identified in FFY 2017 or earlier by either the Department or the Entity that the Entity has not yet corrected.

Scoring of the Compliance Matrix

The Compliance Matrix indicates a score of 0, 1, or 2, for each of the compliance indicators in item one above and for each of the additional factors listed in items two through four above. Using the cumulative possible number of points as the denominator, and using as the numerator the actual points the Entity received in its scoring under these factors, the Compliance Matrix reflects a Compliance Score, which is combined with the Results Score to calculate the Entity's RDA Percentage and Determination.

² The U.S. Virgin Islands report data for Indicators 4B, 9, 10, 11, 12, and 13. Guam, American Samoa, and the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands report data for Indicators 11, 12, and 13. The Federated States of Micronesia, the Republic of the Marshall Islands, the Republic of Palau, and the BIE report data on Indicators 11 and 13.

Scoring of the Matrix for Compliance Indicators 4B, 9, 10, 11, 12, and 13

In the attached Entity-specific 2021 Part B Compliance Matrix, an Entity received points as follows for each of the Compliance Indicators 4B, 9, 10, 11, 12, and 13³:

- Two points, if either:
 - The Entity’s FFY 2019 data for the indicator were valid and reliable, and reflect at least 95%⁴ compliance (or, for Indicators 4B, 9, and 10, reflect no greater than 5% compliance)⁵; or
 - The Entity’s FFY 2019 data for the indicator were valid and reliable, and reflect at least 90% compliance (or, for Indicators 4B, 9, and 10, reflect no greater than 10% compliance); and the Entity identified one or more findings of noncompliance in FFY 2018 for the indicator, and has demonstrated correction of all findings of noncompliance identified in FFY 2018 for the indicator. Such full correction is indicated in the matrix with a “Yes”) in the “Full Correction of Findings of Noncompliance Identified in FFY 2018” column.⁶
- One point, if the Entity’s FFY 2019 data for the indicator were valid and reliable, and reflect at least 75% compliance (or, for Indicators 4B, 9, and 10, reflect no greater than 25% compliance), and the Entity did not meet either of the criteria above for two points.
- Zero points, under any of the following circumstances:
 - The Entity’s FFY 2019 data for the indicator reflect less than 75% compliance (or, for Indicators 4B, 9, and 10, reflect greater than 25% compliance); or
 - The Entity’s FFY 2019 data for the indicator were not valid and reliable;⁷ or
 - The Entity did not report FFY 2019 data for the indicator.⁸

³ A notation of “N/A” (for “not applicable”) in the “Performance” column for an indicator denotes that the indicator is not applicable to that particular Entity. The points for that indicator are not included in the denominator for the matrix.

⁴ In determining whether an Entity has met the 95% compliance criterion for Indicators 11, 12, and 13, the Department will round up from 94.5% (but no lower) to 95%. In determining whether an Entity has met the 90% compliance criterion for these indicators, the Department will round up from 89.5% (but no lower) to 90%. In addition, in determining whether an Entity has met the 75% compliance criterion for these indicators, the Department will round up from 74.5% (but no lower) to 75%. Similarly, in determining whether an Entity has met the 5% compliance criterion for Indicators 4B, 9, and 10, the Department will round down from 5.49% (but no higher) to 5%. In determining whether an Entity has met the 10% compliance criterion for these indicators, the Department will round down from 10.49% (but no higher) to 10%. In addition, in determining whether an Entity has met the 25% compliance criterion for these indicators, the Department will round down from 25.49% (but no higher) to 25%. The Department will also apply the rounding rules to the compliance criteria for 95% and 75% for:

- (1.) the timeliness and accuracy of data reported by the Entity under sections 616 and 618 of the IDEA; and
- (2.) the Entity’s FFY 2018 data, reported under section 618 of the IDEA, for the timeliness of State complaint and due process hearing decisions.

⁵ For Indicators 4B, 9, and 10, a very high level of compliance is generally at or below 5%.

⁶ A “No” in that column denotes that the Entity has one or more remaining findings of noncompliance identified in FFY 2018 for which the Entity has not yet demonstrated correction. An “N/A” (for “not applicable”) in that column denotes that the Entity did not identify any findings of noncompliance in FFY 2018 for the indicator.

⁷ If an Entity’s FFY 2019 data for any compliance indicator are not valid and reliable, the matrix so indicates in the “Performance” column, with a corresponding score of 0. The explanation of why the Entity’s data are not valid and reliable is contained in the OSEP Response to the Entity’s FFY 2019 SPP/APR in the EMAPS SPP/APR reporting tool.

⁸ If an Entity reported no FFY 2019 data for any compliance indicator (unless the indicator is not applicable to the Entity), the matrix so indicates in the “Performance” column, with a corresponding score of 0.

Scoring of the Matrix for Timely and Accurate Entity-Reported Data

In the attached Entity-specific 2021 Part B Compliance Matrix, an Entity received points as follows for Timely and Accurate Entity-Reported Data⁹:

- Two points, if the OSEP-calculated percentage reflects at least 95% compliance.
- One point, if the OSEP-calculated percentage reflects at least 75% and less than 95% compliance.
- Zero points, if the OSEP-calculated percentage reflects less than 75% compliance.

