



Cycle 1 Group 3

Dates: October – December 2020

Texas Education Agency 2020-2021 CYCLICAL MONITORING REPORT

Local Education Agency (LEA) Name: Nordheim Independent School District (ISD)

CDN: 062-902

LEA Compliant

Non-Compliance Identified

Corrective Actions: Complete

INTRODUCTION

The Texas Education Agency (TEA) would like to extend appreciation to Nordheim 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 August 30, 2019, the TEA conducted a policy review of Nordheim Independent School District. On December 18, 2020, the TEA conducted a comprehensive desk review of Nordheim Independent School District. The total number of files reviewed for the Nordheim Independent School District comprehensive desk review was 7 files. The review found overall that 3 files out of 7 files were compliant. An overview of the policy review and student file review for Nordheim 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	18 of 18	7 of 7
IEP Development	5 of 5	7 of 7
IEP Content	3 of 3	7 of 7
IEP Implementation	21 of 21	7 of 7
Properly Constituted ARD	8 of 8	7 of 7
State Assessment	4 of 4	4 of 7
Transition	6 of 6	2 of 3

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 1—Meets Requirements	COMPLIANT	N/A

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

2020-2021 COVID-19 IMPACT NARRATIVE SUBMISSION

In the 2020-2021 academic year, Local Education Agencies (LEAs) had an opportunity to share the practices incorporated to support Child Find and FAPE for students being served by special education during the COVID-19 pandemic by completing the COVID 19 Impact Narrative.

Nordheim Independent School District submitted a COVID-19 Impact Narrative as a supplement to their Cyclical Review:

Yes* No

* If yes, 2020-2021 COVID-19 Impact Narrative is attached following the Appendix of this report.

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

Staff and Family Surveys

On December 18, 2020, the TEA Review and Support team received 12 surveys during the comprehensive desk review.

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

The best way the school/district provides information (trainings, online trainings, support groups and other available resources) concerning special education services is by notices sent home, followed by emails, school website, phone calls and finally by social media.

The majority of participants felt training to help meet the needs of students with disabilities was effective or somewhat effective.

Fifty-seven percent of participants felt there were frequent opportunities to collaborate with related service providers, while fourteen percent felt there were not frequent opportunities to collaborate with service providers. Twenty-nine percent indicated it was not applicable.

All participants agree with the importance of including students' interests/life goals in the transition process.

The majority of participants reported that remote learning for students receiving special education was effective or somewhat effective.

All participants felt that during COVID school closure/remote learning, the Emergency Contingency Plan was effective in student progress.

During COVID school closure/remote learning, the top four methods of support for students with moderate to severe disabilities include:

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

Participants indicated that during COVID school closure/remote learning they needed professional development in all areas, with the highest percentage indicating how to use virtual platforms.

Participants indicated that during COVID school closure/remote learning, the top two strategies used by the district that didn't work well for students with disabilities were the LMS platform such as Schoology, Canvas, or Google Classroom and Online submission of assignments.

All participants indicated that they agreed that school staff worked with parent/guardian in addressing severe behavior and work refusal during COVID-19 school closure/remote learning.

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 Nordheim Independent School District:

- Present Levels of Academic Achievement and Functional Performance (PLAAFPs) are descriptive and provide detailed information along with supportive data.
- All monitored special education policies and practices follow federal and state requirements and are linked to the Legal Framework.

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 Nordheim Independent School District:

- Consider additional procedures and training on the topic of intensive programs of instructions for students receiving special education services who do not meet expectations on the state assessments.
- Consider revising procedures for developing transition plans for all students before they turn 14.
- Consider additional training on the topic of remote learning and how to use the virtual platform.

Technical Assistance

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

Topic	Resource
a. State Assessment: Intensive Program of Instruction	a. 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. a. Accelerated Instruction and Intensive Programs of Instruction
b. Transition	b. 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.

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, Nordheim Independent School District will receive formal notification of noncompliance in addition to this report.***

The TEA Department of Special Education Monitoring 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.

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.

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	NA		NA	NA
CAP	3/22/2021	1/29/2022		30 days

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

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	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No	<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> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Review and revise policies and operating procedures addressing this issue. • Develop processes that allow for self-monitoring this area of noncompliance. • Provide training on these procedures to the appropriate staff. • Demonstrate systemic, 	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Yes

Item	IDEA Citation	TEC/TAC Citation	Evidence of Findings	Required Actions	Must Be Addressed in CAP
				ongoing compliance in this area	

Transition

STUDENT FILE REVIEW

Item	IDEA Citation	TEC/TAC Citation	Evidence of Findings	Required Actions	Must Be Addressed in CAP
TR1	34 CFR §300.320(b)		<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No	<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>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No