

Focused Monitoring Report



Education Agency:	Morgan County
Special Education Coordinator:	Ms. Lana Tew
Focused Monitoring Date:	March 31-April 3, 2014
Date Transferred to Coordinator:	April 3, 2014
Special Education Services Team Leader:	Ms. Cynthia C. Lester
Special Education Services Data Analyst:	Ms. Courtney Utsey

The Focused Monitoring Process is a blend of compliance monitoring and improving outcomes for students. This report is based on findings from the System Profile Information, Special Education Coordinator's Questionnaire, Student File Review, Student Services Review, and any other information obtained during the on-site visit.

During the Focused Monitoring Process, a designated number of student files were reviewed to verify compliance with state and federal requirements. Also, during the on-site process, a number of students were selected to determine student status and related system performance results. Each SSR provides information to determine if there is a match between the individual needs of the student and the services being provided to the student by the agency.

The purpose of this report is to provide feedback to the agency in identifying findings of noncompliance that must be corrected as soon as possible, and in no case later than one year from identification of noncompliance. The report also identifies the corrective action that must be taken by the agency as well as the documentation that must be submitted to the Alabama State Department of Education (ALSDE). In addition, the report informs the agency of the steps the ALSDE will take in order to ensure 100% correction of noncompliance with the statutory requirement(s).

The Focused Monitoring Report will include the following:

