



Cycle 2 Group 2

Dates: January 2021-March 2021

TEXAS EDUCATION AGENCY 2020-2021 CYCLICAL MONITORING REPORT MCALLEN INDEPENDENT SCHOOL DISTRICT

CDN: 108906

Non-Compliance Identified

Corrective Actions To Be Completed

INTRODUCTION

The Texas Education Agency (TEA) would like to extend appreciation to McAllen Independent School District for their efforts, attention, and time committed to the completion of the review process.

The TEA has developed a monitoring approach that reviews compliance-based indicators while also looking for best practices. In commitment to the approach, the cyclical monitoring report will provide the results of the LEA's compliance review related to the Individuals with Disabilities Education Act (IDEA) and federal and state statutes, a summary of data related to Results-Driven Accountability (RDA), State Performance Plan (SPP), Significant Disproportionality (SD), and dyslexia program evaluation recommend targeted technical assistance and support for LEAs related to special education, and highlight best practices of LEAs that demonstrate success.

CYCLICAL MONITORING

The TEA conducts cyclical reviews of all LEAs statewide over six years. The purpose of cyclical monitoring is to support positive outcomes for students with disabilities and to determine compliance with special education regulations and dyslexia program regulations.

LEAs are required to submit artifacts and/or sources of evidence for compliance and promising practices review in the following areas:

- Child Find/Evaluation/FAPE
- IEP Development
- IEP Content
- IEP Implementation
- State Assessment
- Properly Constituted ARD Committees
- Transition

2020–2021 CYCLICAL REVIEW COMPLIANCE SUMMARY

On January 22, 2021, the TEA conducted a policy review of McAllen Independent School District. On February 25, 2021, the TEA conducted a comprehensive desk review of McAllen Independent School District. The total number of files reviewed for the McAllen Independent School District comprehensive desk review was 24. The review found overall that 9 files out of 24 files were

compliant. An overview of the policy review and student file review for McAllen Independent School District are organized in the chart below by indicating the number of compliant findings within the reviewed file submissions related to the compliance area. Itemized details of these findings are in the appendix:

Compliance Area	Policy Review (# compliant of # reviewed)	Student File Review (# compliant of # reviewed)
Child Find/Evaluation/FAPE	19 of 19	24 of 24
IEP Development	5 of 5	14 of 24
IEP Content	3 of 3	24 of 24
IEP Implementation	21 of 21	24 of 24
Properly Constituted ARD	8 of 8	24 of 24
State Assessment	4 of 4	19 of 24
Transition	6 of 6	9 of 10

2020-2021 DYSLEXIA COMPLIANCE SUMMARY

The dyslexia monitoring process focuses on three-core elements: early identification and intervention, program of instruction, and parent notification. The TEA Department of Review and Support: Dyslexia Monitoring reviewed McAllen Independent School District artifacts using a program evaluation protocol which is aligned to Senate Bill 2075 of the 86th Legislature, Texas Education Code (TEC) 38.003 (c-1), and 19 Texas Administrative Code (TAC) Chapter 74.28. The 2020-2021 school year results for McAllen Independent School District are in the table below.

On March 26, 2021, the TEA concluded a program evaluation of McAllen ISD. An overview of the evaluation review for McAllen ISD is organized in the chart below.

Areas of Implementation	Compliance Status
Dyslexia Procedures	Met Compliance
Parent Communication	Met Compliance
Screening	Met Compliance
Reading Instruments	Met Compliance
Evaluation and Identification	Met Compliance
Instruction	Met Compliance
Dysgraphia	Met Compliance
Professional Development and Training	Met Compliance

2020-2021 RESIDENTIAL FACILITY INFORMATION

McAllen Independent School District 108906 has 5 of Residential Facilities (RFs) according to RF Tracker 2020 collection. The chart below identifies the RFs which were included in the cyclical review.

