

## **New Jersey Department of Education Special Education Monitoring**

**District:** Beach Haven Borough School District

**County:** Ocean

**Monitoring Dates:** June 5, 2006

**Monitoring Team:** Cheryl L. Mercial

### ***Background Information:***

During the 2004–2005 school year, the Beach Haven Borough School District conducted a self-assessment of policies, procedures, programs, services and student outcomes. This self-assessment component of the monitoring process provided the Beach Haven Borough School District with an opportunity to evaluate 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 protection of procedural safeguards for students and their families;
- The development and implementation of policies and procedures resulting in procedural compliance; and
- The organization and delivery of programs and services resulting in positive student outcomes.

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 Office of Special Education Programs (OSEP) conducted an onsite monitoring to verify the self-assessment findings and, if applicable, to assess the appropriateness of any improvement plans to determine progress in implementing the plans.

During the onsite visit, the New Jersey Department of Education (NJDOE) monitoring team reviewed district documents, including district policies and procedures, student count information, master student lists, class lists, schedules of students, teachers and related service personnel and other relevant information. A representative sample of student records was also reviewed. Interviews were conducted with the district's superintendent, who also serves as the special education administrator, general education and special education teachers and the district's speech-language specialist. Parents of students with disabilities were interviewed by phone.

### **Data Summary:**

A review of the district's data for students with disabilities indicates that during the 2005-2006 school year the district had a classification rate of 11.51%, which was below the state classification rate of 16.8% for that year. In addition, for the 2005-2006 school year, all students with disabilities were educated in the general education setting for more than 80% of the school day. The district's classification rates for the past 4 years have been consistently below the state classification rates and the percentage of students educated in the general education setting for more than 80% of the day has been 100% for the past 2 school years. Beach Haven Borough School District currently does not have an enrollment of any preschool age classified students.

# New Jersey Department of Education Special Education Monitoring

## Sections Demonstrating Compliance

The self-assessment process required the district to review implementation of federal and state regulations categorized into 15 sections. Within each section, a number of areas were reviewed. The onsite monitoring visit involved verification that the sections and areas identified as compliant by the district in their self-assessment were compliant with regulations. These sections were identified by the district during self-assessment and the NJDOE during the monitoring process as compliant:

- General Provisions
- Free, Appropriate Public Education
- Procedural Safeguards
- Location, Referral, Identification
- Evaluation
- Reevaluation
- Eligibility
- Individualized Education Program
- Least Restrictive Environment
- Discipline
- Statewide Assessments
- Programs & Services

## Sections Not Reviewed

These sections were not reviewed by the NJDOE because the district does not currently serve a population of students for whom these regulations apply:

- Transition to Preschool
- Transition to Adult Life
- Graduation

The district did not identify any areas of need during the self-assessment process and these findings were verified during the onsite monitoring visit. The district demonstrated compliance in all areas with state and federal regulations at the time of the onsite visit.

# New Jersey Department of Education Special Education Monitoring

## *Summary*

Onsite special education monitoring was conducted in the Beach Haven Borough School District on June 5, 2006. The purpose of the monitoring visit was to verify the district's report of findings resulting from their self-assessment and to review the district's improvement plan. The district is acknowledged for the exceptionally comprehensive review conducted during the self-assessment process. The district is further acknowledged for the many areas determined by the district and verified by the Office of Special Education Programs as compliant with federal and state statutes and regulations.

A review of the district's data for students with disabilities indicates that during the 2005-2006 school year the district had a classification rate of 11.51%, which was below the state classification rate of 16.8% for that year. In addition, for the 2005-2006 school year, all students with disabilities were educated in the general education setting for more than 80% of the school day. The district's classification rates for the past 4 years have been consistently below the state classification rates and the percentage of students educated in the general education setting for more than 80% of the day has been 100% for the past 2 school years. Beach Haven Borough School District currently does not have an enrollment of any preschool age classified students.

During interviews conducted with parents by phone, many parents expressed their satisfaction with the district's programs and services and staff.

Standards identified as consistently compliant by the district during self-assessment and verified during the onsite monitoring visit included:

- General Provisions
- Free, Appropriate Public Education
- Procedural Safeguards
- Location, Referral, Identification
- Evaluation
- Reevaluation
- Eligibility
- Individualized Education Program
- Least Restrictive Environment
- Discipline
- Statewide Assessments
- Programs & Services

The district did not identify any areas of need during the self-assessment process and these findings were verified during the onsite monitoring visit. The district demonstrated compliance with state and federal regulations in all areas reviewed. It is expected that the district will continue to conduct ongoing oversight activities to maintain systemic compliance.