

# FLORIDA DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION



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July 16, 2012

Dr. John A. Stewart, Superintendent  
Pinellas County School District  
301 4th Street Southwest  
Largo, FL 33770

Dear Superintendent Stewart:

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 for Spring Cycle Level 2. This letter and the attached document comprise the final report for this monitoring process for the Pinellas County School District.

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 April 27, 2012, the preliminary report of findings from the 2011-12 Spring 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 required to correct all student-specific noncompliances and to provide evidence to the Bureau no later than June 19, 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

Superintendent Stewart  
July 16, 2012  
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*In its 2011-12 Spring Cycle Level 2 self-assessment, Pinellas County School District assessed 55 different standards. One or more findings of noncompliance were identified on one of those standards (1.8 %). 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 | 15            | -                 |
| Total Items Assessed                 | 490           | -                 |
| Noncompliant                         | 2             | .9%               |
| Timely Corrected                     | 2             | 100%              |

The attached *Pinellas 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 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. Your district has provided the required records to demonstrate 100 percent compliance on all of the targeted standards, and no further corrective actions are required.

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 Liz Conn, Compliance Specialist, or Patricia Howell, Program Director, at (850) 245-0476 or via email at [liz.conn@fldoe.org](mailto:liz.conn@fldoe.org) or [patricia.howell@fldoe.org](mailto:patricia.howell@fldoe.org).

Sincerely,



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

Attachment

cc: Cindy Bania  
Lynne Mowatt  
Pam Stewart  
Mary Jane Tappen  
Karen Denbroeder  
Patricia Howell  
Liz Conn  
David Wheeler

Florida Department of Education  
Bureau of Exceptional Education and Student Services

2011-12 Self-Assessment  
Spring Cycle  
Pinellas 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 Initial Evaluation (IE) protocols completed: 10  
Number of standards per IE protocol: 21  
Number of Reevaluation (RE) protocols completed: 5  
Number of standards per RE protocol: 23  
Number of Emotional or Behavioral Disability (EBD) protocols completed: 15  
Number of standards per EBD protocol: 11

Total number of protocols: 30  
Total number of standards: 490  
Total number of findings of noncompliance (NC): 4  
Overall % findings of noncompliance: 0.9%

Total number of different standards assessed: 55  
Total number of different standards for which noncompliance was identified: 1  
% of different standards for which noncompliance was identified: 1.8%

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

**2011-12 Self-Assessment  
Spring Cycle  
Pinellas County District Summary Report: Findings of Noncompliance by Standard**

| Noncompliance (NC) |  | *Correctable<br>for the<br>Student(s) | **Ensure<br>Future<br>Compliance | # NC | % NC  |
|--------------------|--|---------------------------------------|----------------------------------|------|-------|
| IE-13              | The evaluation was conducted within 60 school days (cumulative) that the student is in attendance after the district's receipt of parental consent for evaluation.<br>(Rule 6A-6.0331(3)(d), F.A.C.) |                                       | X                                | 4    | 40.0% |