

FLORIDA DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION



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Pam Stewart
Commissioner of Education

April 25, 2014

Wallace P. Cox, Superintendent
Highlands County School District
426 School Street
Sebring, Florida 33870

Dear Superintendent Cox:

This letter is to inform you of findings of noncompliance related to Highlands County School District's 2013–14 exceptional student education self-assessment monitoring process, including validation by bureau staff and reassessment by the district. Records were reviewed for Secondary Transition. Findings of noncompliance were identified for this area. Two prongs of correction are required: student-specific correction and demonstration of 100 percent compliance. Your district has completed the first prong (the required student-specific correction).

Demonstration of 100 percent compliance (the second prong of correction) must be provided to the bureau no later than January 8, 2015. In order to assist the district to reach 100 percent compliance on all of the targeted standards, a corrective action plan (CAP) must be developed to address the root causes(s) of the noncompliance. This CAP is required to be submitted via the General Supervision Website and must include, at a minimum, (1) a description of activities to be implemented, (2) the resources to be accessed or allocated to implement the plan, and (3) assessment on the targeted standards. This assessment is to be conducted on a sample of records on a monthly basis until 100 percent compliance is achieved. If the second prong of correction is not completed by January 8, 2015, the district's local educational agency determination could be affected.

In addition to the self-assessment referenced above, a Matrix of Services review was required. Highlands County School District was required to review five matrices for students reported at the 254 or 255 cost factors for weighted funding through the Florida Education Finance Program. No cost factor discrepancies were found in those records.

PAM STEWART
CHANCELLOR OF PUBLIC SCHOOLS

Superintendent Cox
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The following is a summary of the school district's timely correction of student-specific findings of noncompliance.

Noncompliance by Student

	Number of Items	Percentage
Total Items Assessed	96	--
Noncompliant	6	6.2%
Timely Corrected	6	100%

Results of districts' self-assessments may be used to inform general supervision activities, including the selection of districts for on-site monitoring and the local educational agency determinations required under section 300.603, Title 34, Code of Federal Regulations.

We understand that the implementation of this self-assessment requires a significant commitment of resources, and we appreciate the time and attention your staff has devoted to the process thus far. If you have questions regarding this process, please contact your district liaison for monitoring or Patricia Howell, program director, at 850-245-0476 or via email at patricia.howell@fldoe.org.

Sincerely,



Pam Stewart

PS/mvt

cc: Pat Landress
Mary Jane Tappen
Monica Verra-Tirado

Cathy Bishop
Patricia Howell

Jacqueline Roumou
Judith White