



Executive Summary Of the Compliance Monitoring Review of the Renaissance CS

PART I SUMMARY OF FINDINGS

A. Review Process

Prior to the Bureau's monitoring the week of April 10, 2008 the Renaissance CS was formally notified of the dates the onsite review would be conducted. Notice and invitation to comment was also provided to the Local Task Force on Right-to-Education. The Charter School was informed of its responsibility to compile various reports, written policies, and procedures to document compliance with requirements.

While onsite, the monitoring team employed a variety of techniques to gain an in depth understanding of the charter school's program operations. These techniques included:

- Interviews of administrative and instructional staff
- Review of policies, notices, plans, special education forms and formats, and data reports used and compiled by the charter school (Facilitated Self-Assessment)
- Comprehensive case studies of students (including interviews of regular and special education staff, interviews of parents, and student file reviews).

B. General Findings

In reaching compliance determinations, Bureau of Special Education monitoring teams apply criteria contained in federal and state special education regulations. Specifically, these are:

- Individuals with Disabilities Education Improvement Act of 2004
- 22 Pa. Code Chapter 711 (Charter School Services and Programs for Children with Disabilities)
- 34 CFR Part 300

This report focuses on compliance with requirements and also contains some descriptive information (such as interview results) which is intended to provide feedback to assist in program planning.

C. Overall Findings of the Three Major Sections of the Compliance Monitoring Instrument

1. FACILITATED SELF-ASSESSMENT

The team reviewed the FSA submitted by the Charter School and conducted on-site verification activities of the information submitted in the FSA. The on-site verification activities included review of policies, notices, procedures, and charter school file reviews.

FSA	In Compliance	Out of Compliance
Assistive Technology and Services; Hearing Aids	0	2
Child Find (Annual Public Notice and General Dissemination Materials)	1	0
Confidentiality	1	0
Exclusions: Suspensions and Expulsions (Policies and Procedures)	1	0
Independent Education Evaluation	1	0
Least Restrictive Environment (LRE)	3	0
Parent Training	0	1
Surrogate Parents (Students Requiring)	1	0
Training	0	1
Intensive Interagency Approach	1	0

IMPROVEMENT PLAN REQUIRED	Yes	No
Dispute Resolution	0	1
Graduation Rates	0	0
Drop Out Rates	0	0
Suspensions (Rates)	0	1
Least Restrictive Environment (LRE) (SPP)	0	1
Participation in PSSA and PASA	0	1
Public School Enrollment	0	1

2. **FILE REVIEW** (Student case studies)

The education records of randomly selected students participating in special education programs were studied to determine whether the Charter School complied with essential requirements.

The status of compliance of the Renaissance CS is as follows:

Sections of the FILE REVIEW	In Compliance	Out of Compliance	NA
Essential Student Documents Are Present and Were Prepared Within Timelines	43	19	18
Evaluation/Reevaluation: Process and Content	119	47	254
Individualized Education Program: Process and Content	206	55	129
TOTALS	368	121	401

3. **TEACHER AND PARENT INTERVIEWS**

Interviews were conducted with parents and teachers of students selected by the BSE for the sample group. The goal is to determine if the Local Education Agency (LEA) involves parents and professionals in required processes (e.g., Evaluation, IEP development), whether programs and services are being provided, and whether the Charter School provides training to enhance knowledge. Parent and teacher satisfaction with the special education program is also generally assessed.

	# Yes Responses	# No Responses	# of Other Responses
Program Implementation: Regular Ed Teacher Interviews	61	8	1
Program Implementation: Special Ed Teacher Interviews	103	3	30
Program Implementation: Parent Interviews	17	17	10
TOTALS	181	28	41

4. **STUDENT INTERVIEWS**

Results of the student interviews are reflected on the Corrective Action Verification and Improvement Planning document.

**PART II
CORRECTIVE ACTION PROCESS**

PART I of this report presented an overall summary of findings in each major area reviewed by the team. In the Appendix to the report, we have provided you with detailed findings for each of the criteria of the 3 major sections of the compliance monitoring instrument, i.e. FSA, File Review, and Parent and Teacher Interviews. The detailed report of findings in the Appendix includes:

- Criteria Number
- Statements of all requirements
- Whether each requirement was met, was not met, or was not applicable
- Statements of corrective action required for those criteria not met

Upon receipt of this report, the Charter School should review the corrective actions and improvement planning required. The Report is formatted so that findings from all components of the monitoring are consolidated by topical area. The Report lists the finding, and whether corrective action is required. For certain types of findings, corrective action will be prescribed, and will not vary from Charter School to Charter School. For example, if the finding is that the Charter School lacks a specific required policy, it is

reasonable to have the BSE prescribe a standardized remedy and timeline for correcting this deficiency. However, the majority of corrective action activities will be individually designed by the Charter School based on their own unique circumstances and goals. The Single Point of Contact (SPOC) will schedule an on-site visit with the Charter School within 60 days following issuance of the monitoring report. The SPOC, Charter School, and PaTTAN staff will develop a Charter School Compliance Plan for corrective action. The Charter School will recommend a corrective action strategy and timeline. All corrective action for findings of non-compliance must be accomplished within one year of the date of the monitoring report. PaTTAN and IU TAC staff are available to assist the Charter School. The Charter School proposes corrective action activities and the SPOC and Charter School mutually agree upon the Compliance Plan for Corrective Action. With respect to the File Review, because students were selected at random, findings are generalized to the entire population of students with disabilities. During the corrective action review, the SPOC will select students at random and not focus on those students in the original sample. Consequently, the Charter School should approach corrective action on a systemic basis. Exceptions are found in the Special Education Teacher Interview, item #64, and Parent Interview, item #39. If there has been a finding of noncompliance regarding the appropriateness or implementation of an individual student's program, the individual students are identified by student number and, because of the significance of the provision of a free appropriate public education (FAPE) to these students, the Charter School must take immediate, individual corrective action.

Upon conclusion of the corrective action process, the Charter School will be notified of its successful completion of the monitoring process.