



ARKANSAS DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION

June 27, 2012

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Commissioner

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Mr. Norman Hill, Interim Superintendent
Crossett School District
219 Main St.
Crossett, AR 71635

Dear Mr. Hill:

On March 28 - 30, 2012, the special education program of the Crossett School District was officially monitored. The information contained in this report reflects the findings regarding the district's compliance with state and federal regulations governing programs for students with disabilities. During the monitoring visit, a random sample of 25 folders was selected and reviewed. Other on-site and off-site data, including December 1 child count, were reviewed. Classroom observations and interviews were conducted.

The review of the Crossett School District's implementation of state and federal regulations governing educational programs for the disabled verified the district's substantial compliance with said requirements. The district is commended for being in substantial compliance with state and federal regulations in each of the following areas:

1. Child Find
2. Due Process
3. Protection in Evaluation Procedures
4. Procedures for Evaluating Specific Learning Disabilities
5. Individualized Education Programs
6. Free Appropriate Public Education
7. Least Restrictive Environment
8. Confidentiality of Information
9. System of Personnel Development
10. Children With Disabilities in Private Schools
11. Use of Funds

It is the intention of the Special Education Unit that this information will assist the Crossett School District in further developing its special education program. Please contact me if I can be of additional assistance.

Respectfully,

Josephine Buffington, Area Supervisor
Monitoring/Program Effectiveness
Special Education

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cc: Lisa Haley, Administrator, Monitoring/Program Effectiveness
Lisa Bryant, LEA Supervisor
File

Special Education Program

As of October 1, 2012, the Crossett School District had a child count of 171 students identified as in need of special education services. These services cannot be provided without the highly qualified 18 certified and the 16 classified staff members contracted with the district.

The Individuals with Disabilities Education Act (IDEA) requires local educational agencies to provide the continuum of services. All of our services are based on and determined by the "I" in the IDEA.

The Crossett School District's Special Education Budget is as follows:

VI-B	\$489, 865.00
Private School	\$7, 451.00
Medicaid	\$191, 657.00
ARMAC	\$116, 191.34
Catastrophic	\$70, 466.99
Extended School Year	\$6,000.00

Performance

The office of Special Education Programs in the US Department of Education requires that States report annually to the public on the performance of each local education agency and its comparison with the targets established by the State's Performance Plan.

Arkansas Special Education District Annual Performance Report 2010/11 School Year: Publication Date: March 2012

The Crossett School District met the state's targets in *all* of the compliance indicators reported:

Indicator 4B Suspension/Expulsion by Race and Ethnicity

Indicator 09 Disproportionality-Eligibility (inappropriate identification & eligibility)

Indicator 10 Disproportionality-Child with a Disability (specific category)

Indicator 11 Child Find (60 Day timeline)

Indicator 20 Timely and Accurate Data Reporting

Although the Crossett School District met the state's target for all of the compliance indicators, the local educational agency received a notification letter dated for September 10, 2012, that an analysis of the 2010-11 discipline data from our district suggested that there was a significant difference between the rate of suspensions/expulsions exceeding 10 days within a school year for students with disabilities (SWD) and that of general education students. As a result of this analysis the Crossett School District is to complete and submit a Self-Assessment of the district's procedures and practices to ensure that they have not resulted in the inappropriate suspension/expulsion of special education students (Indicator 4A).

On the afternoon of September 18, 2012, a group of building administrators, the ALE Director, a special education teacher, the District Social Worker and I met at the TIPS Center to conduct the self-assessment. As a result of the assessment, we determined that the district utilizes other alternatives to Out of School Suspensions and Expulsions. The self-assessment did result in determining the need for crisis management training for staff and administrators

Arkansas Department of Education Onsite Special Education Monitoring Results

The Crossett School District received its notification letter dated June 27, 2012, that the Onsite Monitoring conducted March 28-30, 2012, was to be commended for being in substantial compliance with state and federal regulations governing educational programs for the disabled in the following areas:

Child Find, Due Process, Protection in Evaluation Procedures, Procedures for Evaluating Specific Learning Disabilities, Individualized Education Programs, Appropriate Public Education, Least Restrictive Environment, Confidentiality of Information, System of Personnel Development, Children with Disabilities in Private Schools and its Use of Funds

Alternate Portfolio Assessment Results

The Crossett School District's Alternate Portfolio Assessments submitted in March 2012 indicated that *all* alternate portfolio assessments submitted for 9th grade math and 11th grade Literacy scored at the Functional Independence (FI) and/ or Independence (I) Level of performance. For grades 3-8, 5 out of 11, scored at the FI/I level in Math, 2 out of 11 in Literacy and 2 out of 4 in Science.

Current achievement data for students who participated in the regular assessment is reported by each campus within their subpopulation achievement data reports.

Technology

Beginning this year, every self-contained classroom, resource room and speech therapy classroom will have an iPad and laptop available as an instructional tool for students with special needs. Lisa Sharp and her staff are working diligently to mass load multiple applications for student use.

Secondary Transition

Our special education and related services staff take the lead in ensuring that students with special needs have a smooth transition. Our local transition team, known as the "Dream Team," consists of parents, students, staff and community members. Members of our transition team traveled this month to Hot Springs to attend the Transition Summit hosted by the Arkansas Department of Education. Participation in the Summit allowed for the Dream Team to plan and network with other transition teams throughout the state to bring back ideas on resources that are available to our students and how we can access those resources to better improve our transition services here in Crossett.

For the 2011/12 School Year, the Crossett School District reported 8 out of 8 12th grade students as graduating.

William Arthur Ward wrote,

"If you can imagine it, you can achieve it; if you can dream it, you can become it.