State's Compliance with IDEA

Last week, the U.S. Department of Education told each of the states and U.S. Territories how it is doing in implementing the federal special education law, the Individuals with Disabilities Education Act (IDEA). This reporting is mandated by the amended federal law. Based upon consideration of 20 indicators, states were placed in one of the following categories: 1) meets requirements; 2) needs assistance; 3) needs intervention; or 4) needs substantial intervention.

Only nine states and territories achieved the top grade, while 41 received the second highest ranking. Eleven fell into the lower two categories. Kansas placed in the second rating category because it failed to fully comply with two indicators. Specifically, it failed to make the degree of progress it had anticipated in serving three-year-old children with disabilities, and in forcing timely corrective action by a local school district. The federal department said the state needs to work on assuring that these matters are addressed.

However, in issuing its notice to the state, the federal department said there "were areas reflecting a high level of performance or correction [of prior problems]…We commend the state for the improvement it made in…[addressing services to three-year-old children]."

So, overall, the Kansas State Department of Education is very pleased with the special education report. The Department will continue its "high level of performance," while assuring that all areas of the law are fully addressed.
