

February 14, 2003

John J. Aherne  
Superintendent of Schools  
Abington Public Schools  
One Ralph Hamlin Lane  
Abington, MA 02351-2003

Re: Onsite Follow-up Monitoring Report:  
Coordinated Program Review Corrective Action Plan Verification  
and Special Education Mid-cycle Review

Dear Superintendent Aherne:

Enclosed is the Department's Coordinated Program Review Follow-up Monitoring Report together with findings regarding your district's Coordinated Program Review Mid-cycle Review. This report contains the Department's findings based on the onsite activities conducted in your school district to verify the implementation status and effectiveness of corrective steps taken in response to your Coordinated Program Review Report issued on December 13, 2000. This report also includes a report on the status of implementation for new state or federal special education requirements enacted since your district's last Coordinated Program Review.

We are pleased to indicate that the Department of Education has found your district's approved Corrective Action Plan to be substantially implemented and effective in remedying previously identified noncompliance issues in the areas of Civil Rights and Methods of Administration. Additionally, we have determined that your district is in substantial compliance with any new state or federal special education requirements enacted since your last Coordinated Program Review. The findings of the Department are included in the attached Follow-up Monitoring Report. You and your entire staff are to be congratulated for your efforts in implementing all necessary improvements.

The Department will notify you of your district's next regularly scheduled Coordinated Program Review several months before it is to occur. At this time we anticipate the Department's next routine monitoring visit to occur sometime during the FY 2006, unless the Department determines that there is some reason to schedule this visit earlier.

Your staff's cooperation throughout these Follow-up Monitoring activities is appreciated. Should you require additional clarification of information included in our report, please do not hesitate to contact the Onsite Team Chairperson at 781-338-3714.

Sincerely,

Nancy Hicks, Coordinated Program Review Follow-up Chairperson  
Program Quality Assurance Services

John D. Stager, Administrator  
Program Quality Assurance Services

c: David P. Driscoll, Commissioner of Education  
Wayne Rogers, School Committee Chairperson  
Joanne Haley-Sullivan, District Program Review Follow-up Coordinator

Encl.: Follow-up Monitoring Report

**MASSACHUSETTS DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION  
COORDINATED PROGRAM REVIEW**

**Abington Public Schools**

**ONSITE VERIFICATION OF CORRECTIVE ACTION PLAN IMPLEMENTATION  
AND/OR IDENTIFICATION OF ADDITIONAL FINDINGS REQUIRING CORRECTIVE ACTION**

**Action Plan Submitted on February 27, 2000  
Progress Reports Submitted on March 2, 2000  
Onsite Visit Conducted on February 4 and 5, 2003  
Date of this Report February 14, 2003**

Criterion Number and Topic from CPR Final Report	Criterion Determined to be <u>Substantially Implemented</u>  ö	Method(s) of Verification	Comments Regarding Implementation	Corrective Action Plan Determined to be <u>Not Fully Implemented</u> or <u>Additional Issues Identified</u>  ö	Findings Regarding Incomplete Implementation of Approved Corrective Action Plan or Identification of Additional Issues of Noncompliance	Further Corrective Action Ordered by the Department of Education and Timelines for Implementation and Further Progress Reporting
SE 1 Assessment Selection	Yes	Documentation, Student Records, Interview	Assessments are appropriately selected and interpreted, use information from a variety of sources and ensure that placement decisions conform with placement in the least restriction environment.			
SE 2 Required/ Optional Assessments	Yes	Documentation, Student Records, Interview	The district ensures that parents are consulted regarding the assessments and evaluators to be used. It is also noted that the district routinely sends summaries of evaluations to parents prior to a Team meeting.			

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SE 3 Require- ments  Specific Learning Disability	Yes	Documenta- tion, Student Records, and Interview	The district utilizes a form to ensure and document that all requirements of the determination of a specific learning disability have been addressed.			
SE 5 MCAS Participation	Yes	Documenta- tion, Student Records, and Interview	The district follows DOE guidelines in their practices for participation of disabled students in the MCAS program and Team chairpersons are provided guidance regarding testing accommodations.			
SE 6 Transition Services	Yes	Documenta- tion, Student Records, and Interview	Student's IEPs demonstrate that the district meets required elements of transitional planning by seeking student input, providing services, and by considering a course of study in relationship to future goals.			

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SE 7 Transfer or Parental Rights at age of majority	Yes	Documenta- tion, Student Records, and Interview	Policies and procedures are in place to meet the requirements of this criterion. The age of majority discussion is properly documented in students' IEPs.			
SE 8 Evaluation Team composition	Yes	Documenta- tion, Student Records, and Interview	Documentation indicates that parents are consistently in attendance at Team meetings and outside agency representatives are present when appropriate.			
SE 9 Eligibility Determina- tion/ Timelines	Yes	Documenta- tion, Student Records, and Interview	The district meets timelines when determining eligibility. The district is developing procedures to ensure that the parent consistently receives a copy of the IEP within 3-5 days of the Team meeting.			

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SE 11 Independent Educational Evaluation	Yes	Documentation, Student Records, and Interview	The district has policies in place to determine a child's eligibility for an independent educational evaluation at public expense; however, there have been none requested during this past school year.			
SE 15 Outreach/ Child Find McKinney-Vento Act	Yes	Documentation, Student Records, and Interview	The district has a homeless liaison and requirements of the Act have been met.			
SE 18 A IEP development and content	Yes	Documentation, Student Records, and Interview	The District uses the most current IEP format and follows the required procedures to develop the IEP services, goals and objectives and in the determination of placement. Each Team meeting has a member present with the authority to commit the district's resources.			

