

**OKLAHOMA STATE DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION
SANDY GARRETT
STATE SUPERINTENDENT OF PUBLIC INSTRUCTION**

COMPLIANCE REVIEW: SPECIAL EDUCATION PROGRAMS

SCHOOL DISTRICT/AGENCY:

Dickson Public School District

TEAM MEMBERS:

Kathryn Crutchfield	Coordinator, OSDE-SES
Keisha King	Coordinator, OSDE-SES
Tina Crow	Coordinator, OSDE-SES
Christa Knight	Monitoring Project Coordinator, OSDE-SES

COUNTY:

Carter

DATE OF REVIEW

October 28, 2009

I. INTRODUCTION:

Local educational agencies (LEAs) must adopt policies and procedures consistent with State and federal requirements and are responsible for implementing programs that comply with the Individuals with Disabilities Education Act (IDEA) Part B. General supervision of LEAs is carried out at the state level. The Oklahoma State Department of Education (OSDE), Special Education Services (SES) conducted an on-site compliance review on October 28, 2009.

Dickson Public School District is an independent district serving 170 children with disabilities, ages three through 21, as reported on their October 2008, Child Count Report. At the time of the review, Dickson Public School District employed seven special education teachers who have certification in one or more of the following area(s): learning disability, mentally handicapped, mild/moderate disabilities, other health impairment, physically handicapped, severe/profound/multiple disabilities, and traumatic brain injury. The district has a contract for services in the area of speech language pathology.

II. AREAS THAT REQUIRE CORRECTIVE ACTIONS AND IMPROVEMENT:

1) Area of Noncompliance: Record of Parent Contact

IDEA Part B Requirements

34 CFR § 300.322 Parent participation.

OSDE Findings:

Based on one of 16 files reviewed, the Record of Parent Contact, OSDE Draft Form 2, could not be located or the LEA did not have current documentation of its attempts to arrange meetings, results of telephone calls, copies of correspondence, or detailed records of visits.

Improvements Required:

Within 30 days of the receipt of this report, Dickson Public School District will develop, implement, and submit a written improvement plan. This plan shall demonstrate how the district will document parent contact in the future. This improvement plan shall include methods of internal monitoring, safeguards, the person(s) responsible for the implementation, and the date of implementation.

2) Area of Noncompliance: Parent Notice/Consent for Evaluation

IDEA Part B Requirements

34 CFR § 300.300 Parental consent.

OSDE Findings:

Based on two of 16 files reviewed, the Parent Notice/Consent for Evaluation, OSDE Draft Form 4, could not be located.

Improvements Required:

Within 30 days of the receipt of this report, Dickson Public School District will develop, implement, and submit a written improvement plan. This plan shall document how the district will ensure that parents are fully informed of all information relevant to the evaluation components for which consent is sought. This improvement plan shall include methods of internal monitoring, safeguards, the person(s) responsible for the implementation, and the date of implementation.

3) Area of Noncompliance: Evaluation and Reevaluation

IDEA Part B Requirements

- 34 CFR § 300.303 Reevaluations.
- 34 CFR § 300.304 Evaluation procedures.
- 34 CFR § 300.305 Additional requirements for evaluations and reevaluations.

OSDE Findings:

Based on two of 16 files reviewed, the Review of Existing Data (RED), OSDE Draft Form 3, could not be located. Based on one of 16 files reviewed, the Multidisciplinary Evaluation and Eligibility Group Summary (MEEGS), OSDE Draft Form 5, for initial evaluation was not completed within the 45 school day timeline. Based on one of 16 files reviewed, the MEEGS, OSDE Draft Form 5, team signatures were incomplete. Based on five of 16 files reviewed, the MEEGS, OSDE Draft Form 5, components were not appropriately documented. Based on three of 16 files reviewed, reevaluations were completed past the three-year timeline. Based on one of 16 files reviewed, reevaluations were not appropriately documented.

Improvements Required:

Within 30 days of the receipt of this report, Dickson Public School District will develop, implement, and submit a written improvement plan. This plan shall document how the district will provide students with evaluations/reevaluations in accordance with the above federal regulations. This improvement plan shall include methods of internal monitoring, safeguards, the person(s) responsible for the implementation, and the date of implementation.

