

**New Jersey Department of Education
Special Education Receiving School Monitoring**

Receiving School: School for Children

County: Monmouth

Monitoring Dates: November 16, 17, and 18, 2005

Monitoring Team: Karen Frumen, Carmen Fanucci, and Elaine Lerner

Background Information:

During the 2004–2005 school year, the School for Children conducted a self-assessment of policies, procedures, programs, services, and student outcomes. This self-assessment component of the monitoring process provided the School for Children with an opportunity to evaluate its strengths and areas of need with regard to:

- The provision of a free, appropriate public education (FAPE) for students with disabilities in the least restrictive environment;
- The development and implementation of policies and procedures resulting in procedural compliance; and
- The organization and delivery of programs and services to meet the needs of the students with disabilities.

The self-assessment was designed to identify areas of strength, promising practices, areas that need improvement and areas that may be noncompliant with state and federal requirements. The School for Children developed an improvement plan to address identified areas of need.

The New Jersey Department of Education (NJDOE) conducted an on-site monitoring to verify the self-assessment findings, to assess the appropriateness of the improvement plan, and to determine the progress in implementing the plan.

During the monitoring process, the monitoring team reviewed receiving school documents such as policies and procedures, student records from sending districts, lesson plans, services as indicated in Individualized Education Programs (IEPs), staff evaluations, student count information, master student lists, class lists, schedules of students/teachers/related service personnel, and other relevant information. Interviews were conducted with the receiving school's special education administrators, building principals, special education teachers, parents and related service personnel.

Noncompliant items reflected in this report may result in nonallowable costs in accordance with N.J.A.C. 6A:23-4.1 through 4.16.

School Strengths:

The School for Children is commended for implementing a collaborative model of teaching in which the classroom teacher, occupational therapist, speech therapist and physical therapist all work together to assist the student in mastery of individual goals. Therapy is delivered within the classroom to enhance generalization of skills, as well as in the therapy setting to introduce new skills and assess current levels.

New Jersey Department of Education Special Education Receiving School Monitoring

The School for Children has a Parent Teacher Organization (PTO) that facilitates weekend social activities that include Ice-cream socials, book fairs, dances, movie nights and guest speaker presentations. A sign language program for parents is also provided in the evenings.

The School for Children also provides a video viewing system for classrooms that is available to families and professionals.

Areas Demonstrating Compliance With All Standards:

General Provisions, Staff Requirements, Facility Requirements, Discipline, Programs and Services and **Student Records** were determined to be areas of compliance by the School for Children during self-assessment and by the NJDOE during the on-site visit.

Section II: Free, Appropriate Public Education (FAPE)

Summary of Findings:

During self-assessment, the School for Children accurately identified themselves compliant in the areas regarding length of school day and year, provision of physical education, services at no cost to parents, extended school year programs and services provided in accordance with IEPs, provision of services as per IEP, provision of occupational therapy (OT), physical therapy (PT) and speech language therapy as per IEP.

During the self-assessment process, the School for Children identified concerns in the areas regarding maintenance of hearing aids and program open to observation by the local education agency (LEA) and NJDOE. The receiving school's improvement plan is sufficient to address these areas 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 these areas.

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

Section V: Individualized Education Program/Annual Review

Summary of Findings:

During self-assessment, the School for Children accurately identified themselves compliant in the areas regarding IEP meeting conducted at least annually, IEP meeting conducted with students age 14 and older, as appropriate, signatures of participants present on IEPs, current IEP prior to service delivery, communication to sending district 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, implementation of IEP components, and informing parents of progress toward goals and objectives.

An area of need was identified during the on-site visit regarding IEP meetings conducted with required receiving school participants specifically the attendance of certified occupational therapy assistants at IEP meetings. It should be noted that following the

**New Jersey Department of Education
Special Education Receiving School Monitoring**

on-site visit, the school developed procedures and has appropriately implemented specific activities to bring about correction in this area.

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

**New Jersey Department of Education
Special Education Receiving School Monitoring**

Summary

On-site special education monitoring was conducted at the School for Children on November 16-18, 2005. The purpose of the monitoring visit was to verify the School for Children's report of findings resulting from their self-assessment and to review the receiving school's improvement plan.

The receiving school is commended for the exceptionally comprehensive review conducted during the self-assessment process. As a result of that review the receiving school was able to identify all but one area 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 Department of Education, as compliant with federal and state statutes and regulations.

General Provisions, Staff Requirements, Facility Requirements, Discipline, Programs and Services and **Student Records** were determined to be areas of compliance by the School for Children during self-assessment and by the NJDOE during the on-site visit.

Additional areas identified as consistently compliant by the School for Children during self-assessment and verified during the on-site monitoring visit included length of school day and year, provision of physical education, services at no cost to parents, extended school year programs and services provided in accordance with IEPs, provision of occupational therapy services (OT), physical therapy (PT) and speech language therapy as per IEP, certified/licensed staff, private school dual employment, supervision of paraprofessionals, job descriptions of paraprofessionals maintained at county office, criminal history verification, having an approved professional development plan, IEP meeting conducted at least annually, IEP meeting conducted with students age 14 and older, as appropriate, signatures of participants present on IEPs, current IEP prior to service delivery, communication to sending district 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, implementation of IEP components and informing parents of progress toward goals and objectives.

During the self-assessment process, the School for Children identified areas of need regarding maintenance of hearing aids and program open to observation by LEA and DOE.

The on-site visit identified one additional area of need within the various standards regarding IEP meetings conducted with required receiving school participants.

The School for Children is not required to submit revisions to their improvement plan since all areas of noncompliance have been identified and corrected by the school.