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SE 18B Immediate provision of IEP to parent  Placement determination	Yes	Documenta- tion, Student Records, and Interview	See SE 9. The district utilizes the most recent form documenting the Team’s determination of student placement and it is provided with the IEP.			
SE 20 Least Restrictive Environment	Yes	Documenta- tion, Student Records, and Interview	Programs and practices are in place that demonstrate the district’s priority in maintaining inclusive programs. When a student is removed from the regular classroom, the justification is clearly documented in the IEP.			
SE 21 School day/school year requirements  ESY	Yes	Documenta- tion, Student Records, and Interview	Documentation indicates that the Team routinely considers the need for a program that is more or less than the regular school day or year. There are a variety of services and programs in place for students who needed an extended school year.			

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SE 22 IEP implementation	Yes	Documentation, Student Records, and Interview	All records examined indicate that students have a signed IEP in place at the beginning of the school year and services are provided without delay.			
SE 24 Parental notice/ Proposals or refusals to act	Yes	Documentation, Student Records, and Interview	Documentation indicates that all requests for an evaluation are responded to as required utilizing the appropriate forms. The district has reviewed all requests for an initial evaluation as required in Administrative Advisory 2002-2.			
SE 25 Parental consent	Yes	Documentation, Student Records, and Interview	The district utilizes the proper notices to inform the parent of a proposed action and to secure parental consent.			
SE 26 Parent participation in meetings	Yes	Documentation, Student Records, and Interview	Documentation indicates the parents are given timely notice of Team meetings. Although no Team meetings in the records examined had Team meetings that did not include a parent, policies are in place to document efforts to obtain parent participation.			

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SE 27 Team meeting notice	Yes	Documentation, Student Records, and Interview	The Team meeting notice contains all required elements.			
SE 28 Notification procedures and safeguards	Yes	Documentation, Student Records, and Interview	The parent leaves the IEP meeting with a draft copy of the IEP. The notice of no eligibility contains all required elements and parents receive information regarding their rights. See SE 18 A.			
SE 29 Communication in primary language of the home	Yes	Documentation, Student Records, and Interview	The district has no students whose primary language is not English in special education programs. Policies are in place to meet the requirements.			
SE 30 Notice of Parent's Rights	Yes	Documentation, Student Records, and Interview	The district utilizes the most current version of the Massachusetts Parent's Rights Brochure.			

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SE 32 PAC	Yes	Documentation, Student Records, and Interview	The district has an established PAC, by-laws are in place and members have had an opportunity to participate in the special education program planning and evaluation through a parent survey.			
SE 34 Continuum of alternative services/ placements	Yes	Documentation, Student Records, and Interview	The district has a variety of programs available to meet the needs of disabled students which include among others: a full day pre- kindergarten program, programs for students with language based disabilities, programs for students with emotional impairment at all levels and programs providing vocational opportunities for students not attending a vocational/technical school.			
SE 36 IEP implementation/ Out of District placements	Yes	Documentation, Student Records, and Interview	All records of students in Out of District Placements, indicate that the district oversees in an ongoing manner the full implementation of the IEPs.			

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SE 37 Approved/ unapproved programs	Yes	Documenta- tion, Student Records, and Interview	The district implements required procedures regarding approved and unapproved programs			
SE 38 ESIS	Yes	Interview	The district has no students in an institutional setting at this time; but, they demonstrate an awareness of their responsibilities for such a student			
SE 39 Private schools/pri- vate expense	Yes	Documenta- tion, Student Records, and Interview	The district has practices in place to meet this criterion and they demonstrated that they provide services to eligible students enrolled in a private school at private expense.			
SE 43 Behavioral interventions	Yes	Documenta- tion, Student Records, and Interview	The district demonstrated an understanding of their responsibilities in developing behavioral interventions and in conducting functional behavioral assessments.			

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SE 46 Suspensions of students with disabilities	Yes	Documenta- tion, Student Records, and Interview	The district tracks the number of suspensions of students with disabilities and they demonstrate an understanding of the requirements for a manifestation determination and other discipline procedures.			
SE 47 Procedural requirements for students not yet determined eligible	Yes	Documenta- tion, Student Records, and Interview	The district has procedures in place to meet the requirements when disciplining a student not yet determined to be eligible for special education.			
SE 48 FAPE  Access to vocational and counseling services	Yes	Documenta- tion, Student Records, and Interview	The district provides vocational programming and counseling services when the Team recommends them.			
SE 49 Related services	Yes	Documenta- tion, Student Records, and Interview	The district provides related services whenever the Team recommends them.			

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SE 49A Special Transportation	Yes	Documentation, Student Records, and Interview	Practices are in place to provide special transportation for students with disabilities.			
SE 50 Responsibilities of School Principal and Administrator of Special Education	Yes	Documentation and Interview	The district has a DCAP in place that contains the required elements. There is a low incidence of students with limited English proficiency but there is an awareness of the district's responsibility to these students. Policy is in place to provide for home and hospital programs.			
SE 54 Professional development	Yes	Documentation and Interview	The district provides staff training for teachers and paraprofessionals covering the required topics in special education.			
SE 56 Evaluation of special education programs and services	Yes	Documentation and Interview	The district compiles information from parent surveys and they study the results of standardized tests to evaluate the effectiveness of their programs and services.			

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MOA 24	Yes	Interview	The district has developed and continues to utilize a procedure to ensure that teachers review instructional educational materials for simplistic and demeaning generalizations, lacking intellectual merit on the basis of disability, race, color, sex, religion, national origin and sexual orientation.			