



State of New Jersey
DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION
PO Box 500
TRENTON, NJ 08625-0500

CHRIS CHRISTIE
Governor

KIM GUADAGNO
Lt. Governor

ROCHELLE R. HENDRICKS
Acting Commissioner

December 17, 2010

Dr. John A. Crowe, Superintendent
Woodbridge Township School District
PO Box 426
School Street
Woodbridge, NJ 07095-0952

Dear Dr. Crowe:

Subject: Special Education Monitoring Report – Woodbridge Township 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 Woodbridge Township School District's implementation of federal and state special education requirements. Between August 2010 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 Woodbridge Township School District to determine compliance with federal and state special education requirements. The members of the monitoring team were Deborah Masarsky and Nicole Buten.

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***

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- *Individualized Education Program*
- *Programs and Services*

The Woodbridge Township School District was selected for the self-assessment monitoring process based on trend data that indicated a high percentage of students with disabilities placed in separate public and private settings. Additionally, the district had a high percentage of students with disabilities, ages 3 through 5, in separate settings.

The district demonstrated a decrease in the rate of students with disabilities, ages 6 through 21, educated in separate settings from 10.7 percent reported in 2007 to 9.5 percent reported in 2009. The district made progress; however, did not meet the State Performance Plan target for 2009 of 8.5 percent. The district has also made progress with reducing the number of students with disabilities, ages 3 through 5, educated in separate settings; however, the district reported only 4.7 percent of preschoolers with disabilities educated in general education settings for 80 percent or more of the time (see Table of Findings, Section IV). The district is reminded that all placement decisions shall be made in accordance with New Jersey Administrative Code 6A:14-3.7 and 4.2.

Monitoring Results

The enclosed Table of Findings details the onsite monitoring results. Of the 46 requirements reviewed, noncompliance was identified in two areas. Prior to the release of this report, the district demonstrated correction of both findings of noncompliance.

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:

Deborah Masarsky
New Jersey Department of Education
Office of Special Education Programs
100 Riverview Plaza
P.O. Box 500
Trenton, New Jersey 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/DM

Enclosure

c: Andrew Smarick
Peggy McDonald
Deborah Masarsky
Patrick Piegari
Denise Wilkens
Julie Bair

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

Noncompliance was not identified during monitoring with federal and state requirements in the following areas:

Section I: TRANSITION TO ADULT LIFE

Section II: STATEWIDE ASSESSMENT

Section V: DISPROPORTIONATE REPRESENTATION

Section VII: IEP

Section VIII: PROGRAMS AND SERVICES

Section III: LEAST RESTRICTIVE ENVIRONMENT

Areas of Noncompliance Identified during Monitoring

Area	Status of Compliance
3) All students with disabilities, including preschoolers and students in receiving schools, shall have access to the general education curriculum and supplementary aids and services, in accordance with N.J.A.C. 6A:14-4.2; 20 U.S.C. §1414(d)(1)(A)(i)(IV); and 34 CFR §300.320(a)(4).	Noncompliance identified during an onsite monitoring visit conducted on August 19, 2010 was verified as corrected during the onsite monitoring visit conducted on <u>October 19, 2010</u> .

Section IV: PARENT INVOLVEMENT

Areas of Noncompliance Identified during Monitoring

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).	Noncompliance identified during an onsite visit conducted on August 19, 2010 was verified as corrected during the onsite monitoring visit conducted on <u>October 19, 2010</u> .

Section VI: EVALUATIONS AND REEVALUATION

2) Interventions in the general education setting shall be provided to students exhibiting academic difficulties and shall be utilized, as appropriate, prior to referring a student for an evaluation, in accordance with N.J.A.C. 6A:14-3.3(b); 20 U.S.C. §1413(f)(2); and 34 CFR §300.226(b).	Noncompliance identified during an onsite visit conducted on August 19, 2010 was verified as corrected during the onsite monitoring visit conducted on <u>October 19, 2010</u> .
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