

## New Jersey Department of Education Special Education Monitoring

**District:** Union County Vocational-Technical Schools

**County:** Union

**Monitoring Dates:** January 25, 2006

**Monitoring Team:** Barbara J. Tucker

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

During the 2004–2005 school year, the Union County Vocational-Technical Schools conducted a self-assessment of policies, procedures, programs, services and student outcomes. This self-assessment component of the monitoring process provided the Union County Vocational-Technical Schools 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.

During the on-site visit, the New Jersey Department of Education (NJDOE) monitoring team conducted phone interviews with parents, reviewed district documents, including district policies and procedures and master student files and interviewed the director and social worker to verify the self-assessment findings, to assess the appropriateness of the improvement plan and to determine the progress in implementing the plan. Based on these activities, a determination was made by staff from the OSEP that Union County Vocational-Technical Schools had conducted a thorough review during the self-assessment process.

### **Data Summary:**

A review of the Union County Vocational-Technical Schools' data for students with disabilities indicates that the school is in its third year of accepting full-time students with disabilities. Currently, all 15 full-time students with disabilities, grades nine through twelve, participate in general education classes with their nondisabled peers for more than 80% of their school day.

### **Sections Demonstrating Compliance with All Standards:**

The self-assessment process required the Union County Vocational-Technical Schools to review implementation of federal and state regulations categorized into 15 sections. Within each section, a number of areas were reviewed. The on-site monitoring visit involved verification that the sections and areas identified as compliant by the schools in their self-assessment were compliant with regulations. **General Provisions, Procedural Safeguards, Location, Referral and Identification (LRI), Evaluation,**

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**Reevaluation, Eligibility, Individualized Education Program (IEP), Least Restrictive Environment (LRE), Transition to Adult Life, Discipline, Statewide Assessment, Graduation and Programs and Services** were identified by the Union County Vocational-Technical Schools during self-assessment and the NJDOE during the monitoring process as compliant.

**Areas not applicable:**

**Transition to Preschool** was not reviewed by the NJDOE because the district does not serve a population of students for whom these requirements apply.

**Areas Demonstrating Compliance:**

The following areas, within the remaining sections reviewed, were identified by the district's self-assessment committee and by the NJDOE as compliant. These areas were reviewed for students eligible for special education and related services (ESERS) and students eligible for speech and language services (ESLS).

Section	Areas Demonstrating Compliance
<b>Free, Appropriate Public Education (FAPE)</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Extended school year</li> <li>• Provision of programs</li> <li>• Provision of related services</li> <li>• Transfer procedures</li> </ul>

***Additional Area of Need***

The following area was originally identified by the district's self-assessment committee as compliant but was found to be noncompliant by the New Jersey Department of Education during the on-site monitoring.

Section	Area	Activity
Free, Appropriate Public Education (FAPE)	Oversight of IEP implementation – The district does not have procedures in place to ensure that students have current IEPs and that those IEPs are monitored for implementation.	The district is directed to ensure that students have current IEPs and that they are monitored for implementation. Improvement activities will ensure that students receive the programs and services specified in their IEPs. The district must implement an administrative oversight mechanism to ensure correction and ongoing compliance.

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## **Summary**

Special education monitoring was conducted in the Union County Vocational-Technical Schools on January 25, 2006. The purpose the monitoring visit was to verify the Union County Vocational-Technical Schools' report of findings resulting from their self-assessment and to review the schools' improvement plan. The Union County Vocational-Technical Schools are acknowledged for the areas that were determined by the district and verified by the NJDOE to be compliant with federal and state statutes and regulations.

A review of the Union County Vocational-Technical Schools' data for students with disabilities indicates that the school is in its third year of accepting full-time students with disabilities. Currently, all 15 full-time students with disabilities, grades nine through twelve, participate in general education classes with their nondisabled peers for more than 80% of their school day.

Of the parents who were interviewed, most expressed their satisfaction with the Union County Vocational-Technical Schools' programs and services and the level of communication with staff. They were especially pleased with their level of involvement in the IEP process and receptiveness of the special services staff to their input.

Sections demonstrating compliance with all standards included: General Provisions, Procedural Safeguards, Location, Referral and Identification (LRI), Evaluation, Reevaluation, Eligibility, Individualized Education Program (IEP), Least Restrictive Environment (LRE), Transition to Adult Life, Discipline, Statewide Assessment, Graduation and Programs and Services.

Areas identified as consistently compliant by the district during self-assessment and verified during the monitoring visit included extended school year, provision of programs, provision of related services and transfer procedures.

The on-site visit identified additional areas of need within the various standards, regarding oversight of individualized education program (IEP) implementation.

The improvement plan submitted to the OSEP has been reviewed and approved. The district is expected to implement the activities described in the monitoring report to achieve compliance in the area of need identified during the on-site visit within 90 days of the date of this report. Verification of compliance will be conducted by the County Office of Education.