

**DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION
SPECIAL EDUCATION PROGRAMS
Rapid City Area School District
Accountability Review - Monitoring Report 2015-2016**

Team Leader: Joan Ray

Team Members: Cris Owens, Rhonda Zinter, Roxana Uttermark, Sherron Grote, Linda Shirley, Brenda Boyd, and Lisa Rieihiller, Education Specialists, Dave Halverson, Cindy Kirschman, Bev Petersen, and Dan Rounds, Transition Liaison, Wendy Trujillo, Arlene Maxfield, Ambrea Sikes, Rebecca Cain, Beth Schiltz, Melissa Flor, and Linda Turner, Special Education Programs

Dates of On Site Visit: October 26-30, 2015

Date of Report Sent to District: November 30, 2015

All non-compliance must be corrected within 1 year of this report date.

Date Closed: October 12, 2016

Program monitoring and evaluation.

In conjunction with its general supervisory responsibility under the Individuals with Disabilities Education Act, Part B, Special Education Programs (SEP) of the Division of Educational Services and Support shall monitor agencies, institutions, and organizations responsible for carrying out special education programs in the state, including any obligations imposed on those agencies, institutions, and organizations. The department shall ensure:

- (1) That the requirements of this article are carried out;
- (2) That each educational program for children with disabilities administered within the state, including each program administered by any other state or local agency, but not including elementary schools and secondary schools for Native American children operated or funded by the Secretary of the Interior:
 - (a) Is under the general supervision of the persons responsible for educational programs for children with disabilities in the department; and
 - (b) Meets the educational standards of the state education agency, including the requirements of this article; and
- (3) In carrying out this article with respect to homeless children, the requirements of the McKinney-Vento Homeless Assistance Act, as amended to January 1, 2007, are met. (Reference- ARSD 24:05:20:18.)

State monitoring--Quantifiable indicators and priority areas.

The department shall monitor school districts using quantifiable indicators in each of the following priority areas, and using such qualitative indicators as are needed to adequately measure performance in those areas:

- (1) Provision of Free Appropriate Public Education (FAPE) in the least restrictive environment;
 - (2) Department exercise of general supervision, including child find, effective monitoring, the use of resolution meetings, mediation, and a system of transition services as defined in this article and article 24:14; and
 - (3) Disproportionate representation of racial and ethnic groups in special education and related services, to the extent the representation is the result of inappropriate identification. (Reference-ARSD 24:05:20:18:02.)
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State enforcement -- Determinations.

On an annual basis, based on local district performance data, information obtained through monitoring visits, and other information available, the department shall determine whether each school district meets the requirements and purposes of Part B of the IDEA...

Based upon the information obtained through monitoring visits, and any other public information made available, Special Education Programs of the Division of Educational Services and Support determines if the agency, institution, or organization responsible for carrying out special education programs in the state:

- Meets the requirements and purposes of Part B of the Act;
- Needs assistance in implementing the requirements of Part B of the Act'
- Needs intervention in implementing the requirements of Part B of the Act; or
- Needs substantial intervention in implementing the requirements of Part B of the Act. (Reference-ARSD 24:05:20:23.04.)

Deficiency correction procedures.

The department shall require local education agencies to correct deficiencies in program operations that are identified through monitoring as soon as possible, but not later than one year from written identification of the deficiency. The department shall order agencies to take corrective actions and to submit a plan for achieving and documenting full compliance. (Reference-ARSD 24:05:20:20.)

GENERAL SUPERVISION / STATE PERFORMANCE PLAN COMPLIANCE INDICATOR

ARSD 24:05:24:01. Referral. Referral includes any written request which brings a student to the attention of a school district administrator (building principal, superintendent, or special education director) as a student who may be in need of special education. A referral made by a parent may be submitted verbally, but it must be documented by a district administrator. Other sources of referrals include the following:

- (1) Referral through screening;
- (2) Referral by classroom teacher;
- (3) Referral by other district personnel;
- (4) Referral by other public or private agencies; and
- (5) Referral by private schools, including religious schools.

ARSD 24:05:30:05. Content of notice. The notice must include the following:

- (1) A description of the action proposed or refused by the district, an explanation of why the district proposes or refuses to take the action, and a description of any other options the IEP team considered and the reasons why those options were rejected;
- (2) A description of each evaluation procedure, assessment, record, or report that the district uses as a basis for the proposal or refusal;
- (3) A description of any other factors which are relevant to the district's proposal or refusal;
- (4) A statement that the parents of a child with a disability have protection under the procedural safeguards of this article and, if this notice is not an initial referral for evaluation, the means by which a copy of a description of the procedural safeguards can be obtained; and
- (5) Sources for parents to contact to obtain assistance in understanding the provisions of this article.

