

**DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION
SPECIAL EDUCATION PROGRAMS
Leola School District
Accountability Review - Monitoring Report 2019-2020**

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Team Members: RDA Monitor(s): Kylie Steever Transition Liaison: Cindy Kirschman

Dates of On-Site Visit: October 8, 2019

Date of Report Sent to District: December 6, 2019

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

Date Closed: June 9, 2020

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

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

- (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;
- (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;

24:05:25:06. Reevaluations. A school district shall ensure that a reevaluation of each child with a disability is conducted in accordance with this chapter if the school district determines that the educational or related service needs, including improved academic achievement and functional performance, of the child warrant a reevaluation or if the child's parents or teacher requests a reevaluation.

A reevaluation conducted under this section may occur not more than once a year, unless the parent and district agree otherwise, and must occur at least once every three years, unless the parent and the district agree that a reevaluation is unnecessary.

Reevaluations must be completed within 25 school days after receipt by the district of signed consent to reevaluate unless other time limits are agreed to by the school administration and the parents consistent with § 24:05:25:03.

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.

24:05:25:19. Parents to receive copy of individual education program. The district shall give the parents a copy of the individual education program, at no cost.

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.

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.