Within 60 days of the receipt of this report, the Individualized Education Program (IEP) team for the student(s) identified during the OSDE-SES review with evaluations/reevaluations that were missing or not appropriately documented will convene a meeting to ensure that the students receive an evaluation/reevaluation in accordance with the above federal regulations. Submit documentation to verify this action (i.e., RED, OSDE Draft Form 3; Parent Notice/Consent for Evaluation, OSDE Draft Form 4; MEEGS, OSDE Draft Form 5; Notification of Meeting, OSDE Draft Form 6; and Prior Written Notice to Parents, OSDE Draft Form 8).

Within 60 days of the receipt of this report, Dickson Public School District will provide instruction and guidance to district special education personnel regarding proper evaluation/reevaluation procedures, timelines, and utilization of the RED, OSDE Draft Form 3; Parent Notice/Consent for Evaluation, OSDE Draft Form 4; MEEGS, OSDE Draft Form 5; Notification of Meeting, OSDE Draft Form 6; and Prior Written Notice to Parents, OSDE Draft Form 8, in accordance with the above federal regulations. This activity shall be scheduled and confirmed with the OSDE-SES. Submit documentation to verify this action (i.e., memo announcement(s), meeting agenda(s), meeting date(s), verification of attendance [sign-in sheets]).

4) Area of Noncompliance: Notification of Meeting

IDEA Part B Requirements

- 34 CFR § 300.321 IEP Team.
- 34 CFR § 300.322 Parent participation.

OSDE Findings:

Based on one of 16 files reviewed, a Notification of Meeting, OSDE Draft Form 6, could not be located.

Improvements Required:

Within 30 days of the receipt of this report, Dickson Public School District will develop, implement, and submit a written improvement plan. This plan shall document how the district will ensure that the Notification of Meeting, OSDE Draft Form 6, is utilized in accordance with the above federal regulations. This improvement plan shall include methods of internal monitoring, safeguards, the person(s) responsible for the implementation, and the date of implementation.

Within 60 days of the receipt of this report, Dickson Public School District will provide instruction and guidance to district special education personnel regarding the completion of the Notification of Meeting, OSDE Draft Form 6, in accordance with the above federal regulations. This activity shall be scheduled and confirmed with the OSDE-SES. Submit documentation to verify this action (i.e., memo announcement(s), meeting agenda(s), meeting date(s), verification of attendance [sign-in sheets]).

5) Area of Noncompliance: IEP Timelines

IDEA Part B Requirements

- 34 CFR § 300.323 When IEPs must be in effect.
- 34 CFR § 300.324 Development, review, and revision of IEP.

OSDE Findings:

Based on four of 16 files reviewed, an IEP, OSDE Draft Form 7, was not conducted on or before the anniversary date of the IEP.

Improvements Required:

Within 30 days of the receipt of this report, Dickson Public School District will develop, implement, and submit a written improvement plan. This plan shall document how the district will ensure that IEPs are reviewed and revised in accordance with the above federal regulations. This improvement plan shall include methods of internal monitoring, safeguards, the person(s) responsible for the implementation, and the date of implementation.

Within 60 days of the receipt of this report, Dickson Public School District will provide instruction and guidance to district special education personnel on required IEP procedures, and timelines in accordance with the above federal regulations. This activity shall be scheduled and confirmed with the OSDE-SES. Submit documentation to verify this action (i.e., memo announcement(s), meeting agenda(s), meeting date(s), verification of attendance [sign-in sheets]).

6) Area of Noncompliance: IEP Components

IDEA Part B Requirements

- 34 CFR § 300.43 Transition services.
- 34 CFR § 300.114 LRE requirements.
- 34 CFR § 300.320 Definition of individualized education program.
- 34 CFR § 300.324 Development, review, and revision of IEP.

OSDE Findings:

Based on file reviews, IEP components were missing and/or inappropriate in one or more of the following areas:

- a) present levels of performance; (three of 16 files)
- b) consideration of special factors; (one of 16 files)
- c) measurable annual goals; (two of 16 files)
- d) benchmarks and/or short term objectives; (three of 16 files)
- e) measures for progress in annual goals; (five of 16 files)
- f) methods of informing parents of progress toward annual goals; (two of 16 files)
- g) frequency of reporting progress to parent; (one of 16 files)
- h) documentation of progress toward current annual goals; (eight of 16 files)
- i) extent of progress toward previous annual goals; (seven of 16 files)
- j) continuum of placement (LRE continuum); (three of 16 files)

