



STATE OF TENNESSEE  
**DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION**

Division of Special Education  
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COMMISSIONER

October 9, 2007

To Whom It May Concern:

Tennessee's Early Intervention Data System (TEIDS) has become an integral part of operating a large state early intervention system. Basically TEIDS allows Tennessee to develop a cohesive system of general supervision. Our focused on site monitoring activities and survey activities are now linked with TEIDS. We use the information and reporting from TEIDS to do a risk assessment of Districts/Counties. We then are able to target (in a real time approach) the actual compliance areas and non compliant areas. In the old processes with our old monitoring efforts with our outdated data system, we often monitored all programs in an in depth manner with little help from our data system in identifying the SPP compliance issues. TEIDS provides a life source of information related to SPP compliance issues. We know the instances and details related to SPP Indicator Non-compliance at the State, Regional, District, County, Agency and even staff member level. Our ability to identify the problem and the Actual point of accountability allow us to concentrate the rest of our efforts on assuring the correction of non-compliance. This is a huge shift, in the past we were never able to focus our resources on correction. This outdated system of data collection, monitoring and general supervision is no longer acceptable to Tennessee's leadership. More importantly with the letter of determinations being sent to states, it is no longer acceptable from OSEP's perspective as well. TEIDS positions us to correct our areas that "Need Intervention." Without TEIDS, Tennessee would be facing continued federal scrutiny and possible enforcement action. We welcome your states learning more about how Yahasoft inc. assisted our state in addressing SPP reporting and compliance issues.

None of the successes of TEIDS would have been realized were it not for the intensive support and time spent by our Yahasoft Project Manager, Roy Su. His commitments to learn the inner workings of IDEA Part C have been unmatched. Our project manager on his own dollars attended the OSEP Accountability Conference in Denver. He did so not in the typical manner as a vendor, looking to give out free pens and strum up more business. He attended and participated as a conference attendee. He was able to hear the real struggles that Part C states are going through related to Indicator #1 (Timely Delivery of Services), or with the new data and reporting issues related to child and family outcomes. With Yahasoft, Tennessee is not a number; our needs are a priority not just for us but for Yahasoft. The response and resolution time for significant new needs from TEIDS continue to impress even the most skilled data specialists. Clearly Yahasoft took time to learn the intricacies of early intervention, but more importantly they took time to understand Tennessee. Many companies have IFSP writing tools that are off the shelf products that seem to work. The custom nature of TEIDS is what allows Tennessee to address OSEP's issues, while at the same time addressing the management and information needs related to running a multi-million dollar program that has federal but also state appropriations. Tennessee has the need to utilize TEIDS in accountability reporting to our Governor and our General Assembly. Our specific state needs and your specific state needs will never be adequately addressed without project management support.

Sincerely,

Jamie T. Kilpatrick, Director  
Early Childhood Programs  
Division of Special Education