



UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION

OFFICE OF SPECIAL EDUCATION AND REHABILITATIVE SERVICES

NOV 6 1997

Mrs. Leslie M. Averna
Associate Commissioner
Division of Educational Programs and Services
Connecticut Department of Education
25 Industrial Park Road
Middletown, Connecticut 06457

Dear Mrs. Averna:

This letter is in response to your request, addressed to Dr. Larry Wexler of my staff for comments or suggestions relative to the Connecticut State Department of Education's (CSDE) intent to utilize a six year monitoring cycle. In your letter it was asserted that:

with regional monitoring on a six-year cycle, the significant expansion in our data analysis capabilities, and the ability to conduct off-cycle reviews when data patterns or the number or type of complaints and hearing conditions warrant, we can ensure a high level of compliance statewide.

The State educational agency is responsible for assuring that all educational programs for children with disabilities within the State, including all such programs administered by any other state or local agency, will be under the general supervision of the persons responsible for educational programs for children with disabilities in the State educational agency and shall meet the requirements of Part B and the educational standards of the State educational agency. States typically use a monitoring process to fulfill their general supervisory responsibilities.

Part B does not address minimal intervals for the monitoring cycle. It is a matter that is left to State and Local educational agencies. However, whatever "cycle" is used must be consistent with the State's responsibility to fulfill the General Supervision requirement. It appears that since CSDE will implement a system that incorporates the ability to conduct off-cycle reviews when warranted by data patterns or the number or types of complaints and hearing conditions, that the six year cycle would be consistent with Part B requirements. However, OSEP would expect that Connecticut's IDEA 97 *Implementation Agreement*, developed pursuant to my July 28, 1997 letter, will incorporate a description of procedures the State will utilize to monitor to assure compliance with the new IDEA 97 requirements. In addition, please note that if OSEP determines through its monitoring process that CSDE is failing to fulfill its general supervisory responsibility, OSEP may require CSDE to revise its monitoring cycle.

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Members of OSEP's staff continue to be available to provide technical assistance. Please let me know if we can be of assistance in this regard.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Thomas Hehir".

Thomas Hehir
Director
Office of Special Education
Programs