



UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION
OFFICE OF SPECIAL EDUCATION AND REHABILITATIVE SERVICES

OCT 25 1999

THE ASSISTANT SECRETARY

Dear Members of the Education Community:

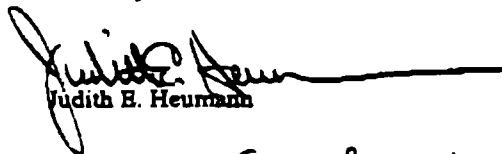
Many of you have been discussing with us your concerns regarding the procedural and paperwork requirements of IDEA. To help address your concerns, the U.S. Department of Education is working in partnership with the four IDEA Partnership projects (ASPIRE, FAPE, ILIAD, and PMP) to ensure the effective and efficient implementation of the law and regulations. Enclosed is a position paper on this topic developed by the IDEA Partnership and the Office of Special Education and Rehabilitative Services (OSERS).

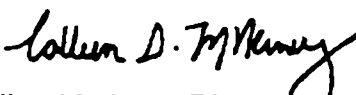
Some initial steps to implement the position paper have been identified. These are listed below. OSERS, the four IDEA Partnership projects, and their partners will work together to:

- Identify models for involving stakeholders that states and communities may wish to use to review their procedural and paperwork requirements, such as the referral, evaluation, identification, IEP and placement processes.
- Identify research-based and promising practices that will help guide the discussion on streamlining procedures and paperwork to ensure effective teaching and learning, compliance, and improved results for children with disabilities.
- Plan and present a session at the IDEA Partnership's 2000 Conference to discuss the substantive issues of streamlining procedures and paperwork and to better understand the various perspectives on this issue. This session will be developed based on input from the partners and all partners will be invited to attend and participate.
- Identify and plan future activities and products to address this issue.

We encourage our partners to join with us in addressing these tasks. We will be talking with you about specific activities soon.

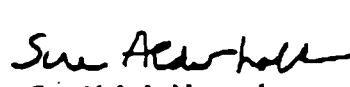
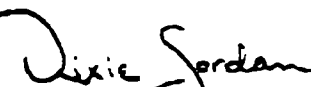
Sincerely,


Judith E. Heumann


Colleen McNerney, Director
Associations of Service Providers Implementing IDEA
Reforms in Education Partnership (ASPIRE)


Jay McIntire, Director
IDEA Local Implementation by
Local Administrators Partnership (ILIAD)

Enclosure

 
Sue Abderholden and
Dixie Jordan, Co-Directors
Families and Advocates Partnership
For Education


Joanne Cashman, Director
The Policy Maker Partnership (PMP)