FLORIDA DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION



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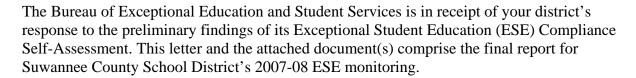
KATHLEEN SHANAHAN

LINDA K. TAYLOR

June 20, 2008

Mr. Walter Boatwright, Superintendent Suwannee County School District 702 Second Street, NW Live Oak, Florida 32064-1608

Dear Mr. Boatwright:



The self-assessment system is designed to address the major areas of compliance related to the State Performance Plan (SPP). SPP Indicator 15, Timely Correction of Noncompliance, requires that the state identify and correct noncompliance as soon as possible, but no later than one vear from identification.

As indicated in prior communication with district ESE staff, it was anticipated that there might be an increase in the number of findings of noncompliance over previous monitoring activities due to the design of the self-assessment protocols and sampling system. While any incident of noncompliance is of concern, it is important to note that, 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.

On February 22, 2008, the preliminary report of findings from the self-assessment process was released to the district. The preliminary report detailed student-specific incidents of noncompliance that required immediate correction, and identified any standards for which the noncompliance was considered systemic (i.e., evident in $\geq 25\%$ of the records reviewed). In the event that there were systemic findings, a corrective action plan (CAP) was required. In addition,

BAMBI J. LOCKMAN

Chief

Bureau of Exceptional Education and Student Services

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the district participated in a validation review to ensure the accuracy of the self-assessment data. As a result of the validation review, additional incidents or findings of noncompliance requiring correction were identified.

In accordance with guidance from the Office of Special Education Programs (OSEP), U.S. Department of Education, a finding of noncompliance is identified by the standard (i.e., regulation or requirement) that is violated, not by the number of times the standard is violated. While each *incident* of noncompliance must be corrected for the individual student affected, multiple incidents of noncompliance regarding a given standard that occur within a school district are reported as a single *finding* of noncompliance for that district. These results are included in the Bureau's annual reporting to OSEP.

Districts were required to correct all student-specific noncompliance no later than April 25, 2008, and to provide evidence to the Bureau no later than April 30, 2008. We are pleased to report that Suwannee County School District completed the required corrective actions and submitted the verifying documentation and CAP within the established timeline.

Suwannee County was required to assess 61 standards. One or more incidents of noncompliance were identified on 24 of those standards (39%). The following is a summary of Suwannee County School District's correction of student-specific incidents of noncompliance:

Correction of Noncompliance by Student

	Number	Percentage
Records Reviewed/Protocols Completed	22	_
Total Items Assessed	716	
Noncompliant	95	13%
Timely Corrected	95	100%

The Suwannee District Summary Report: Findings of Noncompliance by Standard (Attachment 1) contains a summary of the findings reported by the individual standard or regulation assessed. These data include revisions to the preliminary report that resulted from the validation review. Systemic findings are designated by shaded cells in the table. As noted in this attachment, one or more findings of noncompliance were determined to be systemic in nature and the district was required to develop a CAP to address the identified standards. Suwannee County School District's CAP was submitted to the Bureau for review and approval, and is provided in Attachment 2. Please note that a timeline for implementation, evaluation, and reporting of results on the part of the district is included in the CAP. Your district's adherence to this schedule is required in order to ensure correction of systemic noncompliance within a year as required by OSEP and Florida's SPP.

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The results of district self-assessments conducted during 2007-08 will be used to inform future monitoring activities, including the selection of districts for on-site monitoring, and in the local educational 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."

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. We look forward to receiving the district's report on the results of its corrective action plan, due to the Bureau no later than **December 22, 2008**. If you have questions regarding this process, please contact your assigned district liaison for monitoring or Dr. Kim C. Komisar, Administrator, at kim.komisar@fldoe.org or via phone at (850) 245-0476.

