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§ 300.131 [Reserved]

§ 300.132 Transition of children from Part C to preschool programs.

The State must have on file with the Secretary policies and procedures to ensure that—

(a) Children participating in early-intervention programs assisted under Part C of the Act, and who will participate in preschool programs assisted under Part B of the Act, experience a smooth and effective transition to those preschool programs in a manner consistent with section 637(a)(8) of the Act;

(b) By the third birthday of a child described in paragraph (a) of this section, an IEP or, if consistent with § 300.342(c) and section 636(d) of the Act, an IFSP, has been developed and is being implemented for the child consistent with § 300.121(c); and

(c) Each LEA will participate in transition planning conferences arranged by the designated lead agency under section 637(a)(8) of the Act.

(Authority: 20 U.S.C. 1412(a)(9))

§ 300.133 Children in private schools.

The State must have on file with the Secretary policies and procedures that ensure that the requirements of §§ 300.400–300.403 and §§ 300.450–300.462 are met.

(Authority: 20 U.S.C. 1413(a)(4))

§ 300.134 [Reserved]

§ 300.135 Comprehensive system of personnel development.

(a) *General.* The State must have in effect, consistent with the purposes of this part and with section 635(a)(8) of the Act, a comprehensive system of personnel development that—

(1) Is designed to ensure an adequate supply of qualified special education, regular education, and related services personnel; and

(2) Meets the requirements for a State improvement plan relating to personnel development in section 653(b)(2)(B) and (c)(3)(D) of the Act.

(b) *Information.* The State must have on file with the Secretary information

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that shows that the requirements of paragraph (a) of this section are met.

(Authority: 20 U.S.C. 1412(a)(14))

§ 300.136 Personnel standards.

(a) *Definitions.* As used in this part—

(1) *Appropriate professional requirements in the State* means entry level requirements that—

(i) Are based on the highest requirements in the State applicable to the profession or discipline in which a person is providing special education or related services; and

(ii) Establish suitable qualifications for personnel providing special education and related services under Part B of the Act to children with disabilities who are served by State, local, and private agencies (see § 300.2);

(2) *Highest requirements in the State applicable to a specific profession or discipline* means the highest entry-level academic degree needed for any State-approved or -recognized certification, licensing, registration, or other comparable requirements that apply to that profession or discipline;

(3) *Profession or discipline* means a specific occupational category that—

(i) Provides special education and related services to children with disabilities under Part B of the Act;

(ii) Has been established or designated by the State;

(iii) Has a required scope of responsibility and degree of supervision; and

(iv) Is not limited to traditional occupational categories; and

(4) *State-approved or -recognized certification, licensing, registration, or other comparable requirements* means the requirements that a State legislature either has enacted or has authorized a State agency to promulgate through rules to establish the entry-level standards for employment in a specific profession or discipline in that State.

(b) *Policies and procedures.* (1)(i) The State must have on file with the Secretary policies and procedures relating to the establishment and maintenance of standards to ensure that personnel necessary to carry out the purposes of this part are appropriately and adequately prepared and trained.

(ii) The policies and procedures required in paragraph (b)(1)(i) of this section must provide for the establishment and maintenance of standards that are consistent with any State-approved or -recognized certification, licensing, registration, or other comparable requirements that apply to the profession or discipline in which a person is providing special education or related services.

(2) Each State may—

(i) Determine the specific occupational categories required to provide special education and related services within the State; and

(ii) Revise or expand those categories as needed.

(3) Nothing in this part requires a State to establish a specified training standard (e.g., a masters degree) for personnel who provide special education and related services under Part B of the Act.

(4) A State with only one entry-level academic degree for employment of personnel in a specific profession or discipline may modify that standard as necessary to ensure the provision of FAPE to all children with disabilities in the State without violating the requirements of this section.

(c) *Steps for retraining or hiring personnel.* To the extent that a State's standards for a profession or discipline, including standards for temporary or emergency certification, are not based on the highest requirements in the State applicable to a specific profession or discipline, the State must provide the steps the State is taking and the procedures for notifying public agencies and personnel of those steps and the timelines it has established for the retraining or hiring of personnel to meet appropriate professional requirements in the State.

(d) *Status of personnel standards in the State.* (1) In meeting the requirements in paragraphs (b) and (c) of this section, a determination must be made about the status of personnel standards in the State. That determination must be based on current information that accurately describes, for each profession or discipline in which personnel are providing special education or related services, whether the applicable standards are consistent with the high-

est requirements in the State for that profession or discipline.

