



COMMONWEALTH OF PENNSYLVANIA
DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION
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BUREAU OF SPECIAL EDUCATION

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February 3, 2012

Ms. Diane LaBelle
CEO
Lehigh Valley Performing Arts CS
675 East Broad Street
Bethlehem, Pa 18018

Dear Ms. LaBelle:

Enclosed is the Report of Findings presenting results of the cyclical monitoring which was conducted by the Bureau of Special Education (BSE) in the Lehigh Valley Performing Arts CS the week of January 10, 2012.

The Executive Summary is arranged in two parts and includes an Appendix. PART I presents the Summary of Findings including an explanation of the review process and general findings. PART II describes the corrective action process. A description identifying findings of noncompliance, corrective action required, improvement planning needed, and results of interviews of staff and parents can be found in the Appendix. The charter school must complete corrective action within the calendar days as outlined in the Charter School Corrective Action Verification/Compliance and Improvement Plan developed with the BSE Adviser. Follow-up onsite reviews verifying the charter school's completion of corrective action will be conducted by the BSE. The BSE Adviser will contact the charter school to schedule the initial visit within 60 days of issuance of the monitoring report.

34 CFR 300.600 mandates the BSE to carry out monitoring activities and implementation of any necessary corrective action. Legal compliance is the basis on which high quality programs are built. It is policy of the Department of Education to promote and ensure compliance with special education statutes and regulations through an array of activities such as a coordinated program of plan review, compliance monitoring, technical assistance, and funding decisions. However, if the Department does not succeed in obtaining prompt compliance through activities such as monitoring, then more rigorous steps can be taken to make sure compliance is resolved. These include:

- Disapproval or rescinded approval of the local special education plan
- Deferment of the disbursement of state or federal funds pending resolution of the issue
- Reduction of the amount of funds (for example, by the amount of money it takes to provide an appropriate education to a particular child or children) if a charter school is unwilling to provide appropriate services

None of these steps are desirable and none should be necessary if each charter school is familiar with and attentive to the rules governing special education.

If you have any questions about this report, contact Dr. Juanita Kirton, the Chairperson of the compliance monitoring team.

Please convey my thanks to all staff who participated in the review. Their time and assistance is appreciated.

Sincerely,

John J. Tommasini
Director

Attachments: Executive Summary
Appendix: Detailed Report of Findings, Including Corrective Actions Required

CC: Chairperson
Jill Deitrich
CS Monitoring File