Table B – Part B – Virgin Islands Previously Identified Issues

General Background: On December 10, 1999, the Virgin Islands Department of Education (VIDE) entered into a three-year Compliance Agreement with the United States Department of Education (ED), Office of Special Education Programs that set forth commitments and timetables for the VIDE to demonstrate compliance with certain Part B obligations. The Compliance Agreement outlined the specific activities and requirements in the following areas: timely evaluations, eligibility determinations and individualized education programs (IEPs) in accordance with 34 CFR §§300.320-321 and §§300.340-350; the provision of free appropriate public education (FAPE) in accordance with 34 CFR §§300.29, and 300.347(b)(1) and (2); least restrictive environment (LRE) in accordance with 34 CFR §§300.550, and 20.29, and 300.382(h); dispute resolutions, including formal written complaints, mediation and due process hearings, in accordance with 34 CFR §§300.660-662, 300.136(g), and 300.582(h); dispute resolutions, including formal written complaints, address issues that cut across various ED grant programs and the various Virgin Islands' agencies with responsibility for the administration of such programs. Despite significant progress in some areas, based upon the VIDE's reporting, including the Annual Performance Reports and OSEP's onsite and verification reviews, some of the above areas have continued to be areas of concern because the VIDE has been unable to demonstrate full compliance. Most recently, the Special Conditions attached to the FFY 2005 Part B grant award to the VIDE included reporting requirements specifically addressing: timely reevaluations; early childhood transition from Part C to Part B; and State (Territory) and district-wide assessments. Finally, the VIDE's ability to exercise general supervision has been an on-going concern.	ISSUE	
b, the Virgin Islands Department of Education cial Education Programs that set forth commit utilined the specific activities and requirement accordance with 34 CFR §§300.320-321 and §300.26, 300.29, and 300.347(b)(1) and (2); leaver ordance with 34 CFR §§300.60-662, 300.506, and ance with 34 CFR §§300.660-662, 300.506, and ance with 34 CFR §§300.660-662, 300.506, and ance with 34 CFR §§300.660-662, ance	STATE SUBMISSION	
(VIDE) entered into a three-year Complianments and timetables for the VIDE to demoments and timetables for the VIDE to demoments and timetables for the VIDE to demoment in the following areas: timely evaluations, §300.340-350; the provision of free appropist restrictive environment (LRE) in according 300.382(h); dispute resolutions, including and 300.507514; policies and procedures accountability was also addressed under a 20 encies with responsibility for the administrate Performance Reports and OSEP's onsite and nonstrate full compliance. Most recently, the addressing: timely reevaluations; early child see general supervision has been an on-goin	OSEP ANALYSIS	
to a three-year Compliance Agreement with the United States les for the VIDE to demonstrate compliance with certain Part reas: timely evaluations, eligibility determinations and provision of free appropriate public education (FAPE) in onment (LRE) in accordance with 34 CFR §§300.550556; oute resolutions, including formal written complaints, policies and procedures and monitoring, in accordance with lso addressed under a 2002 Compliance Agreement to sibility for the administration of such programs. Despite rts and OSEP's onsite and verification reviews, some of the poliance. Most recently, the Special Conditions attached to reevaluations; early childhood transition from Part C to Part ion has been an on-going concern.	REQUIRED ACTION	

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Indicator 3 Noncompliance by the Virgin Islands Department of Education (VIDE) with the	On page 12 of the SPP, the VIDE indicated that the Territory-wide assessment (VITAL) was administered	The VIDE's plan to address the noncompliance related to district-wide assessments seems reasonably calculated	The VIDE's progress report under the Special Conditions in the Territory's FFY 2005 grant award is
requirements at 34 CFR §300.138-	for the 2004-2005 school year and that		due by June 30, 2006. The VIDE
cited as part of the Special Conditions	provide documentation on how it has	However the VIDE also must	requirements of 34 CER \$300 138.
attached to the VIDE's Part B grant for	reported to the public on the participation	demonstrate that it is ensuring	§300.139 and 20 U.S.C.