RF Name	RF Number	Grade Level(s)
A World for Children- Anastacio Valdez	261187	PK-12
Circle of Living Hope- Held- Escareno	260147	PK-12
A World for Children- Alston	260535	PK-12
A World for Children	261985	PK-12
D&S Community Services	262053	PK-12

DATA SUMMARY OF RESULTS-DRIVEN ACCOUNTABILITY, STATE PERFORMANCE PLAN INDICATORS, AND SIGNIFICANT DISPROPORTIONALITY

The following supplemental data may be used to support development of the Strategic Support Plan (SSP) for continuous improvement and/or a Corrective Action Plan (CAP) if noncompliance is identified.

Year	Results-Driven Accountability (RDA) Determination Level	SPP Indicators 11, 12, 13 Compliance*	Significant Disproportionality
2020	DL 2—Needs Assistance	COMPLIANT	N/A

*Indicator 11: Child Find
Indicator 12: Early Childhood Transition
Indicator 13: Secondary Transition

2020-2021 COVID-19 IMPACT NARRATIVE

In the 2020-2021 academic year, Local Education Agencies (LEAs) were provided an opportunity to complete a COVID-19 impact narrative form documenting the practices incorporated to support Child Find and FAPE for students being served by special education programs during the COVID-19 pandemic.

2020-2021 CYCLICAL REVIEW PARENT, TEACHER, ADMINISTRATOR INTERVIEWS/SURVEY

Staff and Family Surveys

On April 1, 2021, the TEA Review and Support team received 279 surveys during the comprehensive desk review.

The Review and Support surveys focused on the following review areas:

Seventy one percent of participants felt they receive sufficient communication from their school. The best way the school/district provides information about (trainings, online trainings, support groups, and other available resources) concerning special education services is via emails, notices sent home, and school website.

Majority of parent/family member participants felt they would be most comfortable attending special education information sessions at the school campus.

Majority of the participants indicated they have a clear understanding of special education services.

The most selected areas of special education the participants would like to know about were School, Family, and Community Engagement network and Child find evaluation and ARD support network.

Most participants felt the training to help meet students' needs with disabilities was extremely effective or effective.

Eighty seven percent of participants felt there were frequent opportunities to collaborate with related service providers and twelve percent felt there was not frequent opportunities to collaborate with service providers.

The obstacles concerning student's special education programming and services were reported as:

- Assuring students receive accommodations and/or modifications as outlined in the IEP.
- Scheduling ARD meetings and timely updates on student progress.
- Knowledge of available services and programs.

Majority of participants agree with the importance of including students' interests/life goals in the transition process, with 56% strongly agreeing.

Many participants indicated they chose the remote learning model. Most participants also reported that remote learning for students receiving special education was somewhat effective.

COVID

Eighty four percent of participants felt that during COVID school closure/remote learning, the Emergency Contingency Plan effectively improved student progress.

During COVID closures, the top three ways indicated that teachers provided support to students with moderate to severe disabilities were:

- Teachers provided supports needed for students to be successful.
- Teachers made regular contact with students and parents to meet academic and emotional needs.
- Teachers modified work and provided individualized support.

Participants indicated that during COVID school closure/remote learning, they needed professional development to provide virtual instruction and the use of virtual platforms.

Participants indicated that during COVID school closure/remote learning strategies, the district's top two supports that did not work well for students with disabilities were online submission for assignments and shared device per family.

More than 81% of participants indicated that they agreed or strongly agreed that school staff worked with parents/guardians in addressing severe behavior and work refusal.

This survey was approved by the Texas Education Agency's data governance board. Participation in

this survey was both voluntary and anonymous. No data was collected identifying a name so that individual responses cannot be linked to any respondent. Participants were given the option to stop the survey at any time.

Strengths

Based on results of the policy review and student file review, along with data collected from LEA staff and family surveys, the Review and Support team identified the following strengths for McAllen Independent School District:

- IEPs are individualized to meet student's specific needs.
- Present Levels of Academic Achievement and Functional Performance (PLAAFPs) are descriptive and provide detailed information along with supportive data.
- Required ARD committee members attend ARDs when appropriate to ensure properly constituted ARDs.