Sincerely,

Bambi J. Lockman,

Burgau of Exceptional Education and Student Services

Attachments

cc: Tina Kennon

Frances Haithcock Kim C. Komisar Laura Harrison Sheila Gritz Elise Lynch

Florida Department of Education Bureau of Exceptional Education and Student Services

ESE Self-Assessment 2007 – 08

Suwannee 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 EX protocols completed: 20 Number of standards per EX: 33 Number of STB protocols completed: 2 Number of standards per STB: 28

Total number of protocols: 22 Total number of standards: 716

Total number of incidents of noncompliance (NC): 95

Overall % incidents of noncompliance: 13%

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 ≥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.

ESE Self-Assessment 2007 – 08

Suwannee District Summary Report: Findings of Noncompliance by Standard

	Noncompliance (NC)	*Correctable for the Student(s)	**Individual CAP	# NC	% NC	***Systemic CAP
EX-2	The IEP for a school-age student includes a statement of present levels of academic achievement and functional performance, including how the student's disability affects involvement and progress in the general curriculum, as well as a statement of the remediation needed to achieve a passing score on the general statewide assessment. For a prekindergarten student, the IEP contains a statement of how the disability affects the student's participation in the appropriate activities. (34 CFR 300.320(a)(1); Rule 6A-6.03028(7)(a), FAC.)	Х		14	70.0%	Х
EX-3	The IEP includes measurable annual goals, including academic and functional goals, and short-term objectives or benchmarks, designed to meet the student's needs that result from the disability to enable the child to be involved in and make progress in the general curriculum and meet the student's other needs that result from the disability. (34 CFR 300.320(a)(2))	Х		15	75.0%	Х
EX-4	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))	Х		2	10.0%	
EX-5	The IEP contains a statement of related services, including location and anticipated initiation, duration and frequency. (34 CFR 300.320(a)(4) and (7))	Х		3	15.0%	
EX-9	There is alignment among the present level of academic and functional performance statement, the annual goals and short term objectives/benchmarks, and the services identified on the IEP. (34 CFR 300.320(a))	Х		5	25.0%	Х
EX-10	The IEP contains a statement of appropriate accommodations necessary to measure academic achievement and functional performance on state or district-	Х		1	5.0%	

	Noncompliance (NC)		**Individual CAP	# NC	% NC	***Systemic CAP
	wide assessments. (34 CFR 300.320(a)(6)(i))					
EX-12	The IEP contains an explanation of the extent, if any, to which the student will not participate with nondisabled students in the general education class. (34 CFR 300.320(a)(5))	Х		1	5.0%	
EX-14	The IEP team considered the strengths of the student; the academic, developmental and functional needs of the student; the results of the initial evaluation or most recent evaluation; and the results of the student's performance on any state-or district-wide assessment. (34 CFR 300.324(a)(1))	Х		5	25.0%	Х
EX-15	The concerns of the parents for enhancing the education of their child were considered in developing the IEP. (34 CFR 300.324(a)(1)(ii))	Х		8	40.0%	Х
EX-16	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))	Х		4	20.0%	
EX-22	The IEP had been reviewed at least annually, and revised as appropriate, to address: any lack of progress toward the annual goals; any lack of progress in the general curriculum, if appropriate; the results of reevaluation; information about the student provided by the parent; and/or, the student's anticipated needs. (34 CFR 300.324(b)(1))	Х		1	5.0%	
EX-23	The student's general education teachers, ESE teachers, and related service providers were provided access and information regarding specific responsibilities for IEP implementation. (34 CFR 300.323(d))	Х		15	75.0%	Х
EX-24	If a student has had at least five unexcused absences, or absences for which the reasons are unknown, within a calendar month or 10 unexcused absences or absences for which the reason is unknown, within a 90-calendar-day period, the student's primary teacher must report that the student may be exhibiting a pattern of nonattendance. Unless there is clear evidence otherwise, the student must be referred to the school's child study team. If an initial meeting does not resolve the	Х		5	25.0%	Х

