



State of New Jersey
DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION
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TRENTON, NJ 08625-0500

CHRIS CHRISTIE
Governor

KIM GUADAGNO
Lt. Governor

DAVID C. HESPE
Acting Commissioner

September 5, 2014

Dr. Anne Mucci, Chief School Administrator
Mountain Lakes School District
400 Boulevard
Mt Lakes, NJ 07046

Dear Dr. Mucci:

This correspondence is to inform you that your district has been determined to “**meet requirements**” with regard to implementation of special education requirements for the 2012-2013 school year. This determination is based on the following criteria:

- **The district does not have outstanding noncompliance that has remained uncorrected for more than one calendar year;**
- **The district was not identified for significant disproportionality with regard to the representation of specific racial/ethnic groups in special education for the 2012-2013 school year;**
- **The district was not selected for a targeted review or monitoring based on a high rate of students with disabilities in separate public or private educational settings; and**
- **The district was not identified for untimely or inaccurate submission of student data regarding students with disabilities.**

Pursuant to the Individuals with Disabilities Education Act (IDEA 2004), Section 616(a)(1)(C)(i), states are required to issue a determination annually, of each local school district, regarding the correction of any identified noncompliance with special education requirements. In accordance with this requirement, the New Jersey Department of Education, Office of Special Education Programs (NJOSEP), has reviewed your district’s data relevant to the criteria listed above and detailed in the enclosure and has made the determination that your district meets requirements. The district should maintain administrative oversight in order to ensure continued compliance with special education requirements.

Annual Public Report of Local District Performance

In fulfillment of the requirements of the Individuals with Disabilities Education Act (IDEA 2004), under section 616(b)(2)(C)(ii)(1), each state must report annually to the public on the performance of each local school district in relation to state targets reported in the New Jersey State Performance Plan (SPP)/Annual Performance Report (APR). Pursuant to 34 C.F.R. §300.602(b)(1)(i)(A), as amended effective December 31, 2008, annual public

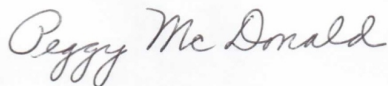
reporting with respect to each local education agency (LEA) in the state, must occur as soon as practicable, but no later than 120 days following the state's Annual Public Report (APR) submission to the United States Department of Education, Office of Special Education Programs (USOSEP).

As required by the USOSEP, the New Jersey SPP/APR was submitted on February 1, 2014, and the state was required to post on its website, no later than **June 1, 2014**, the 2012-2013 public report for each local district and charter school. Your district's public report can be found on the New Jersey Department of Education website at: <http://www.state.nj.us/education/specialed/sppi1213/>.

The public reporting of state and local district data and the determination process are intended to focus attention on student outcomes and compliance requirements, inform areas of need for continuous improvement and provide trend data for state and district planning.

I appreciate your continued efforts to enhance programs and services for students with disabilities.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Peggy McDonald". The signature is written in black ink on a white background.

Peggy McDonald, Director
Office of Special Education Programs

PM/dw

Enclosure

c: Susan Martz
Rosalie S. Lamonte
Sandra Gogerty
Janet Wright
Ron Karsen

New Jersey Department of Education
Office of Special Education Programs

**Criteria for State Determinations of Local District Performance
July 2014**

NJOSEP considered the following factors in making determinations of local districts:

- Whether the local district corrected noncompliance, identified through monitoring or other general supervisory activities, no later than one year after the state’s identification, for special education requirements related to one or more of the following areas:
 - Discipline policies, procedures and practices;
 - Disproportionate representation of racial and ethnic groups in special education and related services that is the result of inappropriate identification;
 - Disproportionate representation of racial and ethnic groups in special education in specific disability categories that is the result of inappropriate identification;
 - Children with parental consent to evaluate, who were evaluated within the state’s established timeline;
 - Children referred by Part C prior to age three who were found eligible for Part B, and who have an IEP developed and implemented by their third birthdays;
 - Youth aged 16 and above with an IEP that includes coordinated, measurable, annual goals and transition services that will reasonably enable the student to meet the post-secondary goals; and
 - Placement in the Least Restrictive Environment.
- Whether the local district demonstrated “Significant Disproportionality” of specific racial/ethnic groups with regard to eligibility, placement and/or disciplinary determinations, based on three consecutive years of trend data and is therefore required to allocate 15 percent of its IDEA award for Coordinated Early Intervening Services;
- Whether the local district was identified for the special education monitoring process based on the percentage of students with disabilities educated in separate public and/or private special education settings based on trend data and continues to be significantly above the state target;
- Whether the local district’s data submissions were received by NJOSEP in a timely manner; and
- IDEA audit findings.