



Massachusetts Department of Elementary and Secondary Education

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March 6, 2009

Michael Wood
Superintendent
Nashoba Regional School District
50 Mechanic Street
Bolton, MA 01740

Received
MAR 11 2009
Supt. Office

Dear Superintendent Wood:

I am writing as a follow up to the memo from Deputy Commissioner Karla Brooks Baehr and me last week* about the process we have put in place to meet federal accountability requirements for special education (a copy is enclosed for your convenience). Based on the criteria outlined in that memo, we have placed your district at Level 1 (*Meets Requirements*). As a result, we do not plan to engage in direct technical assistance or intervention with your district at this time.

We have determined the level of each district's need for special education technical assistance or intervention based on compliance and performance, with emphasis on the latter. As a district with placement at Level 1 (*Meets Requirements*), we encourage Nashoba to consider taking advantage of the following resources if you have not already done so:

- Use the student data available through the Department of Elementary and Secondary Education (ESE) to intensify your analysis of the performance and needs of your students with disabilities. Assessment and accountability data are available on your district's School Profiles page - <http://profiles.doe.mass.edu/>. Data related to other areas of performance for students with disabilities are available on the Special Education Results page - http://profiles.doe.mass.edu/state_report/special_ed.aspx. From this link, click on your district name to access more detailed information.
- Use the online technical assistance made available at the federal level through the Office of Special Education Programs (OSEP). A list of OSEP-sponsored technical assistance centers is available at <http://www.rfcnetwork.org/content/view/543/47/>. Some districts have found these resources particularly helpful:
 - *Toolkit on Teaching and Assessing Students with Disabilities* - <http://www.osepideasthatwork.org/toolkit/index.asp>
 - *Toolkit on Universal Design for Learning* - <http://www.osepideasthatwork.org/UDL/index.asp>

* Posted at <http://www.doe.mass.edu/news/news.asp?id=4600>

- *The Access Center* (provides resources for enhancing access to the general education curriculum for students with disabilities)
<http://www.k8accesscenter.org/index.php>
 - *National Center on Student Progress Monitoring* (includes information on Curriculum-Based Measurement) - <http://www.studentprogress.org/>
 - *National Center on Response to Intervention* - <http://www.rti4success.org/>
- Identify and encourage staff to participate in the **2009 Summer Professional Development Institute Program**. Information on the institutes will be posted in spring 2009 at <http://www.doe.mass.edu>.

Thank you for the challenging, yet essential work you are doing to ensure a high quality education for all children with disabilities. Please feel free to contact me if you have questions or suggestions.

Sincerely,



Marcia Mitnacht
State Director of Special Education
Special Education Planning and Policy Development Office

Cc: Special Education Administrator