



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

January 27, 2011

Mr. Philip J. Meara, Superintendent
Lawrence Township School District
2565 Princeton Pike
Lawrenceville, NJ 08648-3631

Subject: Special Education Monitoring Report – Lawrence Township School District

Dear Mr. Meara:

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 Lawrence Township School District's implementation of federal and state special education requirements. Between November 16-19, 2009 and the present, the New Jersey Department of Education, Office of Special Education Programs (NJOSPEP), conducted onsite monitoring visits, verification visits and desk audits in the Lawrence Township School District to determine compliance with federal and state special education requirements. The members of the monitoring team were Patricia Fair, Kenneth Richards 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**
- **Discipline Procedures**
- **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 Lawrence Township School District was selected for the self-assessment process through random selection.

Monitoring Results

The enclosed Table of Findings details the onsite monitoring results with regard to the following:

Findings of noncompliance identified by the district during the self-assessment

Prior to the release of this report, the Lawrence Township School District submitted documentation demonstrating correction for all areas of noncompliance identified during self-assessment.

Findings of noncompliance identified during onsite monitoring

Prior to the release of this report, the Lawrence Township School District submitted documentation demonstrating correction for all areas of noncompliance identified during the onsite monitoring visit.

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
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: Andrew Smarick
Peggy McDonald
Jane Marano
Samuel Stewart
Carmen Fanucci
Kristine Deni

TABLE OF FINDINGS
Special Education Monitoring Results
IDEA 2004 and New Jersey Administrative Code Requirements
Lawrence Township School District

Section I: TRANSITION TO ADULT LIFE

Areas of Noncompliance Identified during Self-Assessment

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 self-assessment process was verified as corrected during an onsite monitoring visit conducted on November 19, 2009.

Areas of Noncompliance Identified during the Onsite Monitoring Visit

Area	Status of Compliance
3) IEP requirements for students ages 14 and above, in accordance with N.J.A.C. 6A:14-3.7(e)11.	Review of records and interviews with staff members indicated that IEPs did not consistently identify the staff person responsible to serve as liaison to post-secondary resources. Noncompliance identified during an onsite monitoring visit on November 19, 2009 was verified as corrected during a desk audit conducted on May 27, 2010.

Section II: STATEWIDE ASSESSMENT

Noncompliance was not identified during self-assessment or onsite monitoring.

Section III: DISCIPLINE

Noncompliance was not identified during self-assessment or onsite monitoring.

Section IV: LEAST RESTRICTIVE ENVIRONMENT

Areas of Noncompliance Identified during Self-Assessment

Area	Status of Compliance
6) For students in a separate setting, IEPs shall include activities to transition students to a less restrictive environment,	Noncompliance identified during the self-assessment process was verified as corrected during an onsite monitoring visit conducted on November 19, 2010.

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in accordance with N.J.A.C.
6A:14-4.2(a)4.

Areas of Noncompliance Identified during the Onsite Monitoring Visit

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 USC1412(a)(5) and 1414(d)(1)(A)(i)(V); 34 CFR §300.115 and §300.320(a)(5) and NJAC 6A:14-3.7(e)6].	Review of records and interviews with staff members indicated that IEPs, of students removed from general education greater than 20% of the school day, did not consistently document the supplemental aides and services considered and the reasons they were rejected, a comparison of the benefits of general education and special education and the potentially beneficial and/or harmful effects of a placement (general education) on the student and other students in the class. Noncompliance was due to inconsistent implementation of district procedures. Noncompliance identified during an onsite monitoring visit on November 19, 2009 was verified as corrected during a desk audit conducted on May 27, 2010.

Section V: PARENT INVOLVEMENT

Noncompliance was not identified during self-assessment.

Areas of Noncompliance Identified during the Onsite Monitoring Visit

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 and 5; 20 U.S.C. 1414(b)(1); and 34 CFR §300.304(a).	Review of records and interviews with staff members indicated that when meetings were conducted for more than one purpose, transition planning, notice of the meeting did not consistently inform the parents of all intended purposes of the meeting. Noncompliance was due to inconsistent implementation of district procedures. Noncompliance identified during an onsite monitoring visit on November 19, 2009 was verified as corrected during a desk audit conducted on May 27, 2010.

Section VI: DISPROPORTIONATE REPRESENTATION
Noncompliance was not identified during onsite monitoring

Areas of Noncompliance Identified during Self-Assessment

Area	Status of Compliance
12) 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 less than 10 calendar days prior to the eligibility meeting, in accordance with N.J.A.C. 6A:14-3.5(a and b); 20 U.S.C. 1414(b)(4); and 34 CFR §300.306(a).	Noncompliance identified during the self-assessment process was verified as corrected during an onsite monitoring visit conducted on November 19, 2009.

Section VII: EVALUATIONS AND REEVALUATION

Areas of Noncompliance Identified during Self-Assessment

Area	Status of Compliance
3) The staff of the general education program shall maintain written documentation regarding type, frequency, duration and effectiveness of each intervention used, in accordance with N.J.A.C. 6A:14-3.3(c).	Noncompliance identified during the self-assessment process was verified as corrected during an onsite monitoring visit conducted on November 19, 2009.
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 less than 10 calendar days prior to the	Noncompliance identified during the self-assessment process was verified as corrected during an onsite monitoring visit conducted on November 19, 2009.

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Areas of Noncompliance Identified during the Onsite Monitoring Visit	
Area	Status of Compliance
5) A vision and audiometric screening shall be conducted for every student referred to the child study team for evaluation. The school nurse shall review and summarize available health and medical information and transmit the summary to the child study team, in accordance with N.J.A.C. 6A:14-3.4(j).	Review of records and interviews with staff members indicated that the results of vision and audiometric screenings were not consistently provided to the child study team prior to the identification meeting. Noncompliance was due to inconsistent implementation of district procedures. Noncompliance identified during an onsite monitoring visit on November 19, 2009 was verified as corrected during a desk audit conducted on May 27, 2010.
8) Evaluations shall be conducted by a multi-disciplinary team, in accordance with N.J.A.C. 6A:14-2.5(b)6 and 3.6(b).	Review of records and interviews with staff members indicated that for students referred for speech-language services, an educational impact statement was not included as part of a multi-disciplinary evaluation. Noncompliance was due to inconsistent implementation of district procedures. Noncompliance identified during an onsite monitoring visit on November 19, 2009 was verified as corrected during a desk audit conducted on May 27, 2010.
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 staff members indicated that reports of initial evaluations did not consistently include all required components of a functional assessment. Noncompliance was due to inconsistent implementation of district procedures. Noncompliance identified during an onsite monitoring visit on November 19, 2009 was verified as corrected during a desk audit conducted on May 27, 2010.
14) Each child study team member shall certify in writing whether his or her report is in accordance with the conclusion of eligibility of the student, in accordance with N.J.A.C. 6A:14-3.4(h)5.	Review of records and interviews with staff members indicated that each evaluator did not consistently certify in writing whether their report was in accordance with the eligibility determination for the student. Noncompliance was due to inconsistent implementation of district procedures. Noncompliance identified during an onsite monitoring visit on November 19, 2009 was verified as corrected during a desk audit conducted on May 27, 2010.

Section VIII: IEP

Noncompliance was not identified during self-assessment or onsite monitoring.

Section IX: PROGRAMS AND SERVICES

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