

FLORIDA DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION



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May 28, 2010

Dr. Patricia G. Cooper, Superintendent
Okeechobee County School District
700 SW 2nd Avenue
Okeechobee, Florida 34974

Dear Superintendent Cooper:

The Bureau of Exceptional Education and Student Services is in receipt of your district's response to the preliminary findings of its 2009–10 Exceptional Student Education (ESE) Compliance Self-Assessment. This letter and the attached document comprise the final report for Okeechobee County School District's 2009–10 Level 1 and Fall Cycle Level 2 self-assessment monitoring process.

The self-assessment system is designed to address the major areas of compliance related to the State Performance Plan (SPP)/Annual Performance Report (APR) required under the Individuals with Disabilities Education Act (IDEA). SPP Indicator 15, Timely Correction of Noncompliance, requires that the state identify and correct noncompliance **as soon as possible, but in no case later than one year from identification**. While any incident of noncompliance is of concern, in accordance with the language in SPP Indicator 15, the Bureau's current monitoring system considers the timeliness of correction of noncompliance to be of greatest significance.

The results of district self-assessments are included in the State's APR and are used to inform oversight activities, including the selection of districts for on-site monitoring, and the local education agency (LEA) determinations required under Section 300.603, Title 34, Code of Federal Regulations, which result in districts being identified as "meets requirements," "needs assistance," "needs intervention," or "needs substantial intervention."

On February 5, 2010, the preliminary report of findings from the 2009-10 Level 1 and Fall Cycle Level 2 self-assessment process was released to your district's ESE Director. The preliminary report detailed student-specific incidents of noncompliance that required immediate correction. Districts were required to correct all student-specific noncompliance and to provide evidence to the Bureau no later than April 5, 2010.

BAMBI J. LOCKMAN
Chief

Bureau of Exceptional Education and Student Services

Superintendent Cooper
May 28, 2010
Page 2

In addition, the preliminary report identified any standards for which the noncompliance was considered systemic (i.e., evident in $\geq 25\%$ of the records reviewed). **There were no systemic findings of noncompliance for Okeechobee County School District; the district is to be commended for this.**

In its 2009–10 Level 1 and Fall Cycle Level 2 self-assessment, Okeechobee County School District assessed 57 standards. One or more incidents of noncompliance were identified on two of those standards (3.5%). The following is a summary of the district's timely correction of student-specific incidents of noncompliance:

Correction of Noncompliance by Student

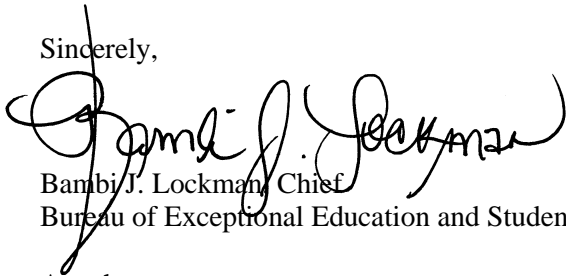
	Number	Percentage
Records Reviewed/Protocols Completed	15	-
Total Items Assessed	435	-
Noncompliant	2	0.5%
Timely Corrected	2	100%

The attached *Okeechobee County District Summary Report: Findings of Noncompliance by Standard* contains a summary of the findings reported by the individual standard or regulation assessed. The district had no systemic findings of noncompliance on specific standards that required the development of a CAP. In addition, a Matrix of Services review was required. Okeechobee County School District reviewed six matrixes for students reported at the 254 or 255 cost factors for weighted funding through the Florida Education Finance Program. No discrepancies were identified.

We understand that the implementation of this self-assessment required a significant commitment of resources and appreciate the time and attention your staff has devoted to the process thus far.

If you have questions regarding this process, please contact your assigned district liaison for monitoring or Patricia Howell, Program Director, at (850) 245-0476 or via electronic mail at patricia.howell@fldoe.org.

Sincerely,



Bambi J. Lockman, Chief
Bureau of Exceptional Education and Student Services

Attachment

cc: Cathleen Blair Patricia Howell
Frances Haithcock Anne Bozik
Mary Jane Tappen Sheila Gritz
Kim C. Komisar Karen Denbroeder

Florida Department of Education
Bureau of Exceptional Education and Student Services

2009 – 2010 Self-Assessment
Level 1 and Fall Cycle Level 2
Okeechobee County District Summary Report: Findings of Noncompliance by Standard

This report provides a summary of the district's results and must be used when developing a corrective action plan. Results are reported by standard, with systemic noncompliance (occurrence in $\geq 25\%$ of possible incidents) indicated as appropriate. See the *Student Report: Incidents of Noncompliance* for student-specific findings. Results are based on the following:

Number of DJJ protocols completed: 9

Number of standards per DJJ: 31

Number of T16 protocols completed: 6

Number of standards per T16: 26

Total number of protocols: 15

Total number of standards: 435

Total number of incidents of noncompliance (NC): 2

Overall % incidents of noncompliance: 0.5%

Percent of noncompliance is calculated as the # of incidents of noncompliance for a given standard divided by the # of protocols reviewed for that standard, multiplied by 100.

* Correctable for the student(s): A finding for which immediate action can be taken to correct the noncompliance.

** Individual CAP: For a finding which cannot be corrected for an individual student, a corrective action plan (CAP) is required to address how the district will ensure future compliance; this plan will be limited in scope, based on the nature of the finding.

*** Systemic CAP: For a finding of noncompliance on a given standard that occurs in $\geq 25\%$ of possible incidents, a corrective action plan (CAP) is required to ensure future compliance; this plan must address the systemic nature of the finding and will be broader in scope than an individual CAP.

Note: In the event that there is a systemic finding of noncompliance on a standard that requires an individual CAP, only a systemic CAP is required.

Florida Department of Education
Bureau of Exceptional Education and Student Services

**2009 – 2010 Self-Assessment
Level 1 and Fall Cycle Level 2
Okeechobee County District Summary Report: Findings of Noncompliance by Standard**

Noncompliance (NC)		*Correctable for the Student(s)	**Individual CAP	# NC	% NC	***Systemic CAP
DJJ-2	The parents were provided notice of the IEP team meeting a reasonable amount of time prior to the meeting, at least one attempt to invite the parent was through a written notice, and a second attempt was made if no response was received from the first notice. (34 CFR 300.322(a)(1))		X	1	11.1%	
DJJ-3	The notice of the IEP team meeting contained the time, location and purpose of the meeting. (34 CFR 300.322(b))		X	1	11.1%	