

**DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION
SPECIAL EDUCATION PROGRAMS
Plankinton School District
Accountability Review - Monitoring Report 2015-2016**

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Dates of On Site Visit: September 9, 2015

Date of Report Sent to District: September 14, 2015

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

Date Closed: April 22, 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 24:05:25:03.04. 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:

- (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;

ARSD 24:05:25:12. Documentation of eligibility for specific learning disabilities. For a child suspected of having a specific learning disability, the documentation of the determination of eligibility shall contain a statement of:

- (1) Whether the child has a specific learning disability;
- (2) The basis for making the determination, including an assurance that the determination has been made in accordance with this section;
- (3) The relevant behavior, if any, noted during the observation of the child and the relationship of that behavior to the child's academic functioning;
- (4) The educationally relevant medical findings, if any;

(5) Whether:

(a) The child does not achieve adequately for the child's age or does not meet state-approved grade-level standards; and

(b) The child does not make sufficient progress to meet age or state-approved grade-level standards; or the child exhibits a pattern of strengths and weaknesses in performance, achievement, or both, relative to age, state-approved grade level standards or intellectual development;

(6) The determination of the group concerning the effects of a visual, hearing, or motor disability; cognitive disability; emotional disturbance; cultural factors; environmental or economic disadvantage; or limited English proficiency on the child's achievement level;

(7) If the child has participated in a process that assesses the child's response to scientific, research-based intervention:

(a) The instructional strategies used and the student-centered data collected; and

(b) The documentation that the child's parents were notified about:

(i) The state's policies regarding the amount and nature of student performance data that would be collected and the general education services that would be provided;

(ii) Strategies for increasing the child's rate of learning; and

(iii) The parents' right to request an evaluation;

(8) If using the discrepancy model, the group finds that the child has a severe discrepancy of 1.5 standard deviations between achievement and intellectual ability in one or more of the eligibility areas, the group shall consider regression to the mean in determining the discrepancy; and

(9) If using the response to intervention model for eligibility determination, the group shall demonstrate that the child's performance is below the mean relative to age or state approved grade level standards.

ARSD 24:05:30:04. Prior notice. Written notice which meets the requirements of § 24:05:30:05 must be given to the parents five days before the district proposes or refuses to initiate or change the identification, evaluation, or educational placement of the child or the provision of a free appropriate public education to the child. The five-day notice requirement may be waived by the parents.

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

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;

(3) A statement of the special education and related services and supplementary aids and services, based on peer-reviewed research to the extent practicable, to be provided to the student, or on behalf of the student, and a statement of the program modifications or supports for school personnel that will be provided to enable the student:

(a) To advance appropriately toward attaining the annual goals;

(b) To be involved and make progress in the general education curriculum in accordance with this section and to participate in extracurricular and other nonacademic activities; and

(c) To be educated and participate with other students with disabilities and nondisabled students in the activities described in this section;

ARSD 24:05:22:03. Certified child. A certified child is a child in need of special education or special education and related services who has received a multidisciplinary evaluation and has an individual education program formulated and approved by a local placement committee. Documentation supporting a child's disabling condition as defined by Part B of the Individuals with Disabilities Education Act must be maintained by the school district for verification of its annual federal child count. This definition applies to all eligible children ages 3 to 21, inclusive, and to only those children under the age of 3 who are in need of prolonged assistance.

ARSD 24:05:21:01. Local education agency comprehensive plans -- Contents. Each local education agency must have a current comprehensive plan approved by the school board on file with the district superintendent or designee. Documentation supporting the implementation of the local school district's comprehensive plan shall be maintained by the district for review by Special Education Programs staff during onsite monitoring visits. Districts shall update comprehensive plans consistent with § 24:05:21:01.02 and recertify their content annually.