



**State of New Jersey**

DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION

PO Box 500

TRENTON, NJ 08625-0500

**CHRIS CHRISTIE**  
*Governor*

**KIM GUADAGNO**  
*Lt. Governor*

**CHRISTOPHER D. CERF**  
*Acting Commissioner*

April 27, 2011

Mr. William Stonis, Superintendent  
Cumberland Regional High School District  
90 Silver Lake Road  
Seabrook, NJ 08302-5115

Dear Mr. Stonis:

Subject: Special Education Monitoring Report – Cumberland Regional High School District

This correspondence has been sent to inform you of the results of the New Jersey Department of Education, Office of Special Education Programs' onsite monitoring regarding the Cumberland Regional High School District's implementation of federal and state special education requirements. The New Jersey Department of Education, Office of Special Education Programs (NJOSPEP), conducted onsite monitoring visits, verification visits and desk audits in the Cumberland Regional High School District to determine compliance with federal and state special education requirements. The members of the monitoring team were Patricia Fair and Jane Marano.

The special education monitoring system is data driven and aligned with the federally required State Performance Plan (SPP) indicators, including the federal monitoring priorities established by the Individuals with Disabilities Education Act of 2004 (IDEA 2004). Specifically, the NJOSPEP monitoring process is focused on improving educational results and functional outcomes for students with disabilities and ensuring compliance with those special education requirements related to positive student outcomes.

The special education self-assessment and monitoring process focused on requirements related to the following areas:

- ***Transition to Adult Life***
- ***State Assessment***
- ***Placement in the Least Restrictive Environment***
- ***Parent Involvement***
- ***Disproportionate Representation of Specific Racial-Ethnic Groups in Special Education***
- ***Evaluation and Reevaluation***
- ***Individualized Education Program***
- ***Programs and Services***

The Cumberland Regional High School District was selected for the self-assessment/monitoring process through random selection.

### Monitoring Results

The enclosed Table of Findings details the findings resulting from the onsite monitoring. All findings of noncompliance must be corrected within one year of the date of this report. Corrective action should include, as necessary: development and/or revision of policies and procedures, staff training, implementation of the identified IDEA and N.J.A.C. requirements and implementation of an oversight mechanism to ensure ongoing compliance. The monitoring team leader, Ms. Jane Marano, will contact Amy Draggoo to discuss procedures for verification of correction of the findings of noncompliance listed in the Table of Findings.

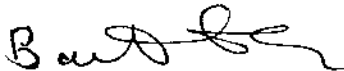
The results of the special education monitoring must be reviewed at the next meeting of the district's board of education. A copy of the minutes from the board of education meeting documenting the review by the board must be submitted to the following address:

Ms. Jane Marano, Monitor  
New Jersey Department of Education  
Office of Special Education Programs  
PO Box 500  
100 Riverview Plaza  
Trenton, NJ 08625-0500

Questions regarding the enclosed monitoring report should be directed to Dr. Peggy McDonald, manager of the Bureau of Program Accountability, at 609-292-7605.

The NJOSEP appreciates the cooperation of district staff members during the self-assessment/monitoring process.

Sincerely,



Barbara Gantwerk, Assistant Commissioner  
Division of Student Services

BG/PM/JM

Enclosure

c: Gregg Edwards  
Andrew Smarick  
Peggy McDonald  
Jane Marano  
Richard Stepura  
County Supervisor of Child Study  
Amy Draggoo

**TABLE OF FINDINGS**  
**Special Education Monitoring Results**  
**IDEA 2004 and New Jersey Administrative Code Requirements**  
**Cumberland Regional High School District**

**Noncompliance was not identified with requirements in the following sections of the self-assessment:**

- Section II: STATEWIDE ASSESSMENT**
- Section V: DISPROPORTIONATE REPRESENTATION**
- Section VIII: IEP**
- Section VIII: PROGRAMS AND SERVICES**

**Section I: TRANSITION TO ADULT LIFE**

**Areas of Noncompliance**

Area	Status of Compliance
1) Individualized Education Program (IEP) requirements for students ages 16 and above. [N.J.A.C. 6A:14-3.7(e)12; 20 U.S.C. §1414(d)(1)(A)(i)(VIII); and 34 CFR §300.320(b) and (c)]	Noncompliance identified during the monitoring process was verified as corrected during an onsite monitoring visit on November 15 – 16, 2010.
2) Invitation to IEP meetings provided to students and agencies providing or paying for transition services. [N.J.A.C. 6A:14-2.3(k)2x and 3.7(e)13, 3.7(h); 20 U.S.C. §1414 (d)(1)(A)(i)(1)(VIII); and 34 CFR §300.322.b(2)]	Noncompliance identified during the monitoring process was verified as corrected during an onsite monitoring visit on November 15 – 16, 2010.
4) A summary of academic achievement and functional performance shall be provided to each student prior to graduation, in accordance with N.J.A.C. 6A:14-4.11(b)4; 20 U.S.C. §1414(c)(5)(B); and 34 CFR §300.305(e)(3).	Review of records and interviews with district staff indicated that the district did not include recommendations to assist students in meeting their post-secondary goals in their Summary of Academic Achievement and Functional Performance provided to students with disabilities prior to graduation. Noncompliance was due to a lack of district procedures.