	Noncompliance (NC)	*Correctable for the Student(s)	**Individual CAP	# NC	% NC	***Systemic CAP
	problem, interventions must be implemented. (S. 1003.26(1), F.S.)					
EX-26	The district notified the parent of the removal decision and provided the parent with a copy of the notice of the procedural safeguards on the same day as the date of the removal decision. (34 CFR 300.530(h); Rule 6A-6.03312(4)(a), FAC.)		Х	1	5.0%	
STB-3	STB-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 and 300.321(b)(2); Rule 6A-6.03028(4)(h), FAC.)			2	100.0%	Х
STB-4	 The IEP contains a statement of the student's desired post-school outcome A statement of the student's transition service needs is incorporated into applicable components of the IEP The IEP team considered the need for instruction in the area of self determination. (Rule 6A-6.03028(7)(i), FAC.)	X		1	50.0%	X
STB-5	Beginning in eighth grade, or during the school year in which the student turns 14, whichever is sooner, the IEP must include a statement of whether the student is pursuing a course of study leading to a standard diploma or a special diploma. (Rule 6A-6.03028(7)(h), FAC.)	Х		1	50.0%	Х
STB-6	A team member or designee was designated as responsible for follow-up with the agency The IEP team was reconvened to identify alternative strategies if the agency failed to provide services as indicated on the IEP.	Х		1	50.0%	Х

	Noncompliance (NC)	*Correctable for the Student(s)	**Individual CAP	# NC	% NC	***Systemic CAP
	(34 CFR 300.324(c)(1); Rule 6A-6.03028(8)(d), FAC.)					
STB-9	There is a measurable postsecondary goal or goals in the designated areas (i.e., education/training and employment; where appropriate, independent living). (34 CFR 300.320(b)(1))	Х		2	100.0%	Х
STB-10	The measurable postsecondary goals were based on age-appropriate transition assessment(s). (34 CFR 300.320(b)(1))	Х		1	50.0%	Х
STB-11	There is/are annual goal(s) or short-term objectives or benchmarks that reasonably enable the student to meet the postsecondary goals. (34 CFR 300.320(a)(2))	Х		1	50.0%	Х
STB-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 to post-school. (34 CFR 300.320(b)(2))	Х		2	100.0%	X
STB-13	The transition services include course(s) of study 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))	Х		2	100.0%	Х
STB-16	The IEP includes coordinated, measurable, annual IEP goals and transition service that will reasonably enable the student to meet the postsecondary goals. (34 CFR 300.320(b))	Х		2	100.0%	Х

Florida Department of Education Bureau of Exceptional Education and Student Services

ESE Self-Assessment 2007 – 08

Suwannee County School District Corrective Action Plan

#	Findings of Noncompliance	Activities	Timelines	Resources	Results/Status
EX-2	The IEP for a school-age student includes a statement of present levels of academic achievement and functional	IEP Training including measurable annual goal training	May 1, 2008	FDLRS	
	performance, including how the student's	Technical Assistance for SPP Indicator 2	On going	DOE	
	disability affects involvement and progress in the general curriculum, as well as a statement of the remediation	Attendance at National Dropout Prevention Conference	January 2008	District	
needed to achieve a passing score on the general statewide assessment. For a	the general statewide assessment. For a prekindergarten student, the IEP contains a statement of how the disability affects the student's participation in the appropriate activities. (34 CFR 300.320(a)(1); Rule 6A-	Random Sampling of IEPs	Fall 2008	District ESE Staff	
EX-3	The IEP includes measurable annual goals, including academic and functional	IEP Training including measurable annual goal training	May 1, 2008	FDLRS	
	goals, and short-term objectives or benchmarks, designed to meet the	Technical Assistance for SPP Indicator 2	On going	DOE	
	student's needs that result from the disability to enable the child to be	Attendance at National Dropout Prevention Conference	January 2008	District	
general curriculum and m		Random Sampling of IEPs	Fall 2008	District ESE Staff	
EX-9	There is alignment among the present level of academic and functional	IEP Training including measurable annual goal training	May 1, 2008	FDLRS	
	performance statement, the annual goals and short term objectives/benchmarks,	Technical Assistance for SPP Indicator 2	On going	DOE	