FFY 2005; in OSEP's March 3, 2005 FFY	of children with disabilities on the	appropriate reporting to the public on	1412(a)(16) and demonstrate this in-
2002 APR response letter; in OSEP's	Territory-wide assessments, including	the participation and performance of	their data submission. Failure to
October 5, 2005 verification visit letter;	alternate assessments."	children with disabilities on both	demonstrate compliance with this
2003 APR response letter. These	The VIDE also reported that it will	wide assessments.	Report will result in the Territory's
documents are incorporated by reference.	require districts to submit a plan to	ì	continued status as a "high risk"
Most recently, OSEP's November 16,	comply with 34 CFR §§300.138-300.139	In the Workbook, the VIDE proposed to	grantee and/or otherwise affect the
Special Conditions require the VIDE to	as related to district-wide assessments and, by June 30, 2006, will provide	engage in a number of related activities	Territory's FFY 2006 grant award.
submit a report, as soon as possible, but no	documentation to OSEP that districts	validity and reliability. However, these	In the APR, due February 1, 2007.
later than June 30, 2006, demonstrating	have complied.	were not clearly cross-referenced in the	the VIDE must also submit data
that all children with disabilities are		SPP.	and, as appropriate, revised targets
included in general State (Territory) and	The VIDE indicated that, by February		based upon that data. The VIDE
district-wide assessment programs	2006, the districts are required to submit	Because the VIDE is only beginning to	should review the activities in the
including the provision of appropriate	approvable plans to ensure compliance	implement Territory-wide assessments,	SPP and must revise the SPP, at a
accommodations and alternate	with this requirement. The districts are	complete baseline data and targets are	minimum, to include a cross-
assessments, as appropriate.	required to submit a list of students with disabilities who will take district-wide	Indicator 3A OSEP notes that the VIDE	reference to the activities in the
Additionally, by June 30, 2006, the VIDE	assessments with or without	is in a statistically unique position	
is required to provide documentation on	accommodations and a list of students	because there are only two school	
how it has reported to the public on the	who will take alternate assessments. The	districts. Therefore, the only possible	
with disabilities on the Territory wide	VIDE indicated monitoring activities	percentages demonstrating improvement	
assessments including alternate	administering the assessments consistent	AYP are 50% and 100%.	
assessments.	with the plans.		
The VIDE also was required to submit	The VIDE also indicated that the		

with the SPP, a description of the measures it was taking to ensure compliance with the requirements related to district-wide assessments. Ultimate participation target will be 95% and that additional data for this Indicator would be available during the 2005-2006 SY consistent with the VIDE Consolidated State Application Accountability Workbook (Workbook), dated September 7, 2005.	ISSUE STATE SUBMISSION
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	REQUIRED ACTION

ISSUE Indicator 4	STATE SUBMISSION On page 22 of the SPP, the VIDE		REQUIRED ACTION The VIDE must ensure that this
Indicator 4 OSEP's March 3, 2005 FFY 2002 APR response letter, OSEP's October 5, 2005 verification visit letter, and OSEP's November 16, 2005 FFY 2003 APR response letter raised concerns about the VIDE's compliance with 34 CFR §300.146. These are incorporated by reference. Most recently, OSEP's November 2005 letter required the VIDE to include a determination of the percent of districts identified as having a significant discrepancy in the rates of suspensions and expulsions of children with disabilities for greater than 10 days a school year as required at 34 CFR §300.146. Indicator 12 Compliance with the requirements at 34 CFR §300.132 has been a long-standing problem for the VIDE. It was cited as part of the 1999 Compliance Agreement, in the Special Conditions attached to the VIDE's Part B grant for FFY 2002, 2003, 2004, 2005 rerification visit letter, and in OSEP's November 16, 2005 FFY 2003 APR response letter. These are incorporated by reference. Under the Special Conditions attached to the VIDE ensures compliance with the	On page 22 of the SPP, the VIDE reported 50% [1 of 2] of the districts were identified by the VIDE as having a significant discrepancy in the rates of suspensions and expulsions of children with disabilities for greater than 10 days in a school year. On page 23 of the SPP, the VIDE included improvement strategies, timelines and resources. The VIDE's December 2005 progress report indicated that the LEAs submitted data that contained discrepancies regarding the provision of special education and related services for children with disabilities transitioning from Part C to Part B and that the LEAs did not provide revised and corrected data in a timely manner as required by the VIDE. On May 3, 2006, VIDE submitted the February 15, 2006 progress report as required by the Special Conditions. The data and information from the progress report will be addressed separately.	