

DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION
SPECIAL EDUCATION PROGRAMS
Viborg-Hurley School District
Accountability Review - Monitoring Report 2019-2020

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Dates of On-Site Visit: September 26, 2019

Date of Report Sent to District: November 25, 2019

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

Date Closed: April 21, 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 enforcements -- 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 corrections 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

24:05:25:03.04

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.

24:05:27:01.03.

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;

(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;

(4) An explanation of the extent, if any, to which the student will not participate with nondisabled students in the regular class and in activities described in this section;

(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;

(7) A description of how the student's progress toward the annual goals described in this section will be measured and when periodic reports on the progress the student is making toward meeting the annual goals (such as through the use of quarterly or other periodic reports, concurrent with the issuance of report cards) will be provided;

(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.

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.

24:05:25:04.02.

Determination of needed evaluation data.

As part of an initial evaluation, if appropriate, and as part of any reevaluation, the individual education program team required by § 24:05:27:01.01 and other qualified professionals as appropriate with knowledge and skills necessary to interpret evaluation data, shall:

- (1) Review existing evaluation data on the child, including:
 - (a) Evaluations and information provided by the parents of the child;
 - (b) Current classroom-based local or state assessments and observations; and
 - (c) Observations by teachers and related services providers; and

- (2) Based on the above review and input from the student's parents, identify what additional data, if any, are needed to determine:
 - (a) Whether the student has a particular category of disability as described in this article;
 - (b) The present levels of academic achievement and related developmental needs of the student; and
 - (c) Whether the student needs special education and related services

The school district shall administer assessments and any other evaluation materials as may be needed to produce the data required to make the determinations listed in subdivision (2) of this section. If no additional data are needed to make the determinations listed in subdivision (2) of this section, the school district shall notify the student's parents of this fact and the reasons for this decision. The group described in this section may conduct its review without a meeting.

24:05:27:12.

Graduation requirements.

Graduation requirements. Completion of an approved secondary special education program with a regular high school diploma signifies that the student no longer requires special education services. A regular high school diploma does not include an alternative degree that is not fully aligned with the state's academic standards, such as a certificate or a general educational development credential (GED). Graduation from high school with a regular high school diploma constitutes a change in placement requiring written prior notice in accordance with this article.

The instructional program shall be specified on the individual educational program. The individual educational program shall state specifically how the student in need of special education or special education and related services will satisfy the district's graduation requirements. The IEP team may modify the specific units of credit described in § 24:43:11:02. Parents must be informed through the individual educational program process at least one year in advance of the intent to graduate their child upon completion of the individual educational program and to terminate services by graduation.

For a student whose eligibility terminates under the above graduation provisions, or due to exceeding the age eligibility for a free appropriate public education, a school district shall provide the student with a summary of the student's academic achievement and functional performance, which shall include recommendations on how to assist the student in meeting the student's postsecondary goals.

Source: 16 SDR 41, effective September 7, 1989; 23 SDR 31, effective September 8, 1996; 26 SDR 150, effective May 22, 2000; 32 SDR 41, effective 24:05:27:13.02.

Transition services.

Transition services are a coordinated set of activities for a student with a disability, designed to be within a results-oriented process, that is focused on improving the academic and functional achievement of the student with a disability to facilitate the student's movement from school to postschool activities, including postsecondary education, vocational education, integrated employment (including supported employment), continuing and adult education, adult services, independent living, or community participation. The coordinated set of activities shall be based on the individual student's needs, taking into account the student's strengths, preferences and interests, and shall include instruction, related services, community experiences, the development of employment and other postschool adult living objectives, and, if appropriate, acquisition of daily living skills and provision of a functional vocational evaluation.

Transition services for students with disabilities may be special education, if provided as specially designed instruction, or related services, if required to assist a student with a disability to benefit from special education.

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.

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
 - (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
- (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
- (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,
 - (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.