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DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION
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MEMORANDUM

TO: *Early On*[®] Coordinators/Contacts for Continuous Improvement & Monitoring System (CIMS)

CC: Intermediate School District Special Education Directors
Intermediate School District Monitor/Planners

FROM: Lindy Buch, Ph.D., Director
Office of Early Childhood Education and Family Services

SUBJECT: Update - CIMS Cycle 2

As many of you are aware, the Office of Special Education and Early Intervention Services (OSE-EIS) has convened a design team to offer recommendations regarding the state's IDEA monitoring system. The charge of the design team was to link the current Continuous Improvement & Monitoring System (CIMS) more closely with the State Performance Plan/Annual Performance Report, and to streamline the activities and tools used to collect, measure, and report data. Mischele McManus from this office has served as a representative from Part C to the CIMS design team.

As you know, monitoring, technical assistance, and enforcement of the Individuals with Disabilities Education Act of 2004 (IDEA) must be addressed each year at the state level. Our current CIMS relies on a three-year cohort model. CIMS Cycle 2, as currently under consideration, would not use cohorts; all service areas would engage in an annual analysis of their performance using an electronic facilitation tool with a special focus on compliance with the IDEA.

Specific training will be provided in the fall/winter 2008-2009 to all service areas. It is anticipated that the revised version of CIMS will feature a greater emphasis on data analysis (versus data collection) and development of corrective action and improvement planning as necessary.

Many service areas have posed questions about the following CIMS activities:

- Service Provider Self-Review (SPSR) Teams – Because the new CIMS activities will begin with training in the late fall/winter of 2008, there is no need to convene a SPSR team at this time.

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- Improvement Plans - The MDE will monitor the progress reports of current SPSR and determinations improvement plans so as to ensure that all areas of noncompliance are corrected as soon as possible, but no later than one year from notification by the state.

We are excited about the positive changes in CIMS to further assist in meeting the needs of children with disabilities or developmental delays and their families. You are encouraged to review the full recommendations and activities from the CIMS Cycle 2 design team posted to the website at: <http://training.cimsmichigan.org>.

If you have any questions or concerns, you are invited to e-mail Mischele McManus at mcmanusm@michigan.gov.