



PENNSYLVANIA DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION
333 MARKET STREET
HARRISBURG, PA 17126-0333

Bureau of Special Education
717-783-2311

TTD: 717-787-7367
FAX: 717-783-6139
PENN*LINK: PASE

April 4, 2007

Ms. Nilsa Gonzalez
Superintendent
EMO SD
440 North Broad Street
Philadelphia, PA 19130

Dear Ms. Gonzalez:

Enclosed is the Report of Findings presenting results of the cyclical monitoring which was conducted by the Bureau of Special Education (BSE) in the EMO SD the week of March 6, 2007.

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, and results of interviews of staff and parents can be found in the Appendix. The school district must complete corrective action within the calendar days as outlined in the Corrective Action Verification/School District Compliance Plan developed with the Single Point of Contact (SPOC). Follow-up onsite reviews verifying the district's completion of corrective action will be conducted by the BSE. The SPOC will contact the district to schedule the initial visit within 60 days of issuance of the monitoring report.

34 CFR 300.556 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- Disapproval or rescinded approval of the local special education plan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 district is unwilling to provide appropriate services

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

If you have any questions about this report, contact Eugene Stolle, 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
SD Monitoring File