The VIDE submitted baseline data and information related to this indicator. Although the small number of school districts places the VIDE in a statistically unique situation and because the VIDE is reporting that one of its two districts has a significant discrepancy, it must also provide documentation that it reviewed and, if appropriate, revised policies, procedures and practices to ensure compliance with the requirements at 34 CFR §300.146 regarding suspension and expulsion rates. The VIDE has not submitted accurate and timely data under the progress reports required by the Special Conditions related to compliance with the requirements of 34 CFR §300.132. The VIDE reported data and information in the SPP that 82% of the 27 children transitioning from Part C to Part B had an IEP in place and implemented by their third birthday. However, due to discrepancies in the dates reported and the absence of progress data, OSEP could not determine the accuracy of the time frame for the data or of the data itself. Further, the VIDE has not only failed to report as required by the Special Conditions, but it has not yet	The VIDE must ensure that this noncompliance is corrected and include data in the APR, due February 1, 2007, that demonstrates compliance with this requirement. The VIDE should review and, if necessary revise, its improvement strategies included in the SPP to ensure they will enable the VIDE to include data in the APR, that demonstrate sfull compliance with this requirement. Failure to demonstrate compliance at that time may affect OSEP's determination of the Territory's status under section 616(d) of the IDEA. Under the Special Conditions, a final report demonstrating full compliance is due June 30, 2006 on the forms provided by OSEP. Because this is a long-standing issue, failure to demonstrate compliance will affect the Territory's FFY 2006 grant award, and may include the continuation of "high risk" designation or other sanctions available under the law.

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requirement at 34 CFR §300.132 that eligible children with disabilities transitioning from Part C to Part B receive special education and related services by their third birthdays. Progress reports were due on December 1, 2005, February 15, 2006 and a final report on June 30, 2006.	on pages 43-44 of the SPP that "for FFY 2005," based upon monthly monitoring implemented in May 2005, 82% of children referred by Part C prior to age 3, who were found eligible for Part B, had an IEP developed and implemented by their third birthdays. The VIDE stated that it "has effectively met the requirements of 34 CFR §300.132" by implementing a monitoring system.	demonstrated that it is ensuring full compliance with the requirement at 34 CFR §300.132. That is, simply establishing a monitoring system is insufficient to demonstrate compliance with this requirement, therefore the VIDE must submit data and information to demonstrate that both LEAs are in full compliance with this requirement.	
Indicator 15 Compliance with the requirements to establish a general supervisory monitoring system that effectively identifies and corrects noncompliance in a timely manner including the implementation of complaint	On pages 93 through 95 of the SPP, the VIDE reported that, under Indicator 15A of the SPP, 57% of the findings of noncompliance related to monitoring priority areas and indicators were corrected within one year of	The data and information submitted under Indicator 15 in the SPP and in the progress report demonstrates continued noncompliance in the areas of identification and correction. OSEP cannot determine whether the	For those findings based upon current Part B requirements or specific requirements of the Territory, the VIDE must submit data to demonstrate correction of previously-identified findings of
including the implementation of complaint and hearing decisions, as required at 34 CFR §300.600 and 20 U.S.C. 1232d(b)(3)	corrected within one year of identification. For Indicator 15B, the VIDE reported that 20% of the findings	OSEP cannot determine whether the proposed monitoring plan is reasonably calculated to ensure identification and	previously-identified findings of noncompliance by June 30, 2006. If a finding is not corrected, the VIDE
Nas been a long-standing challenge for the VIDE. It was cited as part of the 1999 Compliance Agreement, in OSEP's March 2005 FFV 2007 APR remarks letter in	of noncompliance related to areas not included in Indicator 15A were corrected within one year of identification. For	timely correction of noncompliance because VIDE did not identify the Part B requirements or instruments it will be	that will be imposed. In addition, by June 30, 2006, the VIDE must submit its monitoring protocols
OSEP's October 5, 2005 verification visit letter, and in OSEP's November 16, 2005	88% of the findings of noncompliance identified through other mechanisms	In addition, it appears that the VIDE is not verifying correction of the	assessments, surveys and
FFY 2003 APR response letter. These are incorporated by reference.	were corrected within one year of identification.	noncompliance, rather it determines the implementation of activities that may, or	verification procedures; and the identification of the underlying Part
Under the 1999 Compliance Agreement and the Special Conditions attached to the	On November 9, 2005, the VIDE submitted its proposed plan for monitoring. The plan described a two	may not, result in compliance. Moreover, the VIDE has not ensured timely correction in areas of long-	each instrument. To the extent that such documents remain under development the VIDE is strongly
