

# FLORIDA DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION



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June 20, 2008

Mr. Blake Heidelberg, Chief  
Bureau of Program Services  
Florida Department of Corrections  
2601 Blair Stone Road  
Tallahassee, Florida 32399-2500

Dear Mr. Heidelberg:

The Bureau of Exceptional Education and Student Services is in receipt of the Florida Department of Corrections (DOC) 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 DOC'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

**BAMBI J. LOCKMAN**

*Chief*

*Bureau of Exceptional Education and Student Services*

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event that there were systemic findings, a corrective action plan (CAP) was required. In addition, 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 DOC had no findings of noncompliance, and therefore, was not required to submit any documentation of corrective actions.

DOC was required to assess 66 standards. No incidents of noncompliance were identified on these standards (0%). No correction of student-specific incidents of noncompliance was required.

#### **Correction of Noncompliance by Student**

	<b>Number</b>	<b>Percentage</b>
Records Reviewed/Protocols Completed	12	–
Total Items Assessed	416	–
Noncompliant	0	0%
Timely Corrected	0	N / A

The *Florida Department of Corrections 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.

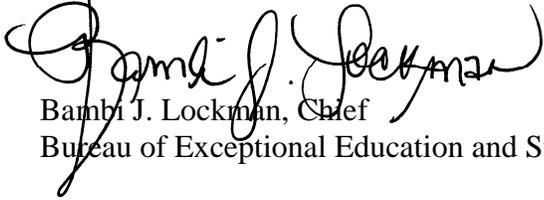
The results of district self-assessments conducted during 2007-08 will be used to inform future monitoring activities, including the selection of districts for on-site monitoring, and in the local educational agency (LEA) determinations required under section 300.603, Title 34, Code of Federal Regulations, 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

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process thus far. 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 written in a cursive style with a large initial "B".

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

Attachments

cc: John Howle  
Kristina Hartman  
Frances Haithcock  
Kim C. Komisar  
Ken Johnson