Scoring of the Matrix for Timely State Complaint Decisions and Timely Due Process Hearing Decisions

In the attached Entity-specific 2021 Part B Compliance Matrix, an Entity received points as follows for timely State complaint decisions and for timely due process hearing decisions, as reported by the Entity under section 618 of the *IDEA*:

- Two points, if the Entity's FFY 2019 data were valid and reliable, and reflect at least 95% compliance.
- One point, if the Entity's FFY 2019 data reflect at least 75% and less than 95% compliance.
- Zero points, if the Entity's FFY 2019 data reflect less than 75% compliance.
- Not Applicable (N/A), if the Entity's data reflect less than 100% compliance, and there were fewer than ten State complaint decisions or ten due process hearing decisions.

Scoring of the Matrix for Longstanding Noncompliance (Includes Both Uncorrected Identified Noncompliance and Specific Conditions)

In the attached Entity-specific 2021 Part B Compliance Matrix, an Entity received points as follows for the Long-Standing Noncompliance component:

- Two points, if the Entity has:
 - No remaining findings of noncompliance identified, by OSEP or the Entity, in FFY 2017 or earlier; and
 - No Specific Conditions on its FFY 2020 grant award that are in effect at the time of the 2021 determination.

⁹ OSEP used the Part B Timely and Accurate State-Reported Data Rubric to award points to Entities based on the timeliness and accuracy of their sections 616 and 618 data. A copy of the rubric is contained in the OSEP Response to the Entity's FFY 2019 SPP/APR in the EMAPS SPP/APR reporting tool. On page two of the rubric, entitled "APR and 618-Timely and Accurate State-Reported Data," Entities are given one point for each indicator with valid and reliable data and five points for SPP/APRs that were submitted timely. The total points for valid and reliable SPP/APR data and timely SPP/APR submission are added together to form the APR Grand Total. On page three of the rubric, the Entity's section 618 data is scored based on information provided to OSEP on section 618 data timeliness, completeness, and edit checks from EDFacts. On page four of the rubric, the percentage of Timely and Accurate State-Reported Data is calculated by adding the 618 Data Grand Total to the APR Grand Total and dividing this sum by the total number of points available for the entire rubric. This percentage is inserted into the Compliance Matrix.

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- One point, if either or both of the following occurred:
 - The Entity has remaining findings of noncompliance identified, by OSEP or the Entity, in FFY 2017, FFY 2016, and/or FFY 2015, for which the Entity has not yet demonstrated correction (see the OSEP Response to the Entity's FFY 2019 SPP/APR in the EMAPS SPP/APR reporting tool; for specific information regarding these remaining findings of noncompliance); and/or
 - The Department has imposed Specific Conditions on the Entity's FFY 2020 Part B grant award and those Specific Conditions are in effect at the time of the 2021 determination.
- Zero points, if either or both of the following occurred:
 - The Entity has remaining findings of noncompliance identified, by OSEP or the Entity, in FFY 2014 or earlier, for which the Entity has not yet demonstrated correction (see the OSEP Response to the Entity's FFY 2019 SPP/APR in the EMAPS SPP/APR reporting tool for specific information regarding these remaining findings of noncompliance); and/or
 - The Department has imposed Specific Conditions on the Entity's last three (FFYs 2018, 2019, and 2020) *IDEA* Part B grant awards, and those Specific Conditions are in effect at the time of the 2021 determination.

B. 2021 PART B RESULTS MATRIX

In making each Entity's 2021 determination, the Department used a Results Matrix reflecting the following data:

1. The percentage of CWD participating in regular Statewide assessments across all available grade levels (3 through 8);
2. The percentage of CWD exiting school by dropping out; and
3. The percentage of CWD exiting school by graduating with a regular high school diploma.

The Results Elements for participation in regular Statewide assessments are scored separately for reading and math. When combined with the exiting data, there are a total of four Results Elements for the Entities. The Results Elements are defined as follows:

Percentage of CWD Participating in Regular Statewide Assessments

Due to the circumstances created by the COVID-19 pandemic, and resulting school closures, the Entities did not have any FFY 2019 data for this element. Percentage of CWD Exiting School by Dropping Out

This is a calculation of the percentage of CWD, ages 14 through 21, who exited school by dropping out. The percentage was calculated by dividing the number of students ages 14 through 21 served under *IDEA* Part B, reported in the exit reason category *dropped out* for SYs 2018-2019, 2017-2018, and 2016-2017, by the total number of students ages 14 through 21 served under *IDEA* Part B, reported in the six exit-from-both-special education-and-school categories (*graduated with a regular high school diploma, graduated with an alternate diploma, received a certificate, dropped out, reached maximum age for services, and died*) for SYs 2018-2019, 2017-2018, and 2016-2017, then multiplying the result by 100¹⁰. (Data source: EDFacts SYs 2018-2019, 2017-2018, and 2016-2017; data extracted 5/27/20, 5/29/19, 5/30/18)

