

TO: Dr. Peggy Hinckley, Emergency Manager
Gary Community School Corporation

From: Dr. Pamela Wright, Director 
Office of Special Education

RE: Status of the Part B Grant Special Conditions

Date: June 25, 2018

Gary Community School Corporation continues to be on Special Conditions for the IDEA Part B Special Education federal funds.

I am happy to report that over the past school year we have seen forward movement in the various conditions placed on the Part B grant. First is the hiring of a new Director and Assistant Director of Special Education. This has resulted in improved confidence by the Office of Special Education that GCSC will be able meet the Special Conditions going forward.

Second, the Director and Assistant Director have been deliberate in their actions to address the issues impacting the education of students who are on an Individualized Education Program (IEP). They are developing a comprehensive plan of services, detailing policies, procedures and protocols for correcting the following long standing areas of non-compliance:

- 1) students are placed in the least restrictive environment,
- 2) disciplinary procedures outlined in Article 7 are implemented,
- 3) evaluations for special education eligibility are completed within the mandated timeframes, and,
- 4) data submitted to DOE is valid and reliable.

Third, a plan for professional development has been completed, focusing on the change in how special education services will be provided throughout the district, including curriculum revisions, autism training and supporting students with emotional and behavioral needs.

Lastly, the Director and Assistant Director have changed special education staff job descriptions to better support students with IEPs and included the building principals in the team that takes responsibility for all student learning. The resources provided by the DOE/OSE are being accessed, which are free to the district.

The Office of Special Education looks forward to continued work with you and the Special Education team over the next year to support the implementation of the plans and foundations that have been developed over the last year. We will revise the Special Conditions, with your input, to begin assessing outcomes of the students with IEPs that GCSC serves.