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## NEWS RELEASE

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Michigan was recently cited by the U.S. Department of Education's Office of Special Education (OSEP) as needing intervention with Part B of the Individuals with Disabilities Act (IDEA). Michigan's determination score was reported as 59.17% on a Results-Driven Accountability Matrix-RDA (scores falling below 60% means a state would be placed into the "needs intervention" category). Data related to Michigan's State Performance Plan included graduation and dropout rates for students with disabilities, their participation and performance on statewide assessments, as well as their participation and performance on the National Assessment of Educational Progress (NAEP) (<https://sites.ed.gov/idea/files/mi-apriltr-2018b.pdf>). Michigan's performance on Part C of the IDEA (services for children birth through 2 years of age) was determined to meet requirements.

Twenty-three other states and four territories fell into the category of "needs assistance" according to OSEP. This means they did not meet the federal special education requirements in totality for two or more consecutive years. Six states and one territory also received a rating of "needs assistance" where they did not meet the federal requirements for one year.

Michigan's graduation rates are based on a single diploma type in comparison to other states who may have more than one type of diploma available for its graduating students. In addition, Michigan incorporates data for all students when reporting their scores on state-based assessments. This includes Michigan's alternate assessments such as MI-ACCESS. Those differing standards make it difficult to equally compare results from state to state.

We are concerned that Michigan received a needs intervention rating. Improving outcomes for students has always been paramount for the Michigan Association of Administrators of Special Education (MAASE) and we will continue to support efforts for increasing student outcomes, including those for increasing results of children and students with disabilities.

Brenda Tarsa  
MAASE President

*The mission of MAASE is to provide leadership for the development and implementation of high-quality programs and services for students with disabilities within the total education community.*