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May 28, 2010

Dr. Sandra M. Cook, Superintendent
Washington County School District and
Dozier/Okeechobee
652 3rd Street
Chipley, Florida 32428

Dear Superintendent Cook:

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 Washington County School District's and Dozier/Okeechobee'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. 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).

BAMBI J. LOCKMAN
Chief

Bureau of Exceptional Education and Student Services

Your district had systemic findings for which a corrective action plan (CAP) was required.

Washington County School District's and Dozier/Okeechobee's CAP was submitted to the Bureau for review and approval. We look forward to receiving the district's report on their results no later than **December 6, 2010**. Your district's adherence to this schedule is required in order to ensure correction of systemic noncompliance within a year as required by Office of Special Education Programs (OSEP) and Florida's SPP.

In its 2009–10 Level 1 and Fall Cycle Level 2 self-assessment, Washington County School District and Dozier/Okeechobee assessed 57 standards. One or more incidents of noncompliance were identified on 16 of those standards (28.1%). The following is a summary of the district's timely correction of student-specific incidents of noncompliance:

Correction of Noncompliance by Student

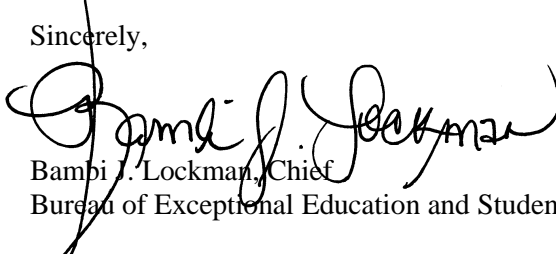
	Number	Percentage
Records Reviewed/Protocols Completed	17	-
Total Items Assessed	477	-
Noncompliant	26	5.5%
Timely Corrected	26	100%

The attached *Washington County District and Dozier/Okeechobee Summary Report: Findings of Noncompliance by Standard* contains a summary of the findings reported by the individual standard or regulation assessed. In the event there were systemic findings of noncompliance on specific standards that required the development of a CAP, those items are designated by shaded cells. In addition, a Matrix of Services review was required. Washington County School District and Dozier/Okeechobee reviewed five matrixes for students reported at the 254 or 255 cost factors for weighted funding through the Florida Education Finance Program. A cost factor discrepancy was found in one (20%) of those records; verification of correction was required.

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: Beth Arnold Patricia Howell
Frances Haithcock Brenda Fisher
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**

Washington County and Dozier/Okeechobee 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: 7
Number of standards per DJJ: 31
Number of T16 protocols completed: 10
Number of standards per T16: 26

Total number of protocols: 17
Total number of standards: 477
Total number of incidents of noncompliance (NC): 26
Overall % incidents of noncompliance: 5.5%

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**

Washington County and Dozier/Okeechobee District Summary Report: Findings of Noncompliance by Standard

Noncompliance (NC)		*Correctable for the Student(s)	**Individual CAP	# NC	% NC	***Systemic CAP
T16-1	The notice to the IEP team meeting included a statement that a purpose of the meeting was the consideration of postsecondary goals and transition services, that the student would be invited, and identified any other agency that would be invited to send a representative. (34 CFR 300.322(b)(2))		X	2	20.0%	
T16-3	The student's strengths, preferences, and interests were taken into account. If the student was unable to attend the meeting, other steps were taken to ensure the student's preferences and interests were considered. (34 CFR 300.43(a)(2) and 300.321(b)(2); Rules 6A-6.03028(3)(c)7 and 6A-6.03411(nn)2, F.A.C.)	X		1	10.0%	
T16-5	For students age 16, or younger if determined appropriate by the IEP team, the IEP contains the consideration of instruction or the provision of information in the area of self-determination to assist the student to be able to actively and effectively participate in IEP team meetings and to self-advocate, if appropriate. (Rule 6A-6.03028(3)(h)9b, F.A.C.)	X		3	30.0%	X
T16-7	The IEP for a 17-year-old includes a statement that the student has been informed of the rights that will transfer at age 18. (34 CFR 300.320(c) and 300.520(a)(1); Rule 6A-6.03028(3)(h)10, F.A.C.)		X	1	10.0%	
T16-9	There is a measurable postsecondary goal or goals in the designated areas (i.e., education/training, employment, and, where appropriate, independent living skills). (34 CFR 300.320(b)(1); Rule 6A-6.03028(3)(h)9a, F.A.C.)	X		2	20.0%	

Noncompliance (NC)		*Correctable for the Student(s)	**Individual CAP	# NC	% NC	***Systemic CAP
T16-10	The measurable postsecondary goal was based on age-appropriate transition assessment. (34 CFR 300.320(b)(1))	X		1	10.0%	
T16-11	The IEP includes annual goals (and short-term objectives/benchmarks, if applicable) related to the student's transition services needs. (34 CFR 300.320(b); Rule 6A-6.03028(3)(h)2-3, F.A.C.)	X		2	20.0%	
T16-12	There are transition services on the IEP that focus on improving the academic and functional achievement of the student to facilitate the student's articulation from school to post-school. (34 CFR 300.320(b)(2))	X		1	10.0%	
T16-13	The transition services include course(s) of study needed to assist the student to reach the postsecondary goal(s). (34 CFR 300.320(b)(2))	X		1	10.0%	
T16-16	The IEP includes appropriate measurable postsecondary goals that are annually updated and based upon: an age-appropriate transition assessment; transition services, including courses of study, that will reasonably enable the student to meet those postsecondary goals; and annual IEP goals related to the student's transition services needs. There also must be evidence that the student was invited to the IEP team meeting where transition services are to be discussed and evidence that, if appropriate, a representative of any participating agency was invited to the IEP team meeting with the prior consent of the parent or student who has reached the age of majority. (34 CFR 300.320(b)-(c) and 300.321(b); Rule 6A-6.03028(3)(b)-(c) and (h), F.A.C.)	X		3	30.0%	X
DJJ-5	The parents were members of any group making decisions about the educational placement of the student. If neither parent was able to attend the IEP team meeting, there is documentation of attempts to ensure parent participation. (34 CFR 300.322(c)-(d); 300.328; and 300.501(c))		X	1	14.3%	

Noncompliance (NC)		*Correctable for the Student(s)	**Individual CAP	# NC	% NC	***Systemic CAP
DJJ-9	There is evidence of the implementation of the annual goals as specified on the IEP: lesson plans, log(s), interview(s), other. (Rule 6A-6.05281(1)(c), F.A.C.)	X		1	14.3%	
DJJ-10	The IEP contains a statement of special education services/specially designed instruction, including location as well as initiation, duration and frequency. (34 CFR 300.320(a)(4) and (7))	X		3	42.9%	X
DJJ-11	There is evidence of the provision of special education services/specially designed instruction as specified on the IEP: lesson plans, log(s), interview(s), other. (Rule 6A-6.05281(1)(c), F.A.C.)	X		2	28.6%	X
DJJ-20	There is alignment among the present level of academic and functional performance statement, the annual goals (and short-term objectives/benchmarks, if applicable), and the services identified on the IEP. (34 CFR 300.320(a))	X		1	14.3%	
DJJ-24	The IEP team considered, in the case of a student whose behavior impedes his or her learning, the use of positive behavior interventions and supports, and/or other strategies to address the behavior. (34 CFR 300.324(a)(2)(i))	X		1	14.3%	