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w of ess)18 the ss smal	part system that includes 1) a review of data submitted by the LEAs to address reporting requirements for section 618 reports, Special Conditions reports, the Compliance Agreement, due process hearing complaints, mediations, formal state complaints, Office for Civil Rights resolution agreements and the 1984
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	OSEP ANALYSIS standing noncompliance, including the imposition of sanctions. OSEP could not determine from the November data and information on the status of correction and the SPP submission, the extent to which the corrective activities implemented resulted in compliance. That is, the corrective actions were focused on procedures and activities and there was no reference to the verification of specific correction, outcomes or results

OSEP looks forward to reviewing data in the APR, due February 1, 2007, demonstrating full compliance with this requirement.	The VIDE provided data that One demonstrate continuing noncompliance with the requirement regarding 34 CFR §300.661(a). The level of compliance reported was 92%. While this	On pages 71-72 of the SPP, the VIDE reported that 92% of the signed written complaints were resolved within the 60-day timeline or a timeline extended for	Indicator 16 (See also 15C, above) OSEP's November 16, 2005 APR review letter required the Virgin Islands to continue to report on its progress toward
		As part of its submission, the VIDE included activities and a tracking chart for the timely resolution of State complaints, due process decisions and settlement agreements, to ensure the timely implementation of corrective actions [see Indicator 15C].	
		As required, the submission also included a status report on the findings from the Cycle II monitoring and the areas of compensatory education and extended school year services. The VIDE identified numerous areas where specific activities had occurred and others where activities had not occurred and others where activities had not occurred and/or noncompliance persisted. The VIDE reported that no sanctions had been imposed in areas of long-standing noncompliance.	
		that lists the following four components: 1) self-assessment; 2) on-site visit; 3) data review; and 4) other. There was no information regarding the content of checklists or protocols.	
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¹ Although the VIDE may impose requirements that go beyond the IDEA, under Section 608, it must identify the rules, regulations, and policies not required under Part B and its regulations.

	On page 88 of the SPP, the VIDE indicated that the data for school year 2004-2005 under Section 618 and the APR was timely. The VIDE did not specifically addressed the extent to		
The VIDE should review and, if appropriate revise the strategies and activities for Indicator 20 of the SPP and submit any revisions in the APR, due February 1, 2007. Failure to accurately report information under Indicator 20 may affect OSEP's determination of the State's status under section 616(d) of the IDEA.	Most recently, OSEP's November 16, 2005 letter noted that the VIDE was reporting significant data collection and reporting needs in many areas of the APR and encouraged continued efforts to access and coordinate data with the School Administrative Student Information database and Goalview. OSEP emphasized the VIDE's need to carefully consider its current data collection against the requirements related to these indicators.	On page 88 of the SPP, the VIDE indicated that the Section 618 data was submitted in a timely manner. The VIDE noted concerns with accuracy under Indicators 1, 3, and 4A.	Indicator 20 Compliance with the requirements related to the collection and timely reporting of accurate data has been a long-standing problem for the VIDE as cited in the 1999 Compliance Agreement, OSEP's March 3, 2005 FFY 2002 APR response letter, OSEP's October 5, 2005 verification visit letter, and OSEP's November 16, 2005 FFY 2003 APR response letter. These are incorporated by reference.
OSEP looks forward to reviewing data in the APR, due February 1, 2007, demonstrating continued compliance with this requirement.	The VIDE provided the hearing decision and reported a 100% level of compliance with the requirement at 34 CFR §300.511. OSEP recognizes the effort made by the VIDE in working toward compliance with this requirement.	The administrative decision and order, dated April 27, 2005, was submitted. On page 83 of the SPP, the VIDE reported 100% of due process hearing requests were fully adjudicated within a timeline that was properly extended by the hearing officer at the request of either party.	Indicator 17 (Also, see Indicator 15C, above) OSEP's November 16, 2005 APR review letter required the VIDE to submit a copy of the final due process decision that was overdue at the time of the February verification visit.
	demonstrates improvement, it does not demonstrate full compliance.	exceptional circumstances with respect to a particular complaint. The VIDE reported that one of the 12 complaints was resolved outside the timeline and one was held in abeyance because it raised the same issue as a due process hearing request.	compliance with the 60-day timeline for complaint resolution required by 34 CFR §300.661(a) and to submit a final report demonstrating compliance in April 2006.
