

Date: February 2, 2004

MEMORANDUM

TO: The General Public

FROM: Christopher A. Koch, Ed.D.  
Director of Special Education

SUBJECT: Special Education Student and School Data Study Final Report

In July of 2002 ISBE applied for, and subsequently received, one of the competitive IDEA General Supervision Enhancement Grants (GSEG) from the United States Department of Education, Office of Special Education Programs (OSEP). The Illinois GSEG was designed to enhance and align the Illinois student and school data collection and analysis system with the data collection and analysis needs identified in the Illinois Continuous Improvement Plan (for special education) at the state and local levels.

The Illinois Continuous Improvement Plan (ICIP) calls for improved outcomes for students with disabilities through development of local program enhancements and personnel training that is based on collection and analysis of compliance data that are not currently available or fully used in decision making and monitoring. ISBE will use the deliverables produced through this project in the development and implementation of a data collection and analysis system that provides the necessary information to properly monitor local programs and ensures that the data are disseminated to local education agencies (LEAs) and the public. The data will also be used to measure ISBE and LEA performance in accomplishing the goals of the ICIP, all of which relate to ISBE responsibilities for general supervision under IDEA, Part B.

To complete the majority of the work delineated in the Illinois GSEG application, ISBE issued a Request for Sealed Proposals (RFSP) in December 2002 for a data systems provider. The data systems provider was to assist ISBE in the identification, enhancement and alignment of special education student and school data and to develop a framework for integrating and analyzing critical performance indicators with the Illinois Continuous Improvement Plan (ICIP). Marucco, Stoddard, Ferenbach & Walsh (MSF&W) was awarded the contract in May 2003. MSF&W completed activities identified in the RFSP in late December and subsequently submitted their Special Education Student and School Data Study final report to ISBE. We are pleased to post the final report on the ISBE Department of Special Education webpage.

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