(2) The information required in paragraph (d)(1) of this section must be on file in the SEA and available to the public.

(e) *Applicability of State statutes and agency rules.* In identifying the highest requirements in the State for purposes of this section, the requirements of all State statutes and the rules of all State agencies applicable to serving children with disabilities must be considered.

(f) *Use of paraprofessionals and assistants.* A State may allow paraprofessionals and assistants who are appropriately trained and supervised, in accordance with State law, regulations, or written policy, in meeting the requirements of this part to be used to assist in the provision of special education and related services to children with disabilities under Part B of the Act.

(g) *Policy to address shortage of personnel.* (1) In implementing this section, a State may adopt a policy that includes a requirement that LEAs in the State make an ongoing good faith effort to recruit and hire appropriately and adequately trained personnel to provide special education and related services to children with disabilities, including, in a geographic area of the State where there is a shortage of personnel that meet these qualifications, the most qualified individuals available who are making satisfactory progress toward completing applicable course work necessary to meet the standards described in paragraph (b)(2) of this section, consistent with State law and the steps described in paragraph (c) of this section, within three years.

(2) If a State has reached its established date under paragraph (c) of this section, the State may still exercise the option under paragraph (g)(1) of this section for training or hiring all personnel in a specific profession or discipline to meet appropriate professional requirements in the State.

(3)(i) Each State must have a mechanism for serving children with disabilities if instructional needs exceed available personnel who meet appropriate professional requirements in the

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State for a specific profession or discipline.

(ii) A State that continues to experience shortages of qualified personnel must address those shortages in its comprehensive system of personnel development under § 300.135.

(Authority: 20 U.S.C. 1412(a)(15))

§ 300.137 Performance goals and indicators.

The State must have on file with the Secretary information to demonstrate that the State—

(a) Has established goals for the performance of children with disabilities in the State that—

(1) Will promote the purposes of this part, as stated in § 300.1; and

(2) Are consistent, to the maximum extent appropriate, with other goals and standards for all children established by the State;

(b) Has established performance indicators that the State will use to assess progress toward achieving those goals that, at a minimum, address the performance of children with disabilities on assessments, drop-out rates, and graduation rates;

(c) Every two years, will report to the Secretary and the public on the progress of the State, and of children with disabilities in the State, toward meeting the goals established under paragraph (a) of this section; and

(d) Based on its assessment of that progress, will revise its State improvement plan under subpart 1 of Part D of the Act as may be needed to improve its performance, if the State receives assistance under that subpart.

(Authority: 20 U.S.C. 1412(a)(16))

§ 300.138 Participation in assessments.

The State must have on file with the Secretary information to demonstrate that—

(a) Children with disabilities are included in general State and district-wide assessment programs, with appropriate accommodations and modifications in administration, if necessary;

(b) As appropriate, the State or LEA—

(1) Develops guidelines for the participation of children with disabilities in alternate assessments for those chil-

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dren who cannot participate in State and district-wide assessment programs;

(2) Develops alternate assessments in accordance with paragraph (b)(1) of this section; and

(3) Beginning not later than, July 1, 2000, conducts the alternate assessments described in paragraph (b)(2) of this section.

(Authority: 20 U.S.C. 1412(a)(17)(A))

§ 300.139 Reports relating to assessments.

(a) *General.* In implementing the requirements of § 300.138, the SEA shall make available to the public, and report to the public with the same frequency and in the same detail as it reports on the assessment of nondisabled children, the following information:

(1) The number of children with disabilities participating—

(i) In regular assessments; and

(ii) In alternate assessments.

(2) The performance results of the children described in paragraph (a)(1) of this section if doing so would be statistically sound and would not result in the disclosure of performance results identifiable to individual children—

(i) On regular assessments (beginning not later than July 1, 1998); and

(ii) On alternate assessments (not later than July 1, 2000).

(b) *Combined reports.* Reports to the public under paragraph (a) of this section must include—

(1) Aggregated data that include the performance of children with disabilities together with all other children; and

(2) Disaggregated data on the performance of children with disabilities.

(c) *Timeline for disaggregation of data.* Data relating to the performance of children described under paragraph (a)(2) of this section must be disaggregated—

(1) For assessments conducted after July 1, 1998; and

(2) For assessments conducted before July 1, 1998, if the State is required to disaggregate the data prior to July 1, 1998.

(Authority: 20 U.S.C. 612(a)(17)(B))