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		which previous concerns were fully addressed but did include numerous strategies.	
		As set out in Tables A and B, the SPP submission contains problems or concerns with the data and information reported under Indicators 1, 3, and 4A. In addition, the new Indicators require additional data collection and analysis due February 1, 2007.	
Special Conditions - Triennial Evaluations: The Special Conditions attached to the VIDE's Part B grant for FFY 2005, noted that VIDE was to have eliminated the backlog of students not receiving a timely triennial evaluation for those evaluations due after October 1999. In its prior progress report (May 16, 2005), the VIDE reported a total of 138 triennial evaluations remaining. Of this total 97 were for St. Croix and were scheduled for completion between May 16 and May 31, 2005. The VIDE had not demonstrated full compliance for the timely provision of triennial evaluations due after October 1999 and had to continue to report on the completion of those evaluations. The Special Conditions require that by no later than June 30, 2006, the VIDE must eliminate the backlog of students not receiving a timely triennial evaluation for	On December 2, 2005, the VIDE submitted data and information with a cover letter noting "discrepancies in the reports" from the two LEAs. The submitted report listed information on 103 students regarding overdue triennial evaluations, with 37 students identified for St. Croix and 66 for St. Thomas/St. John. The reporting dates for St. Croix and St. Thomas/St. John were November 19, 2005 and November 22, 2005, respectively. The report identified some students as current but did not supply the date of their most recent triennial evaluation. The VIDE reported that of the 66 students for St. Thomas/St. John there were 28 students that were current and 38 students who still had overdue triennial evaluations with the majority of those due to staff shortages. The data and information reported for St. Croix	OSEP is concerned that the reported data and information submitted by the VIDE appear inconsistent. However, both the December 2, 2005 submission and the SPP submission indicate that there is continuing noncompliance. Based upon the progress report, it appears that more than 70 students have overdue reevaluations. This indicates some progress from the 138 previously reported. However, more than 10 reevaluations were overdue by two, three or four years, and some students had not been evaluated in the past five, six or seven years. In prior submissions and on-site visits, the VIDE indicated that it would authorize the LEAs to schedule reevaluations and meetings on weekends and contract with outside evaluators. Based upon OSEP's review of the	As soon as possible, but by no later than June 30, 2006, the VIDE must eliminate the backlog of students not receiving a timely triennial evaluation for those due after October 1999. Under the Special Conditions, the VIDE must submit a report demonstrating full compliance by no later than June 30, 2006. The VIDE is strongly encouraged to authorize LEAs to utilize the previously proposed strategies of conducting reevaluations on weekends or through contractors, if necessary.

	reevaluation dates submitted for St. Thomas/St. John, all reevaluations were dated on one of four school days, either May 27, 2005, October 25, 2005, November 10, 2005 or November 22, 2005.	was not reported in a manner consistent with that reported for St. Thomas/St. John. It appears that for St. Croix, the date when the reevaluation was due, rather than the date of the most current reevaluation, was provided. If this assumption is correct, it appears there were 35 students with overdue reevaluations in St. Croix. The St. Croix report appears to indicate that 32 of those students were scheduled for reevaluations on November 28, 29, and 30, 2005. For St. Thomas/St. John, the report indicated that nine students were unable to attend or were "no shows" for reevaluations scheduled prior to or on November 22, 2005, the date of the report submission by the LEA. On page 52 of the SPP, the VIDE included the following information: For the December 1, 2005 reporting timeline the St. Croix District reported that it had completed a total of 36 triennial evaluations. The St. Thomas/St. John District completed 28 triennial evaluations out of 66 overdue triennial evaluations due after October 1999. Seven children did not show for the evaluations. 31 reevaluations are currently outstanding. St. Croix District reported completing 37 outstanding triennial evaluations. Preliminary	those due after October 1999. The VIDE is to document progress in this area by submitting data reports and other relevant documentation, as appropriate, on the following dates: December 1, 2005, February 15, 2006, June 30, 2006.
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review of the data has identified that the LEAs have not eliminated the backlog of triennial evaluations due after October 1999. Sanctions will be imposed, as appropriate. On May 3, 2006, VIDE submitted the February 15, 2006 progress report as required by the Special Conditions. The data and information from the progress report will be addressed separately.	STATE SUBMISSION
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