**Section III: LEAST RESTRICTIVE ENVIRONMENT**

**Areas of Noncompliance**

Area	Status of Compliance
2) IEPs shall include an explanation of the extent, if any, to which child will not participate with nondisabled children. [20 U.S.C. §1412(a)(5) and 1414(d)(1)(A)(i)(V); 34 CFR §300.115 and §300.320(a)(5) and N.J.A.C. 6A:14-3.7(e)6]	Review of records and interviews with district staff indicated that IEPs, of students removed from general education for more than 20% of the school day, did not consistently include documentation of the supplemental aides and services considered and the reasons they were rejected, and a comparison of the potentially beneficial or harmful effects of a placement (general education) may have on the student with disabilities and other students in the class. Noncompliance was due to inconsistent implementation of district procedures.

**TABLE OF FINDINGS**  
**Special Education Monitoring Results**  
**IDEA 2004 and New Jersey Administrative Code Requirements**  
**Cumberland Regional High School District**

6) For students in a separate setting, IEPs shall include activities to transition students to a less restrictive environment, in accordance with N.J.A.C. 6A:14-4.2(a)4.	Review of records and interviews with district staff indicated that IEPs, of students in out of district placements, did not consistently include activities to transition students to a less restrictive environment. These findings were due to a lack of implementation of district procedures.
---	--

**Section IV: PARENT INVOLVEMENT**

**Areas of Noncompliance**

Area	Status of Compliance
1) Parents shall be given written notice of a meeting containing all the required components, in accordance with N.J.A.C. 6A:14-2.3(k)3,5; 20 U.S.C. §1414(b)(1); and 34 CFR §300.304(a).	Review of records and interviews with district staff indicated that written notices of meetings did not identify the required participants, the child study team, at the identification meeting and did not inform parents when a meeting might have more than one purpose. Noncompliance was due to a lack of implementation of district procedures.
2) Written notice, which includes required components, shall be provided to parents following meetings, in accordance with N.J.A.C. 6A:14-2.3(f) and 2.3(g)1-7; 20 U.S.C. §1414(b)(1)(c)(4)(A); 34 CFR §300.304(a)(4); and 34 CFR §300.305(a).	Review of records and interviews with district staff indicated that written notice of graduation was no provided prior to graduation. Noncompliance was due to a lack of district procedures.

**Section VI: EVALUATIONS AND REEVALUATION**

**Areas of Noncompliance**

Area	Status of Compliance
4) Within 20 calendar days of receipt of the written request for an evaluation, the district shall convene a meeting with required participants, in accordance with N.J.A.C. 6A:14-3.3(e).	Review of records and interviews with district staff indicated that the district did not consistently convene a meeting with required participants, all three members of the child study team did not attend, within 20 calendar days of receipt of the written request for an evaluation. Noncompliance was due to a lack of implementation of district procedures.
9) Each evaluation of a student shall include functional assessment, in accordance with N.J.A.C. 6A:14-3.4(f)4(i-vi); 20 U.S.C. §1414(b)(4) and (5); and 34 CFR §300.306(c)(i).	Review of records and interviews with district staff indicated that initial evaluation reports for students who were suspected of having a specific learning disability did not contain a structured observation in a classroom. Noncompliance was due to a lack of implementation of district procedures.
15) A copy of the evaluation report(s) and documentation and information that will be used for a determination of eligibility shall be given to the parent or adult student not	Review of records and interviews with district staff indicated that evaluation reports were not consistently provided to the parents or adult student not less than 10 days prior to the eligibility meeting. Noncompliance was due to inconsistent

**TABLE OF FINDINGS**  
**Special Education Monitoring Results**  
**IDEA 2004 and New Jersey Administrative Code Requirements**  
**Cumberland Regional High School District**

less than 10 calendar days prior to the eligibility meeting,  
in accordance with N.J.A.C. 6A:14-3.5(a); 20 U.S.C.  
§1414(b)(4); and 34 CFR §300.306(a).

implementation of district procedures.

**All documentation required to demonstrate completion of corrective action activities must be submitted to the following address:**

Ms. Jane Marano, Monitor  
New Jersey Department of Education  
Office of Special Education Programs  
PO Box 500  
100 Riverview Plaza  
Trenton, NJ 08625-0500