Considerations

Based on results of the policy review and student file review, along with data collected from LEA staff and family surveys, the Review and Support team identified the following considerations for McAllen Independent School District:

- Consider revising procedures and provide additional training on the topic of developing measurable goals with a description on how the student's progress will be measured.
- Consider additional procedures and training on the topic of intensive programs of instruction for students receiving special education services who do not meet expectations on the state assessments.
- Consider revising procedures and provide trainings to allow for development of detailed and individualized transition plans.

TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE

As a result of monitoring, the TEA has identified the following technical assistance resources to support McAllen Independent School District engaging in **universal** support as determined by the RDA performance level data and artifacts within the compliance review:

Topic	Resource
State Assessment: Intensive Program of Instruction	Technical Assistance: IEP Development p.27 : The IEP Development document is part of an ongoing series to provide technical assistance to LEAs from the Texas Education Agency. Accelerated Instruction and Intensive Programs of Instruction
IEP Development: Goals	Technical Assistance: IEP Development p.12 : The IEP Development document is part of an ongoing series to provide technical assistance to LEAs from the Texas Education Agency.
Transition	Transition and Employment Guide (T&E Guide) : Texas Education Agency's T&E Guide per TEC §29.0112 provides information on statewide services and programs that assist in the transition to life outside of the public school system. This guide includes transition services; employment and supported employment services; social security programs; community and long-term services and support; postsecondary educational programs and services; information sharing with health and human services agencies and providers; guardianship, alternatives to guardianship, including a supported decision-making agreement under Chapter 1357, Estates Code; self-advocacy, person-directed planning, and self-determination; and contact information for all relevant state agencies.
School, Family, and Community Engagement Network	https://www.spedtex.org/ The School, Family, and Community Engagement Network (SPEDTEX) – The network provides resources and professional development to build educators' capacity to work collaboratively with families and community members supporting positive outcomes for students with disabilities.

FINDINGS OF NONCOMPLIANCE

A finding is made when noncompliance is identified with the Review and Support report findings, SPP notification, and/or individualized education program (IEP) requirements. Noncompliance that is systemic in nature must be included in a comprehensive corrective action plan (CAP) with action steps to address each of the noncompliance findings. ***When noncompliance has been identified as part of this cyclical review, McAllen Independent School District will receive formal notification of noncompliance in addition to this report.***

The TEA Department of Review and Support will further advise the LEA on the corrective action process, if applicable.

The TEA follows procedures for the correction of noncompliance consistent with federal guidelines (OSEP Memo 09-02.)

Before the TEA can report that noncompliance has been corrected, it must first verify the LEA:

- Has corrected each individual case of noncompliance (Prong 1); and
- Is correctly implementing the specific regulatory requirements (i.e., subsequently achieved

100% compliance) (Prong 2).

The TEA is required to monitor the completion of a corrective action plan if any noncompliance is discovered. The corrective action plan must be designed to correct any and all areas of noncompliance *as soon as possible, but in no case later than one year from the date of notification*.

Corrective Action Plan (CAP)

The LEA will develop a CAP to address any items identified as noncompliance in this summary report. An approved form for the CAP can be accessed on the Review and Support website or in the resources located in Ascend Texas.

The LEA must submit the CAP in Ascend within 30 school days from the date of this report and/or formal notification of noncompliance. The TEA will review the CAP submitted by the LEA for approval. If the TEA determines that a revision(s) is necessary, the LEA will be required to revise and resubmit. The Review and Support team will contact the LEA to provide notification when the CAP has been approved.

Individual Correction

The educational agency has **60 school days** from the date of this summary report to correct all identified findings of noncompliance for individual students, unless noted otherwise in the report.

2020–2021 DYSLEXIA PROGRAM EVALUATION FINDINGS

As a result of the program evaluation review, the TEA Department of Review and Support: Dyslexia Monitoring has identified the following strengths, considerations, and technical assistance recommendations for McAllen ISD.

Areas of Strength

An area of strength for the LEA includes the intentional use of district program audits and checklists to establish districtwide alignment and ongoing training for internal and external stakeholders.

Areas of Consideration

The LEA's dyslexia program is in alignment with state and federal requirements. The following resources are recommended to support the implementation of the dyslexia program, internal systems, and procedures.

