

# FLORIDA DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION



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April 18, 2012

Mr. Adrian H. Cline, Superintendent  
DeSoto County School District  
P.O. Drawer 2000  
Arcadia, Florida 34265

Dear Superintendent Cline:

The Bureau of Exceptional Education and Student Services is in receipt of your district's response to the preliminary findings of its 2011-12 Exceptional Student Education (ESE) Compliance Self-Assessment. This letter and the attached document comprise the final report for DeSoto County School District's 2011-12 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 timely 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 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."

On January 5, 2012, the preliminary report of findings from the 2011-12 Level 1 and Fall Cycle Level 2 self-assessment process was released to your district's ESE Director. The preliminary report detailed student-specific findings of noncompliance that required immediate correction. Districts were requested to correct all student-specific noncompliance and to provide evidence to the Bureau no later than March 5, 2012. In addition, districts are required to demonstrate that they are now correctly implementing each of the standards identified as noncompliant (i.e., 100 percent compliance).

MONICA VERRA-TIRADO, ED.D., CHIEF  
Bureau of Exceptional Education and Student Services

*In its 2011-12 Level 1 and Fall Cycle Level 2 self-assessment, DeSoto County School District assessed 47 standards. One or more findings of noncompliance were identified on one of those standards (2.1 %). The following is a summary of the district's timely correction of student-specific findings of noncompliance:*

**Correction of Noncompliance by Student**

	<b>Number</b>	<b>Percentage</b>
Records Reviewed/Protocols Completed	10	-
Total Items Assessed	235	-
Noncompliant	1	0.4%

The attached *DeSoto County District Summary Report: Findings of Noncompliance by Standard* contains a summary of the findings reported by the individual standard or regulation assessed. In addition, a Matrix of Services review was required. DeSoto County School District reviewed five matrixes for students reported at the 254 or 255 cost factors for weighted funding through the Florida Education Finance Program. The district is required to correct the cost factor discrepancy and provide verification to the Bureau as stated in the January 5, 2012, preliminary report letter.

In addition to the individual correction(s) reported above, the district was required to demonstrate 100 percent compliance through review of a random sample of student records for each standard that was identified as noncompliant. We will look forward to receipt of these required records to demonstrate that the district is now correctly implementing the standards.

We understand that the implementation of this self-assessment requires 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 email at [patricia.howell@fldoe.org](mailto:patricia.howell@fldoe.org).

Sincerely,



Monica Verra-Tirado, Ed.D., Chief  
Bureau of Exceptional Education and Student Services

Attachments

cc: Debra Giacalone                      Karen Denbroeder  
Tammy Cassels                              Patricia Howell  
Pam Stewart                                 Brenda Fisher  
Mary Jane Tappen                         Sheila Gritz

Florida Department of Education  
Bureau of Exceptional Education and Student Services

Self-Assessment 2011 – 2012  
Level 1 and Fall Cycle Level 2

DeSoto 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 corrective actions. See the *Student Report: Findings of Noncompliance* for student-specific findings. Results are reported by standard, and are based on the following:

Number of Department of Juvenile Justice (DJJ) protocols completed: 5  
Number of standards per Department of Juvenile Justice (DJJ) protocol: 31  
Number of SPP 13 - Secondary Transition Age 16 (T16) protocols completed: 5  
Number of standards per SPP 13 - Secondary Transition Age 16 (T16) protocol: 16

Total number of protocols: 10  
Total number of standards: 235  
Total number of findings of noncompliance (NC): 1  
Overall % findings of noncompliance: 0.4%

Total number of different standards assessed: 47  
Total number of different standards for which noncompliance was identified: 1  
% of different standards for which noncompliance was identified: 2.1%

Percent of noncompliance is calculated as the # of findings 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 which requires immediate action(s) to correct the noncompliance

\*\* **Ensure future compliance:** For findings which cannot be corrected for individual students, corrective actions are required to address how the district will ensure future compliance

Florida Department of Education  
Bureau of Exceptional Education and Student Services

**Self-Assessment 2011 – 2012  
Level 1 and Fall Cycle Level 2**

**DeSoto County District Summary Report: Findings of Noncompliance by Standard**

Noncompliance (NC)		*Correctable for the Student(s)	**Ensure Future Compliance	# NC	% NC
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	20.0%

**Florida Department of Education  
Bureau of Exceptional Education and Student Services**

**Self-Assessment 2011 – 2012  
Level 1 and Fall Cycle Level 2  
DeSoto County District Report: Matrix of Services**

This report provides a summary of the results of the Matrix of Services review component of the ESE Compliance Self-Assessment for this school district.

Total # of Matrixes reported by District: 5  
Cost Factor 254 reported: 4  
Cost Factor 255 reported: 1

Total # of Matrixes reviewed by District: 5  
Cost Factor 254 reviewed: 3  
Cost Factor 255 reviewed: 1  
Cost Factors 251-253 reviewed: 1

Total # of Matrixes reviewed by DOE: 1  
Cost Factor 254 reviewed: 0  
Cost Factor 255 reviewed: 1  
Cost Factors 251-253 reviewed: 0  
Discrepancies between Matrixes reported and  
Matrixes reviewed by District or DOE: 7

Domain A – Curriculum and Learning Environment: 0  
Domain B – Social/Emotional Behavior: 1  
Domain C – Independent Functioning: 1  
Domain D – Health Care: 0  
Domain E – Communication: 2  
Extra Points: 0  
Total Ratings: 2  
Cost Factors: 1

% Cost Factors Discrepancies: 20%

**Florida Department of Education  
Bureau of Exceptional Education and Student Services**

**Self-Assessment 2011 – 2012  
Level 1 and Fall Cycle Level 2  
DeSoto County District Report: Matrix of Services**

Matrix #	Cost Factor Reported by District		Cost Factor Reviewed by District			Cost Factor Reviewed by DOE			Discrepancies
	254	255	254	255	251-253	254	255	251-253	
Matrix_DeSoto_1	X		X						
Matrix_DeSoto_2	X		X						C, E, Total Ratings
Matrix_DeSoto_3		X		X			X		
Matrix_DeSoto_4	X		X						
Matrix_DeSoto_5	X				X				Cost Factor, B, E, Total Ratings