#	Findings of Noncompliance	Activities	Timelines	Resources	Results/Status
	and the services identified on the IEP. (34 CFR 300.320(a))	Attendance at National Dropout Prevention Conference	January 2008	DOE	
		Random Sampling of IEPs	Fall 2008	District ESE Staff	
EX-14	The IEP team considered the strengths of the student; the academic,	IEP Training including measurable annual goal training	May 1, 2008	FDLRS	
	developmental and functional needs of the student; the results of the initial	Technical Assistance for SPP Indicator 2	On going	DOE	
	evaluation or most recent evaluation; and the results of the student's performance on any state-or district-wide assessment.	Attendance at National Dropout Prevention Conference	January 2008	District	
	(34 CFR 300.324(a)(1))	Random Sampling of IEPs	Fall 2008	District ESE Staff	
EX-15	The concerns of the parents for enhancing the education of their child were considered in developing the IEP. (34 CFR 300.324(a)(1)(ii))	IEP Training including measurable annual goal training	May 1, 2008	FDLRS	
		Technical Assistance for SPP Indicator 2	On going	DOE	
		Attendance at National Dropout Prevention Conference	January 2008	District	
		Random Sampling of IEPs	Fall 2008	District ESE Staff	
EX-23	The student's general education teachers, ESE teachers, and related	IEP Training including measurable annual goal training	May 1, 2008	FDLRS	
	service providers were provided access and information regarding specific	Technical Assistance for SPP Indicator 2	On going	DOE	
	responsibilities for IEP implementation. (34 CFR 300.323(d))	Random Sampling of IEPs	Fall 2008	District ESE Staff	
EX-24	If a student has had at least five unexcused absences, or absences for	IEP Training including measurable annual goal training	May 1, 2008	FDLRS	
	which the reasons are unknown, within a calendar month or 10 unexcused	Technical Assistance for SPP Indicator 2	On going	DOE	
	absences or absences for which the reason is unknown, within a 90-calendarday period, the student's primary teacher	Collaboration with District Truancy/Social Workers to provide technical assistance	On-going	District	

#	Findings of Noncompliance	Activities	Timelines	Resources	Results/Status
	must report that the student may be exhibiting a pattern of nonattendance. Unless there is clear evidence otherwise, the student must be referred to the school's child study team. If an initial meeting does not resolve the problem, interventions must be implemented. (S. 1003.26(1), F.S.)	Random Sampling of IEPs	Fall 2008	District ESE Staff	
STB-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.	IEP Training including measurable annual goal training Technical Assistance for SPP Indicator 2 Random Sampling of transition IEP's at	May 1, 2008 On going Fall 2008	FDLRS DOE District ESE	
	interests were considered. (34 CFR 300.43 and 300.321(b)(2); Rule 6A-6.03028(4)(h), FAC.)	Suwannee High School and Branford High	1 uli 2000	staff	
STB-4	For students aged 14 and older:	Transition 101 training	May 1, 2008	FDLRS	
	The IEP contains a statement of the student's desired post-school	District Transition Team established And meeting monthly	On-going	District	
	 outcome A statement of the student's transition service needs is 	Attendance at Transition Statewide Meetings	On-going	District	
	incorporated into applicable components of the IEP	Staff participation in Professional Development on-line training	April 7, 2008 – June 28, 2008	FDLRS	
	 The IEP team considered the need for instruction in the area of self determination. 	Random Sampling of transition IEP's at Suwannee High School and Branford High	Fall 2008	District ESE staff	
	(Rule 6A-6.03028(7)(i), FAC.)				
STB-5	Beginning in eighth grade, or during the	Transition 101 training	May 1, 2008	FDLRS	
	school year in which the student turns 14, whichever is sooner, the IEP must include a statement of whether the	District Transition Team established And meeting monthly	On-going	District	
	student is pursuing a course of study leading to a standard diploma or a	Attendance at Transition Statewide	On-going	District	

