



State of New Jersey

DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION

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CHRIS CHRISTIE
Governor

KIM GUADAGNO
Lt. Governor

ROCHELLE R. HENDRICKS
Acting Commissioner

November 12, 2010

Mr. David Rauenzahn, Superintendent
Stone Harbor School District
275 93rd Street
Stone Harbor, NJ 08247

Dear Mr. Rauenzahn:

Subject: Special Education Monitoring Report – Stone Harbor 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 Stone Harbor School District's implementation of federal and state special education requirements. Between July 21, 2010 and the present, the New Jersey Department of Education, Office of Special Education Programs (NJOSPEP), conducted an onsite monitoring visit and desk audits to determine the Stone Harbor School District's compliance with federal and state special education requirements. The monitoring was conducted by Caryl Carthew.

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 Stone Harbor School District was selected for the self-assessment/monitoring process through random selection.

Monitoring Results

The enclosed table details findings of noncompliance identified during onsite monitoring and desk audit. Of the 46 special education requirements reviewed from the areas listed above, the monitoring team identified five findings of noncompliance.

Findings resulting from the monitoring 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. Caryl Carthew, will contact Dr. Salvo to discuss procedures for verification of correction of the findings of noncompliance listed in the Table of Findings.

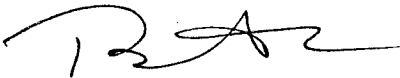
The results of the special education monitoring must be reviewed at the next meeting of the district's board of education. A copy of the minutes from the board of education meeting documenting the review by the board must be submitted to the following address:

Ms. Caryl Carthew
New Jersey Department of Education
Office of Special Education Programs
Finlaw Building, 4th Floor
199 East Broadway
Salem, NJ 08079

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/cc
Enclosure

c: Andrew Smarick
Peggy McDonald
Caryl Carthew
Terrence Crowley
County Supervisor of Child Study
David Salvo

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

Section I: TRANSITION TO ADULT LIFE - Noncompliance was not identified during monitoring.

Section II: STATEWIDE ASSESSMENT - Noncompliance was not identified during monitoring.

Section III: LEAST RESTRICTIVE ENVIRONMENT - Noncompliance was not identified during monitoring.

Section IV: PARENT INVOLVEMENT -

Areas of Noncompliance Identified during Monitoring

Area	Status of Compliance/Corrective Action
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 following the identification meeting does not consistently document the provision of N.J.A.C. 6:14 and N.J.A.C. 1:6A due to inconsistent implementation of district procedures.

Section V: DISPROPORTIONATE REPRESENTATION - Noncompliance was not identified during monitoring.

Section VI: EVALUATIONS AND REEVALUATION -

Areas of Noncompliance Identified during Monitoring

Area	Status of Compliance/Corrective Action
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 identification meetings were not consistently held within 20 calendar days for students referred to the child study team. In addition, interviews with district staff indicated that parent referrals were not consistently forwarded to the child study team unless school personnel believed the referral to be valid. Noncompliance was due to inconsistent 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 indicated that evaluations do not consistently contain an interview with the student's parent and an observation of the student in other than a testing setting due to inconsistent 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 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).	Review of records indicated that evaluation reports were not consistently provided to parents at least 10 days prior to the eligibility meeting due to inconsistent implementation of district procedures.

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Section VII: IEP

Areas of Noncompliance Identified during Monitoring

Area	Status of Compliance/Corrective Action
3) IEP meetings shall be conducted annually, or more often if necessary, to review and/or revise the IEP and determine placement, in accordance with N.J.A.C. 6A:14-3.7(i); 20 U.S.C. §1414(d); and 34 CFR §300.324(b)(1).	Review of records indicated that the district staff did not consistently conduct IEP meetings annually for students classified as eligible for speech-language services due to inconsistent implementation of district procedures.

Section VIII: PROGRAMS AND SERVICES - Noncompliance was not identified during monitoring.