ARSD 24:05:25:03.04. Evaluation procedures -- Notice. The school district shall provide notice to the parents of a child with a disability, in accordance with this article, that describes any evaluation procedures the district proposes to conduct.

ARSD 24:05:25:04. Evaluation procedures -- General. School districts shall ensure, at a minimum, that evaluation procedures include the following:

- (1) Assessments and other evaluation materials are provided and administered in the child's native language or by another mode of communication and in the form most likely to yield accurate information on what the child knows and can do academically, developmentally, and functionally, unless it is clearly not feasible to so provide or administer. In addition, assessments and other evaluation materials:
 - (a) Are used for the purposes for which the assessments or measures are valid and reliable; and
 - (b) Are administered by trained and knowledgeable personnel in conformance with the instructions provided by their producer;
- (2) Assessments and other evaluation materials include those tailored to assess specific areas of educational need and not merely those which are designed to provide a single general intelligence quotient;
- (3) Assessments are selected and administered so as best to ensure that if an assessment is administered to a child with impaired sensory, manual, or speaking skills, the assessment accurately reflects the child's aptitude or achievement level or whatever other factors the assessment purports to measure, rather than the child's impaired sensory, manual, or speaking skills except where those skills are the factors which the assessment purports to measure;
- (4) No single measure or assessment is used as the sole criterion for determining eligibility or an appropriate educational program for a child;
- (5) A variety of assessment tools and strategies are used to gather relevant functional, developmental, and academic information about the child, including information provided by the parents, that may assist in determining:
 - (a) Whether the child is a child with a disability; and
 - (b) The content of the child's IEP, including information related to enabling the child:
 - (i) To be involved in and progress in the general education curriculum; or
 - (ii) For a preschool child, to participate in appropriate activities;
- (6) Technically sound instruments, assessment tools, and strategies are used that:
 - (a) May assess the relative contribution of cognitive and behavioral factors, in addition to physical or developmental factors; and
 - (b) Provide relevant information that directly assists persons in determining the educational needs of the child;
- (7) The child is assessed in all areas related to the suspected disability, including, if appropriate, health, vision, hearing, social and emotional status, general intelligence, academic performance, communicative status, and motor abilities; and
- (8) The evaluation is sufficiently comprehensive to identify all of the child's special education and related services needs, whether or not commonly linked to the disability category in which the child has been classified.

Assessments of children with disabilities who transfer from one school district to another school district in the same school year are coordinated with those children's prior and subsequent schools, as necessary and as expeditiously as possible, consistent with § 24:05:25:03.01, to ensure prompt completion of full evaluations.

ARSD 24:05:27:01.01. IEP team. Each school district shall ensure that the IEP team for each student with disabilities include the following members:

- (1) The parents of the student;
- (2) Not less than one regular education teacher of the student if the student is, or may be, participating in the regular education environment;
- (3) Not less than one special education teacher of the student or, if appropriate, at least one special education provider of the student;
- (4) A representative of the school district who:
 - (a) Is qualified to provide, or supervise the provision of, specially designed instruction to meet the unique needs of students with disabilities;
 - (b) Is knowledgeable about the general education curriculum; and
 - (c) Is knowledgeable about the availability of resources of the school district;
- (5) An individual who can interpret the instructional implications of evaluation results, who may be a member of the team described in subdivisions 2 to 6, inclusive, of this section;
- (6) At the discretion of the parent or the school district, other individuals who have knowledge or special expertise regarding the student including related services personnel as appropriate;
- (7) If appropriate, the student; and
- (8) Transition services participants as described in §§ 24:05:25:16.01 and 24:05:25:16.02.

The determination of the knowledge or special education expertise of any individual described in this section shall be made by the party (parents or district) who invited the individual to be a member of the IEP team. A district may designate another district member of the IEP team to also serve as the district representative, if the criteria in this section are satisfied.

ARSD 24:05:27:01.03. Content of individualized education program. Each student's individualized education program shall include:

- (1) A statement of the student's present levels of academic achievement and functional performance, including:
 - (a) How the student's disability affects the student's involvement and progress in the general education curriculum (i.e., the same curriculum as for nondisabled students); or
 - (b) For preschool student, as appropriate, how the disability affects the student's participation in appropriate activities;
- (2) A statement of measurable annual goals, including academic and functional goals, designed to:
 - (a) Meet the student's needs that result from the student's disability to enable the student to be involved in and progress in the general education curriculum; and
 - (b) Meet each of the student's other educational needs that result from the student's disability;

For students with disabilities who take alternate assessments aligned to alternate achievement standards, each student's IEP shall provide a description of benchmarks or short-term objectives;