#	Findings of Noncompliance	Activities	Timelines	Resources	Results/Status
	special diploma. (Rule 6A-6.03028(7)(h), FAC.)	Meetings Staff participation in Professional Development on-line training Random Sampling of transition IEP's at Suwannee High School and Branford High	April 7, 2008 – June 28, 2008 Fall 2008	FDLRS District ESE Staff	
STB-6	If an agency likely to provide or pay for transition services is involved: • A team member or designee was designated as responsible for follow-up with the agency • The IEP team was reconvened to identify alternative strategies if the agency failed to provide services as indicated on the IEP. (34 CFR 300.324(c)(1); Rule 6A-6.03028(8)(d), FAC.)	Transition 101 training District Transition Team established And meeting monthly Attendance at Transition Statewide Meetings Staff participation in Professional Development on-line training Random Sampling of transition IEP's at Suwannee High School and Branford High	May 1, 2008 On-going On-going April 7, 2008 – June 28, 2008 Fall 2008	FDLRS District District FDLRS District ESE staff	
STB-9	There is a measurable postsecondary goal or goals in the designated areas (i.e., education/training and employment; where appropriate, independent living). (34 CFR 300.320(b)(1))	Transition 101 training District Transition Team established And meeting monthly Attendance at Transition Statewide Meetings Staff participation in Professional Development on-line training Random Sampling of transition IEP's at Suwannee High School and Branford High	May 1, 2008 On-going On-going April 7, 2008 – June 28, 2008 Fall 2008	FDLRS District District FDLRS District ESE staff	
STB-10	The measurable postsecondary goals were based on age-appropriate transition assessment(s). (34 CFR 300.320(b)(1))	Transition 101 training District Transition Team established And meeting monthly Attendance at Transition Statewide	May 1, 2008 On-going On-going	FDLRS District District	

#	Findings of Noncompliance	Activities	Timelines	Resources	Results/Status
		Meetings			
		Staff participation in Professional Development on-line training	April 7, 2008 – June 28, 2008	FDLRS	
		Random Sampling of transition IEP's at Suwannee High School and Branford High	Fall 2008	District ESE staff	
STB-11	There is/are annual goal(s) or short-term	Transition 101 training	May 1, 2008	FDLRS	
	objectives or benchmarks that reasonably enable the student to meet the postsecondary goals.	District Transition Team established And meeting monthly	On-going	District	
	(34 CFR 300.320(a)(2))	Attendance at Transition Statewide Meetings	On-going	District	
		Staff participation in Professional Development on-line training	April 7, 2008 – June 28, 2008	FDLRS	
		Random Sampling of transition IEP's at Suwannee High School and Branford High	Fall 2008	District ESE staff	
STB-12	There are transition services on the IEP	Transition 101 training	May 1, 2008	FDLRS	
	that focus on improving the academic and functional achievement of the student to facilitate the student's	District Transition Team established And meeting monthly	On-going	District	
	articulation to post-school. (34 CFR 300.320(b)(2))	Attendance at Transition Statewide Meetings	On-going	District	
		Staff participation in Professional Development on-line training	April 7, 2008 – June 28, 2008	FDLRS	
		Random Sampling of transition IEP's at Suwannee High School and Branford High	Fall 2008	District ESE staff	
STB-13	The transition services include course(s)	Transition 101 training	May 1, 2008	FDLRS	
	of study 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))	District Transition Team established And meeting monthly	On-going	District	
		Attendance at Transition Statewide Meetings	On-going	District	

Attachment 2

#	Findings of Noncompliance	Activities	Timelines	Resources	Results/Status
		Staff participation in Professional Development on-line training	April 7, 2008 – June 28, 2008	FDLRS	
		Random Sampling of transition IEP's at Suwannee High School and Branford High	Fall 2008	District ESE staff	
STB-16		Transition 101 training	May 1, 2008	FDLRS	
	measurable, annual IEP goals and transition service that will reasonably enable the student to meet the postsecondary goals. (34 CFR 300.320(b))	District Transition Team established And meeting monthly	On-going	District	
		Attendance at Transition Statewide Meetings	On-going	District	
		Staff participation in Professional Development on-line training	April 7, 2008 – June 28, 2008	FDLRS	
		Random Sampling of transition IEP's at Suwannee High School and Branford High	Fall 2008	District ESE Staff	