

Title: Utah's Continuous Improvement Monitoring Web-based Electronic Data System

Funding Agency: U.S. Department of Education, Office of Special Education & Rehabilitative Services  
subcontract with Utah State Office of Education and Department of Health

Timeline: Beginning December 1, 2001, one year (with no cost extension option)

### Abstract

The Utah State Office of Education and the Department of Health have spent the past three years redesigning their monitoring systems to shift from episodic procedural monitoring to a system that emphasizes positive outcomes for children with disabilities and connects program effectiveness with the requirements of IDEA 97. Implementation of these new systems show promising results but because the systems are much more expansive, managing and integrating the data from the many different sources presents an incredible challenge. Thus, we propose to develop an electronic data system to support the needs of the Part B and Part C Performance Improvement Planning Systems known as UPIP.

The major objectives and activities of the proposed project will focus on using a Logic Model to analyze the outcomes, reporting needs and then refining the instruments if needed, to ensure that the current instruments are appropriately designed to get at the data needed. The second objective will focus on developing, testing, and refining the electronic data system. The electronic system will consist of a stand-alone solution that will allow all SEA personnel, DOH personnel, teachers, and service providers to use the system on either their PC or Macintosh desktop or laptop computers. The analysis and reporting components of the system will employ a web-based solution. Users will log onto a secure web-site, upload the data collected with their desktop or laptop computers and receive an instant analysis and report of their data. Interview information will be collected directly on the UPIP web-site. The web-site will be integrated with an already established web-site that collects incident information for Safe and Drug Free Schools.

We will develop user materials so that local school districts can implement the self-assessment components of the Performance Improvement Planning Systems in a valid and reliable way. In addition, we will provide training and technical support to enable users to effectively and efficiently learn how to use the electronic data system.

The project is joint effort between Part B and C and involves a subcontract with Utah State University. The Part B lead persons include Dr. Mae Taylor and Ms. Deb Spark. The Part C lead persons include Ms. Susan Ord and Ms. Sue Olsen. Utah State University persons include Dr. Margaret Lubke, Mr. Brad Althouse, Dr. Dan Robertson, and Dr. Dan Judd.

### Expected Outcomes

The proposed system will allow the State Education Agency and the Department of Health to better exercise their general supervisory authority. In addition, the proposed project will focus on improving transition efforts between Part C and Part B by sharing information electronically. The project will develop the infrastructure to collect sufficient valid and reliable data to determine the impact of special education and early intervention services. The system will allow for the integration and careful analysis of the data from different sources and thus allow us to determine whether outcomes for students are being attained. It will also pinpoint areas of need and facilitate the improvement of system and implementation variables.