Topic	Resource
TEA Review and Support	Dyslexia Monitoring
TEA Special Education	Dyslexia and Related Disorders
Dyslexia: TEA Professional Learning Course	TEALearn Dyslexia Modules

If you have questions about the contents of this dyslexia review summary, please contact Edna Morales in the Texas Education Agency Department of Review and Support: Dyslexia Monitoring, by phone at 512-463-9260 or by email at Edna.MoralesStrittmatter@tea.texas.gov.

Corrective Action

The TEA reviews data collected from the dyslexia program evaluation to ensure compliance with federal and state regulatory requirements. In accordance with Senate Bill 2075 of the 86th Legislature, TEC 38.003 (c-1), and 19 TAC 74.28. regarding noncompliance identified through the dyslexia program evaluation, a finding of noncompliance is identified by the citation (i.e., program or process) that is violated.

Dyslexia Performance Plan (DPP)

If noncompliance is identified, the LEA is required to demonstrate correction of all noncompliance in the Dyslexia Performance Plan (DPP). This tool guides LEAs through a continuous improvement process. It addresses areas of growth that will positively impact students with dyslexia or other related disorders. LEAs should complete the DPP no later than 120-days after receiving notification of noncompliance. This document will be provided by the TEA or can be accessed in the resources section of the [Review and Support website](#).

LEA ACTIONS

Timeline for Strategic Support Plan (SSP) and/or Corrective Action Plan (CAP) Below:

Required Actions	Submission Due Date	Completion Due Date	Support Level	Communication Schedule
SSP	12/18/2019		Universal	90 days
CAP	6/14/2020	4/30/2022		30 days
DPP	N/A			

For more information about cyclical monitoring and the Differentiated Monitoring and Support process, please visit the [Review and Support website](#)

**LEA may have previously identified corrective actions in addition to findings in this report.

REFERENCES

[Differentiated Monitoring and Support System](#)

[Review and Support General Supervision Monitoring Guide](#)

[State Performance Plan and Annual Performance Report and Requirements](#)

[Results-Driven Accountability Reports and Data](#)

[Results-Driven Accountability District Reports](#)

[Results-Driven Accountability Manual](#)

APPENDIX

IEP Development

Student File Review

Item	IDEA Citation	TEC/TAC Citation	Evidence of Findings	Required Actions	Must Be Addressed in CAP
ID4	34 CFR § 300.320(a)(3)		Yes	<p>Individual—Yes</p> <p>Convene ARD committee meetings for those students whose records indicate noncompliance in this area to consider if the student’s free, appropriate public education (FAPE) had been impacted and determine if compensatory services are needed.</p> <p>Systemic—Yes</p> <p>Review and revise policies and operating procedures addressing this issue.</p> <p>Develop processes that allow for self- monitoring this area of noncompliance Provide training on these procedures to the appropriate staff.</p> <p>Demonstrate systemic, ongoing compliance in this area.</p>	Yes

State Assessment

Student File Review

Item	IDEA Citation	TEC/TAC Citation	Evidence of Findings	Required Actions	Must Be Addressed in CAP
SA4		TEC §28.0213	Yes	<p>Individual—Yes</p> <p>Convene ARD committee meetings for those students whose records indicate noncompliance in this area to consider if the student’s free, appropriate public education (FAPE) had been impacted and determine if compensatory services are needed. Systemic—Yes</p> <p>Review and revise policies and operating procedures addressing this issue.</p> <p>Develop processes that allow for self- monitoring this area of noncompliance.</p> <p>Provide training on these procedures to the appropriate staff.</p> <p>Demonstrate systemic, ongoing compliance in this area.</p>	Yes

Transition

Student File Review

Item	IDEA Citation	TEC/TAC Citation	Evidence of Findings	Required Actions	Must Be Addressed in CAP
TR11	34 CFR 300.320(b)	TAC 89.1055 (I)(1)	Yes	<p>Individual—Yes</p> <p>Convene ARD committee meetings for those students whose records indicate noncompliance in this area to consider if the student’s free, appropriate public education (FAPE) had been impacted and determine if compensatory services are needed.</p> <p>Systemic—Not Applicable</p>	No