

STATE OF NEW JERSEY
DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION
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WASHINGTON TOWNSHIP PUBLIC SCHOOL DISTRICT
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New Jersey K-12 Education

CONSOLIDATED MONITORING REPORT
APRIL 2017

District: Washington Township Public School District
County: Gloucester
Dates On-Site: March 13, and 16, 2017
Case #: CM - 027 - 16

FUNDING SOURCES

Program	Funding Award
IDEA Basic	\$ 1,910,448
IDEA Preschool	97,665
Total Funds	<u>\$ 2,008,113</u>

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BACKGROUND

The Elementary and Secondary Education Act (ESEA) and the Individuals with Disabilities Act (IDEA) and other federal laws require districts provide programs and services based on the requirements specified in each of the authorizing statutes (i.e., ESEA, IDEA, and Carl D. Perkins). The laws further require that state education agencies such as the New Jersey Department of Education (NJDOE) monitor the implementation of federal programs by sub recipients and determine whether the funds are being used by the district for their intended purpose and achieving the overall objectives of the funding initiatives. Due to the impending implementation of new Every Student Succeeds Act (ESSA) regulations, only IDEA will be reviewed during consolidated monitoring.

INTRODUCTION

The NJDOE visited the Washington Township Public School District to monitor the district's use of federal funds and the related program plans, where applicable, to determine whether the district's programs are meeting the intended purposes and objectives, as specified in the current year applications and authorizing statutes, and to determine whether the funds were spent in accordance with the program requirements, federal and state laws, and applicable regulations. The on-site visit included staff interviews and documentation reviews related to the requirements of the IDEA Basic and Preschool programs for the period July 1, 2015, through March 16, 2017.

The scope of work performed included the review of documentation including grant applications, program plans and needs assessments, grant awards, annual audits, board minutes, payroll records, accounting records, purchase orders, and an interview of the program administrator regarding the IDEA grant, as well as, current district policies and procedures. The monitoring team members also conducted interviews with school personnel, reviewed documentation for a sample of expenditures and conducted internal control reviews.

EXPENDITURES REVIEWED

The FY 2016-2017 IDEA Basic and Preschool grants were reviewed from July 1, 2015, through March 16, 2017. A sampling of purchase orders and/or salaries was taken from each program reviewed.

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GENERAL DISTRICT OVERVIEW OF USES OF IDEA GRANT FUNDS

IDEA Projects (Special Education)

The majority of the FY 2016-2017 IDEA Basic and Preschool funds are being used to reduce district tuition costs for students receiving special educational services in other public school districts and approved private schools for students with disabilities. In addition, funds are being used to provide consultants, teachers, and support staff to work directly with students with disabilities. Funds are also allocated for the purchase of instructional and non-instructional supplies and equipment, as well as, professional development for staff on special education-related topics. The district has allocated the required 15 percent of funds to provide Coordinated Early Intervening Services to at-risk students by providing training for teachers and Intervention & Referral Services teams, expanding intervention options and strengthening progress monitoring. Consultants will work directly with at-risk students and as coaches for general education teachers.

DETAILED FINDINGS AND RECOMMENDATIONS

A review of the expenditures charged to the IDEA grant did not yield any findings.

IDEA (Special Education)

The NJDOE thanks you for your time and cooperation during the monitoring visit.

If you have any questions, please contact Carla Spates via phone at (609) 984-5909 or via email at carla.spates@doe.state.nj.us.