

New Jersey Department of Education Special Education Receiving School Monitoring

The Alpine Learning Group curriculum includes a wide variety of materials for students to encourage independence. They include areas such as meal preparation, augmentative equipment to assist with speech and the use of palm pilots to assist with scheduling. The staff not only modifies and adapts instruction based upon individual student needs, the school also has audio taped instructional videos to teach and reinforce functional skills.

The Alpine Learning Group also has a structured supported transition program. Students ages fourteen years and older attend one to four job sites per week, exposing them to a variety of work skills including mail sorting, data entry, collating, laundry and floral arrangement tasks. Job coaches are also provided which allow for a successful transition experience.

Areas Demonstrating Compliance With All Standards:

General Provisions, Free, Appropriate Public Education (FAPE), Facility Requirements and Discipline were determined to be areas of compliance by the Alpine Learning Group during self-assessment and by the NJDOE during the on-site visit.

Section III: Staff Requirements

Summary of Findings:

During self-assessment, the Alpine Learning Group accurately identified themselves compliant in the areas regarding appropriate supervision of physical therapy assistants and certified occupational therapy assistants, private school dual employment, supervision of paraprofessionals, job descriptions of paraprofessionals maintained at county office and having an approved professional development plan.

During the self-assessment process, the Alpine Learning Group identified concerns in the areas regarding certified/licensed staff and criminal history verification. The school's improvement plan is sufficient to address this area of need. During the on-site visit, through staff interviews and record reviews, it was determined that the staff is appropriately certified and licensed and that criminal history verification has been completed and is current for all staff. The receiving school has appropriately implemented specific activities to bring correction to these areas.

No additional areas of need were identified during the on-site visit.

Section V: Individualized Education Program/Annual Review

During self-assessment, the Alpine Learning Group accurately identified themselves compliant in the areas regarding IEP meetings conducted at least annually, IEP meetings conducted with required receiving school participants, IEP meeting conducted with students, as appropriate, signatures of participants present on IEPs, current IEP prior to service delivery, communication to sending districts regarding missing IEP components, IEP accessibility to teachers and providers, informing teachers and providers of IEP responsibilities, timely implementation of IEPs, observation of proposed placement, statewide testing and progress reports.

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During the self-assessment process, the Alpine Learning Group identified a concern in the area regarding goals and objectives aligned to the core curriculum content standards (CCCS). The school's improvement plan is sufficient to address this area of need. During the on-site visit, a review of records and staff interviews indicated that the school has appropriately implemented specific activities to bring about correction in this area.

No additional areas of need were identified during the on-site visit.

Section VII: Programs and Services

Summary of Findings:

During self-assessment, the Alpine Learning Group accurately identified themselves compliant in the areas regarding class size and age range, exceptions for class size and age range, special class program descriptions maintained at county office, certifications for specialized populations, special classes serving students with similar educational needs, collaboration for home instruction, policies and procedures relating to school functions and services and medical exams for sport teams.

During the self-assessment process, the Alpine Learning Group identified concerns in the area regarding dispensing medication and nursing services. The receiving school's improvement plan is sufficient to address these areas of need.

No additional areas of need were identified during the on-site visit.

Section VIII: Student Records

Summary of Findings:

During self-assessment, the Alpine Learning Group accurately identified themselves compliant in the areas regarding conformance to pupil records code, return of records upon termination of student placement, access to records limited to authorized persons, access sheets, location of other records specified in central file, daily attendance available to LEAs, written communication to LEAs regarding five days of tardiness/absences and maintenance of student health records.

During the self-assessment process, the Alpine Learning Group identified concerns in the areas regarding written notice of placement to county office. The receiving school's improvement plan is sufficient to address this area of need. During the on-site visit, a review of records and staff interviews indicated that the receiving school has appropriately implemented specific activities to bring about correction in this area.

No additional areas of need were identified during the on-site visit.

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Summary

On-site special education monitoring was conducted in the Alpine Learning Group on April 3, 2006. The purpose of the monitoring visit was to verify the Alpine Learning Group report of findings resulting from their self-assessment and to review the receiving school's improvement plan.

The Alpine Learning Group is commended for the comprehensive review conducted during the self-assessment process. As a result of that review, the receiving school was able to identify all areas of need and develop an improvement plan that will bring about systemic change. The receiving school is further commended for the many areas determined by the receiving school and verified by the NJDOE as compliant with federal and state statutes and regulations.

General Provisions, FAPE, Facility Requirements, IEP and Discipline were determined to be areas of compliance by the Alpine Learning Group during self-assessment and by the NJDOE during the on-site visit.

Additional areas identified as consistently compliant by the Alpine Learning Group during self-assessment and verified during the on-site monitoring visit included appropriate supervision of physical therapy assistants and certified occupational therapy assistants, private school dual employment, supervision of paraprofessionals, job descriptions of paraprofessionals maintained at county office, having an approved professional development plan, IEP meetings conducted at least annually, IEP meetings conducted with required receiving school participants, IEP meeting conducted with students, as appropriate, signatures of participants present on IEPs, current IEP prior to service delivery, communication to sending districts regarding missing IEP components, IEP accessibility to teachers and providers, informing teachers and providers of IEP responsibilities, timely implementation of IEPs, observation of proposed placement, statewide testing, progress reports, class size and age range, exceptions for class size and age range, special class program descriptions maintained at county office, certifications for specialized populations, special classes serving students with similar educational needs, collaboration for home instruction, policies and procedures relating to school functions and services, medical exams for sport teams, conformance to pupil records code, return of records upon termination of student placement, access to records limited to authorized persons, access sheets, location of other records specified in central file, daily attendance available to LEAs, written communication to LEAs regarding five days of tardiness/absences and maintenance of student health records.

During the self-assessment process, the Alpine Learning Group identified areas of need regarding certified/licensed staff and criminal history verification for its staff, goals and objectives and their alignment to the CCCS, dispensing medication and nursing services and written notice of placement to county office.

The Alpine Learning Group is not required to submit revisions to their improvement plan since all areas of noncompliance have been identified by the school. However, the implementation of activities relating to dispensing medication and nursing services still require verification through the Bergen County Office of Education.