

# FLORIDA DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION



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June 20, 2008

Ms. Anna Cowin, Superintendent  
Lake County School District  
201 West Burleigh Boulevard  
Tavares, FL 32778-2496

Dear Ms. Cowin:

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 Lake 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 Lake County School District completed the required corrective actions 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.

Lake County was required to assess 56 standards. One or more incidents of noncompliance were identified on 3 of those standards (5%). The following is a summary of Lake County School District's correction of student-specific incidents of noncompliance:

**Correction of Noncompliance by Student**

	<b>Number</b>	<b>Percentage</b>
Records Reviewed/Protocols Completed	32	—
Total Items Assessed	896	—
Noncompliant	9	1%
Timely Corrected	9	100%

The *Lake 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.

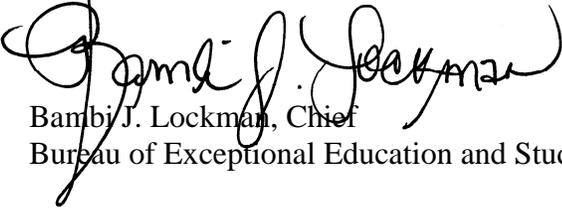
The results of district self-assessments conducted during 2007-08 will be used to inform future monitoring activities, including the selection of districts for on-site monitoring, and in the local educational agency (LEA) determinations required under section 300.603, Title 34, Code of Federal Regulations, 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. Anna Cowin  
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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](mailto:kim.komisar@fldoe.org) or via phone at (850) 245-0476.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Bambi J. Lockman". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a large initial "B" and "L".

Bambi J. Lockman, Chief  
Bureau of Exceptional Education and Student Services

Attachment

cc: Judy Miller  
Frances Haithcock  
Kim C. Komisar  
Annette Oliver  
Brenda Fisher  
Sheila Gritz  
Marilyn Hibbard

Florida Department of Education  
Bureau of Exceptional Education and Student Services

ESE Self-Assessment  
2007 – 08

**Lake 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 LRE protocols completed: 30  
Number of standards per LRE: 28  
Number of STB protocols completed: 2  
Number of standards per STB: 28

Total number of protocols: 32  
Total number of standards: 896  
Total number of incidents of noncompliance (NC): 9  
Overall % incidents of noncompliance: 1%

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**

**Lake District Summary Report: Findings of Noncompliance by Standard**

Noncompliance (NC)		*Correctable for the Student(s)	**Individual CAP	# NC	% NC	***Systemic CAP
LRE-7	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.)	X		6	20.0%	
LRE-8	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))	X		2	6.7%	
LRE-17	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))	X		1	3.3%	