Amendment to LD 1715 Updated language on the Implementation Phase In

Replace §7211 (1) with the following:

1. Phase in Fiscal years 2020-21 to 2024-25 A school administrative unit shall apply to the department to begin providing early childhood special education and related services under this section beginning in fiscal year 2020-21 to 2024-2025. During the implementation phases, SAUs shall be expected to serve an increasing number of students with disabilities, reaching the target percentage of 15% of 3 to school-age 5 year olds within the SAU’s catchment area. Year 1: by 2020-2021 the SAU will serve at least 50% of the targeted percentage of the 4 year old children with disabilities; Year 2 by 2021-2022 the SAU will serve at least 75% of the targeted percentage of 4 year old children with disabilities. Year 3: by 2022-2023 the SAUs will serve 100% of the 4 year old children with disabilities in the catchment area; Year 4: by 2023-2024 the SAUs shall serve at least 50% of the 3 year old children with disabilities; Year 5: by 2024-2025 the SAUs shall serve all 3 year old children with disabilities in the catchment area. SAUs who operate 4 year old public preschool programs shall ensure that students with disabilities are able to access public preschool programs. Each SAU who operates a less- than- universal preschool program shall ensure that their procedures for selecting students provide for equitable access for students with disabilities.

Add to LD 1715 3. E. after The commissioner shall provide reimbursement for the costs of early childhood special education services for eligible children provided by school administrative units during the implementation phase-in under subsection 1 and ongoing. The intent is to keep CDS funding separate from EPS. The SAUs could become the providers in this system for Part B. Section 619 services on a regional basis, if appropriate.

Amend Sec. A-3 Item #4 and #6 as follows:

4. Child Development Services System. The Department of Education shall ensure that any transition issues relating to the elimination of the Child Development Services System during the $ 6-year implementation phase-in period in Title 20-A, section 7211 and full elimination by July 1, 2025 are addressed.

6. Certificates. During the first 3 years of the implementation phase-in period under Title 20-A, section 7211, subsection 1, the Department of Education shall consider certificates for the provision of special education for birth to 5 years of age and 5 years of age to 20 years of age to be birth to 20 years of age certificates. The department shall provide support to school personnel to become certified.

Amend Sec. B-14 1.A. as follows:

A. The commissioner is responsible for developing and adopting rules necessary to carry out the provisions of Part-C of the federal Individuals with Disabilities Education Act, Part B, Section 619 and Part C, 20 United States Code, Section 1400 1431 et seq.