Percentage of CWD Exiting School by Graduating with a Regular High School Diploma

This is a calculation of the percentage of CWD, ages 14 through 21, who exited school by graduating with a regular high school diploma. The percentage was calculated by dividing the number of students ages 14 through 21 served under *IDEA* Part B, reported in the exit reason category *graduated with a regular high school diploma* for SYs 2018-2019, 2017-2018, and 2016-2017, by the total number of students ages 14 through 21 served under *IDEA* Part B, reported in the six exit-from-both-special education-and-school categories (*graduated with a regular high school diploma, graduated with an alternate diploma, received a certificate, dropped out, reached maximum age for services, and died*), exiting school in SYs 2018-2019, 2017-2018, and 2016-2017, then multiplying the result by 100. (Data source: EDFacts SYs 2018-2019, 2017-2018, and 2016-2017; data extracted 5/27/20, 5/29/19, 5/30/18)

¹⁰ The Department will make these calculations using unsuppressed data. However, due to privacy concerns the Department has chosen to suppress calculations made with small cell counts in the public document.

Scoring of the Results Matrix

In the attached Entity-specific 2021 Part B Results Matrix, an Entity received points as follows for the Results Elements:

- Each Entity’s participation rates on the regular Statewide assessments reflects “N/A” on the Results Matrix. Each State’s data on the percentage of CWD who exited school by dropping out were rank-ordered and the top, middle, and bottom thirds determined using tertiles¹¹. The exiting percentages for the Entities were calculated using the percentage of CWD exiting school by dropping out in SYs 2018-2019, 2017-2018, and 2016-2017, and points were assigned. The percentages that fell in the top tertile of States (*i.e.*, those with the lowest percentage) received a score of ‘2’, percentages that fell in the middle tertile of States received a ‘1’, and percentages that fell in the bottom tertile of States (*i.e.*, those with the highest percentage) received a ‘0’.
- Each State’s data on the percentage of CWD who exited school by graduating with a regular high school diploma were rank-ordered and the top, middle, and bottom thirds determined using tertiles. The exiting percentages for the Entities were calculated using the percentage of CWD exiting school by graduating with a regular high school diploma in SYs 2018-2019, 2017-2018, and 2016-2017, and points were assigned. The percentages that fell in the top tertile of States (*i.e.*, those with the highest percentage) received a score of ‘2’, percentages that fell in the middle tertile of States received a ‘1’, and percentages that fell in the bottom tertile of States (*i.e.*, those with the lowest percentage) received a ‘0’.

The following table identifies how each of the Results Elements was scored:

Results Elements	RDA Score= 0	RDA Score= 1	RDA Score= 2
Participation Rate of CWD on Regular Statewide Assessments (reading and math, separately) based on an average of participation rates across all available grade levels (3 through 8) in which the assessment was administered.	N/A	N/A	N/A
Percentage of CWD Exiting School by Graduating with a Regular High School Diploma based on the percentage of CWD exiting school by graduating with a regular high school diploma in SYs 2016-2017, 2017-2018, and 2018-2019.	<70	70-77	>=78
Percentage of CWD Exiting School by Dropping Out based on the percentage of CWD exiting school by dropping out in SYs 2016-2017, 2017-2018, and 2018-2019.	>19	19-14	<=13

Using the cumulative possible number of points as the denominator, and using as the numerator the actual points the Entity received in its scoring under the Results Elements, the Results Matrix reflects a

¹¹ The tertiles of a data set divide it into three equal parts.

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Results Score, which is combined with the Compliance Score to calculate the Entity's RDA Percentage and Determination.

C. 2021 RDA Percentage and 2021 Determination

The Entity's RDA Percentage was calculated by adding 40% of the Entity's Results Score and 60% of the Entity's Compliance Score. The Entity's RDA Determination is defined as follows:

Meets Requirements	An Entity's 2021 RDA Determination is Meets Requirements if the RDA Percentage is at least 80%, ¹² unless the Department has imposed Specific Conditions on the Entity's last three (FFYs 2018, 2019, and 2020) <i>IDEA</i> Part B grant awards, and those Specific Conditions are in effect at the time of the 2021 determination.
Needs Assistance	An Entity's 2021 RDA Determination is Needs Assistance if the RDA Percentage is at least 60% but less than 80%. An Entity's determination would also be Needs Assistance if its RDA Determination percentage is 80% or above, but the Department has imposed Specific Conditions on the Entity's last three (FFYs 2018, 2019, and 2020) <i>IDEA</i> Part B grant awards, and those Specific Conditions are in effect at the time of the 2021 determination.
Needs Intervention	An Entity's 2021 RDA Determination is Needs Intervention if the RDA Percentage is less than 60%.
Needs Substantial Intervention	The Department did not make a determination of Needs Substantial Intervention for any State or Entity in 2021.

¹² In determining whether an Entity has met this 80% matrix criterion for a Meets Requirements determination, the Department will round up from 79.5% (but no lower) to 80%. Similarly, in determining whether an Entity has met the 60% matrix criterion for a Needs Assistance determination discussed below, the Department will round up from 59.5% (but no lower) to 60%.