- (5) A statement of any individual appropriate accommodations that are necessary to measure the academic achievement and functional performance of the student on state and district-wide assessments consistent with § 24:05:14:14. If the IEP team determines that the student shall take an alternate assessment instead of a particular regular state or district-wide assessment of student achievement, a statement of why:
 - (a) The student cannot participate in the regular assessment; and
 - (b) The particular alternate assessment selected is appropriate for the student;
- (6) The projected date for the beginning of the services and modification described in this section and the anticipated frequency, location, and duration of those services and modifications;

- (8) Beginning not later than the first IEP to be in effect when the student turns 16, or younger if determined appropriate by the IEP team, and updated annually thereafter, the IEP shall include:
- (a) Appropriate measurable postsecondary goals based upon age-appropriate transition assessments related to training, education, employment, and, if appropriate, independent living skills; and
 - (b) The transition services (including courses of study) needed to assist the student in reaching those goals; and
- (9) Beginning not later than one year before a student reaches the age of majority under state law, the student's individualized education program must include a statement that the student has been informed of his or her rights under Part B of the Individuals with Disabilities Education Act, if any, that will transfer to the student on reaching the age of majority consistent with § 24:05:30:16.01.

ARSD 24:05:28:08. Physical education services. Physical education services, specially designed if necessary, shall be made available to every child in need of special education or special education and related services, unless the public agency enrolls children without disabilities and does not provide physical education to children without disabilities in the same grades. Each child shall be afforded the opportunity to participate in the regular physical education program available to children without disabilities unless the child is enrolled full time in a separate facility or the child needs specially designed physical education which cannot be provided in the regular physical education program.

If specially designed physical education is prescribed in the child's individual education program, the school district responsible for the education of the child shall provide the services directly or make arrangements for it to be provided through other public or private programs.

For children enrolled in separate facilities, the district responsible for the education of the child shall ensure that the child receives appropriate physical education services.

ARSD 24:05:27:01.02. Development, review, and revision of individualized education program. In developing, reviewing, and revising each student's individualized education program, the team shall consider the strengths of the student and the concerns of the parents for enhancing the education of their student, the results of the initial or most recent evaluation of the student, the academic, developmental, and functional needs of the student. The individualized education program team also shall:

- (1) In the case of a student whose behavior impedes his or her learning or that of others, consider the use of positive behavioral interventions and supports and other strategies to address that behavior;
- (2) In the case of a student with limited English proficiency, consider the language needs of the student as these needs relate to the student's individualized education program;
- (3) In the case of a student who is blind or visually impaired, provide for instruction in Braille and the use of Braille unless the team determines, after an evaluation of the student's reading and writing skills, needs, and appropriate reading and writing media (including an evaluation of the student's future needs for instruction in Braille or the use of Braille), that instruction in Braille or the use of Braille is not appropriate for the student;
- (4) Consider the communication needs of the student and, in the case of a student who is deaf or hard of hearing, consider the student's language and communication needs, opportunities for direct communications with peers and professional personnel in the student's language and communication mode, academic level, and full range of needs, including opportunities for direct instruction in the student's language and communication mode; and
- (5) Consider whether the student requires assistive technology devices and services.

The regular education teacher of a student with a disability, as a member of the individualized education program team, must, to the extent appropriate, participate in the development, review, and revision of the student's individualized education program, including the determination of appropriate positive behavioral interventions and supports and other strategies for the student and the determination of supplementary aids and services, program modifications, and supports for school personnel that will be provided for the student consistent with subdivision 24:05:27:01.03(3).

Nothing in this section requires the team to include information under one component of a student's individualized education program that is already contained under another component of the student's individualized education program. No additional information may be required to be included in a student's IEP beyond what is explicitly required in this section.

ARSD 24:05:27:04. Determination of related services. In deciding whether a particular developmental, corrective, or other supportive service is a related service, the members of the IEP team shall review the results of the individual evaluations used to determine the child's need for special education. Based on the specific special education services to be provided, the team shall determine whether or not related services are required in order to assist the child to benefit from the special education program.

ARSD 24:05:25:16.01. Participation of student in IEP team meeting. If a purpose of the IEP team meeting is the consideration of postsecondary goals and transition services for a student, and if the meeting is for a child with a disability beginning not later than the first IEP to be in effect when the child turns 16, or younger if determined appropriate by the IEP team, the notice also must:

- (1) Indicate that a purpose of the meeting is the consideration of the postsecondary goals and transition services for the student;
- (2) Indicate that the district will invite the student; and
- (3) To the extent appropriate, with the consent of the parents or a student who has reached the age of majority, identify any other agency that is likely to be responsible for providing or paying for transition services and that will be invited to send a representative.

Parental consent, or the consent of an eligible student who has reached the age of majority under state law, must be obtained before personally identifiable information is released to officials of participating agencies providing or paying for transition services.