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June 20, 2008

Ms. JoAnn Gander, Superintendent
Franklin County School District
155 Avenue E
Apalachicola, FL 32320-2099

Dear Ms. Gander:

The Bureau of Exceptional Education and Student Services is in receipt of your district's response to the preliminary findings of its Exceptional Student Education (ESE) Compliance Self-Assessment. This letter and the attached document(s) comprise the final report for Franklin County School District's 2007-08 ESE monitoring.

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 year 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

the district participated in a validation review to ensure the accuracy of the self-assessment data. Your district's validation review revealed no inconsistencies in the original report of data.

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 Franklin County School District completed the required corrective action and submitted the verifying documentation within the established timeline. There were no systemic findings of noncompliance; therefore, your district was not required to submit a CAP.

Franklin County was required to assess 149 standards. One incident of noncompliance was identified on one (1) of those standards (0.7%). The following is a summary of Franklin County School District's correction of student-specific incidents of noncompliance:

Correction of Noncompliance by Student

	Number	Percentage
Records Reviewed/Protocols Completed	20	–
Total Items Assessed	571	–
Noncompliant	1	less than 1%
Timely Corrected	1	100%

The *Franklin District Summary Report: Findings of Noncompliance by Standard* (Attachment) 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.

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.

Ms. JoAnn Gander
June 20, 2008
Page 3

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, Chief
Bureau of Exceptional Education and Student Services

Attachment

cc: Brenda Wilson
Frances Haithcock
Kim C. Komisar
Annette Oliver
Sheila Gritz

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

**ESE Self-Assessment
2007 – 08**

Franklin 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 IE protocols completed: 7
 Number of standards per IE: 18
 Number of IEP protocols completed: 7
 Number of standards per IEP: 38
 Number of MD protocols completed: 4
 Number of standards per MD: 9
 Number of STB protocols completed: 2
 Number of standards per STB: 28
 Number of EBD disabilities completed: 3
 Number of standards per EBD: 11
 Number of HBH disabilities completed: 1
 Number of standards per HBH: 17

Number of OI disabilities completed: 1
 Number of standards per OI: 5
 Number of SI disabilities completed: 2
 Number of standards per SI: 9
 Number of SLD disabilities completed: 1
 Number of standards per SLD: 14

Total number of protocols: 20
 Total number of standards: 571
 Total number of incidents of noncompliance (NC): 1
 Overall % incidents of noncompliance: 0%

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.

**ESE Self-Assessment
2007 – 08**

Franklin District Summary Report: Findings of Noncompliance by Standard

Noncompliance (NC)		*Correctable for the Student(s)	**Individual CAP	# NC	% NC	***Systemic CAP
IE-10	The date of referral for a formal individual evaluation was no more than ten (10) working days after the date of receipt of parent consent. (Section II.E of the Policies and Procedures for the Provision of Specially Designed Instruction and Related Services for Exceptional Students SP&P)		X	1	14.3%	