- k) amount/time/frequency of services; (four of 16 files)
- l) projected starting and expected duration dates; (two of 16 files)
- m) position/person responsible; (two of 16 files)
- n) extent of nonparticipation in general education curriculum or age appropriate activities; (three of 16 files)
- o) amount of time in general education setting; (one of 16 files)
- p) instructional day the same length as nondisabled peers; (one of 16 files)
- q) supplementary aids and services, program modifications, supports for personnel; (one of 16 files)
- r) transition services, postsecondary goal(s); (one of 16 files)
- s) transition services, course of study; (two of 16 files)
- t) transition services, information for vocational education; (one of 16 files)
- u) transition services, goals and coordinated activities; (one of 16 files)
- v) participation in state/districtwide assessment; (one of 16 files)
- w) state and districtwide assessment accommodations and modifications; (one of 16 files)
- x) LRE, potential harmful effects; (two of 16 files)
- y) LRE, removal from general education environment; (four of 16 files)
- z) team participant signatures; (three of 16 files)
- aa) parents rights/translation/interpretation; (two of 16 files)

Improvements Required:

Within 30 days of the receipt of this report, Dickson Public School District will develop, implement, and submit a written improvement plan. This plan shall document how the district will ensure that IEPs are developed in accordance with the above federal regulations. This improvement plan shall include methods of internal monitoring, safeguards, the person(s) responsible for the implementation, and the date of implementation.

Within 60 days of the receipt of this report, the IEP team for the student(s) identified during the OSDE-SES review with components of the IEP found to be in noncompliance shall convene a meeting to ensure that the student's IEP reflect compliance with the above federal regulations. Submit documentation to verify this action (i.e., Notification of Meeting, OSDE Draft Form 6; IEP, OSDE Draft Form 7; Prior Written Notice to Parents, OSDE Draft Form 8).

Within 60 days of the receipt of this report, Dickson Public School District will provide instruction and guidance to district special education personnel on proper completion of the IEP utilizing the Policies and Procedures for Special Education in Oklahoma, 2007. This activity shall be scheduled and confirmed with the OSDE-SES. Submit documentation to verify this action (i.e., memo announcement(s), meeting agenda(s), meeting date(s), verification of attendance [sign-in sheets]).

7) Area of Noncompliance: Child Count

IDEA Part B Requirements

34 CFR § 300.8 Child with a disability.

34 CFR § 300.201 Consistency with State policies.

Policies and Procedures for Special Education in Oklahoma, 2007

OSDE Findings:

Based on two of 16 files reviewed and the October 2008, Child Count Report submitted by Dickson Public School District, the student's category was inconsistent with the reported child count data.

Improvements Required:

Within 30 days of the receipt of this report, Dickson Public School District will review the district's child count records, and develop, implement, and submit a written improvement plan. This plan shall document how the district will ensure the accuracy of district child count data submissions. This improvement plan shall include methods of internal monitoring, safeguards, the person(s) responsible for the implementation, and the date of implementation.

III. ASSURANCE STATEMENT:

Assurance Statement with superintendent's signature required.

Within 30 days of the receipt of this report, submit a signed, written assurance that the improvements described in this report will be or have been implemented to remedy the identified compliance deficiencies.

Content: *“This district shall develop and implement improvements for areas of noncompliance in order to comply with State and federal laws and regulations. Improvements and remedies will include ‘technical assistance and training’ necessary to assist teachers and administrators of the district in their efforts to implement a free appropriate public education (FAPE) in the least restrictive environment, with parent participation, and in accordance with procedural safeguards under IDEA Part B.”*

IV. OTHER INFORMATION:

Subsequent monitoring activities may be initiated as necessary to ensure the LEA's compliance is consistent with policies, procedures, and regulations and in accordance with the state educational agency's responsibilities required by 34 CFR § 300.149.

Under the Open Records Act, it may be necessary for the LEA or the OSDE to provide access to this public document upon request. In the event that the OSDE receives such a request, it will seek to protect, to the extent provided by law, personally identifiable information, which, if released, could constitute an unwarranted invasion of privacy and confidentiality.

In accordance with 34 CFR § 300.212, Public Information, the LEA will make such public documents, relating to the eligibility of the agency under IDEA Part B, available to the parents of children with disabilities and to the general public, as necessary.