August 2, 2013

Calvin Hooks
Principal
Meridian Public Charter School
2120 13th Street, NW
Washington, DC 20009

Re: FFY 2011 LEA Determinations

Dear Mr. Hooks:

The Individuals with Disabilities Education Act of 2004 (IDEA) requires the Office of the State Superintendent of Education (OSSE) as the State educational agency (SEA) to make determinations annually about the performance of local educational agencies (LEAs). OSSE is required to use the same categories that the United States Department of Education, Office of Special Education Programs (OSEP) uses for state determinations as outlined in Section 616(d) of IDEA. In making such determinations, OSSE will assign LEAs one of the following determination levels:

1. Meets Requirements
2. Needs Assistance
3. Needs Intervention
4. Needs Substantial Intervention

OSSE has determined that under IDEA section 616(d), for FFY 2011, Meridian Public Charter School **Needs Assistance** in implementing the requirements of Part B of IDEA. OSSE's determination is based on the totality of the LEA's data and information, including the LEA's:

1. History, nature and length of time of any reported noncompliance; specifically, the LEA's performance on Indicators 4b, 9, 10, 11, 12 and 13 as outlined in the State Performance Plan (SPP) and FFY 2010 Annual Performance Report (APR);
2. Information regarding timely, valid and reliable data;
3. On-site compliance monitoring, focused monitoring and dispute resolution findings;
4. Sub-recipient audit findings;
5. Other data available to OSSE regarding the LEA's compliance with the IDEA, including, but not limited to, relevant financial data and compliance with the Funding for Public Schools and Public Charter School Amendment Act of 2011;
6. Performance on selected SPP results indicators; and
7. Evidence of correction of findings of noncompliance, including progress toward full compliance.

Enclosure 1 explains the criteria for each element and the way existing data provided by LEAs were used to make determinations. Not all elements are applicable to each LEA; for example, some LEAs do not have data for Indicator 12, as they do not serve children within the applicable age range (3 years old). Enclosure 2 describes how Meridian Public Charter School's determination level was calculated. It includes a chart that summarizes each required element, its corresponding rating, the total number of points earned by the LEA and the percentage of applicable points earned by the LEA.

The LEA's FFY 2010 determination was Meets Requirements. Although IDEA section 616(e)(2)(B) and 34 CFR §§300.600(a) and 300.604 do not require enforcement actions, OSSE is advising Meridian Public Charter School of available sources of technical assistance in order for the LEA to improve performance and results for children and youth with disabilities. Specifically, OSSE publishes its Specialized Education Training & Technical Assistance calendar each fall. These technical assistance opportunities are also communicated to LEAs via the OSSE "Look Forward" newsletter, LEA meetings, and e-blasts. For more information regarding OSSE's Division of Specialized Education Training & Technical Assistance Unit, please contact osse.tta@dc.gov.

Any LEA that believes that a specific element reviewed in the determination process is inaccurate may appeal its assigned determination level. The appeal must be made within 30 calendar days of the date of this letter. The request for appeal must include the submission of all information necessary for OSSE to reconsider the original determination level. Additional information regarding appeals may be found in Enclosure 2.

OSSE is committed to supporting Meridian Public Charter School's efforts to improve results for children and youth with disabilities and looks forward to working with Meridian Public Charter School over the next year. As part of OSSE's ongoing effort to provide useful information to District of Columbia stakeholders, OSSE will be making determination results available to the public after the close of the appeals process. If you have questions, please contact Jennifer Masoodi, Director of Quality Assurance & Monitoring, at 202-741-0479.

Sincerely,

Amy Maisterra, Ed.D, MSW
Assistant Superintendent of Specialized Education

Enclosures (2)

cc: Jennifer Masoodi, Director, Specialized Education Quality Assurance & Monitoring