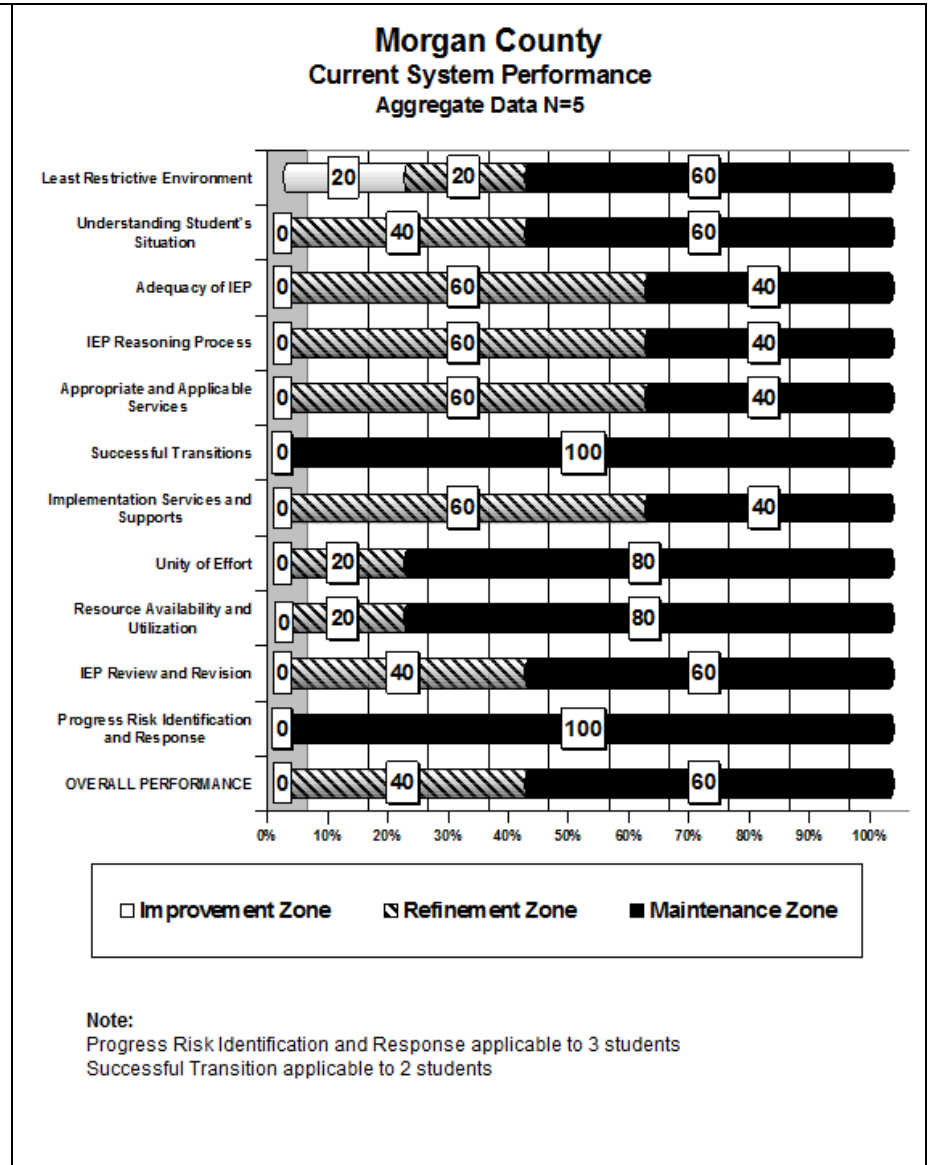
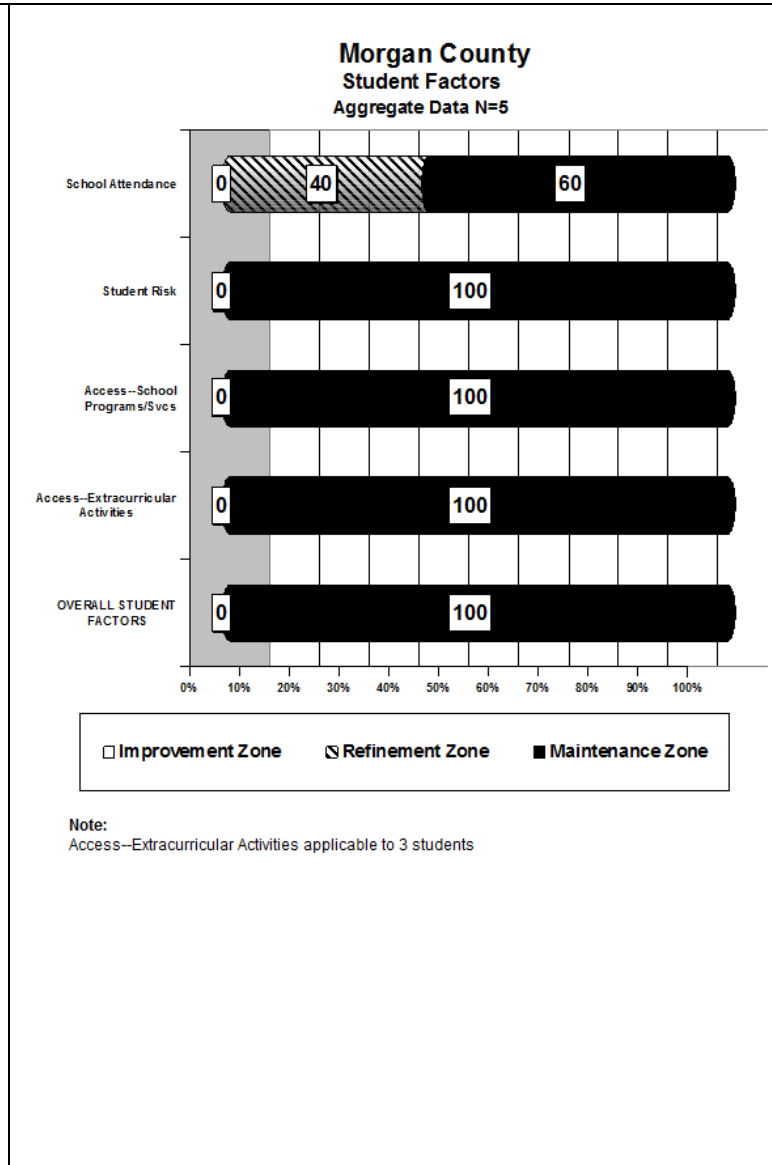
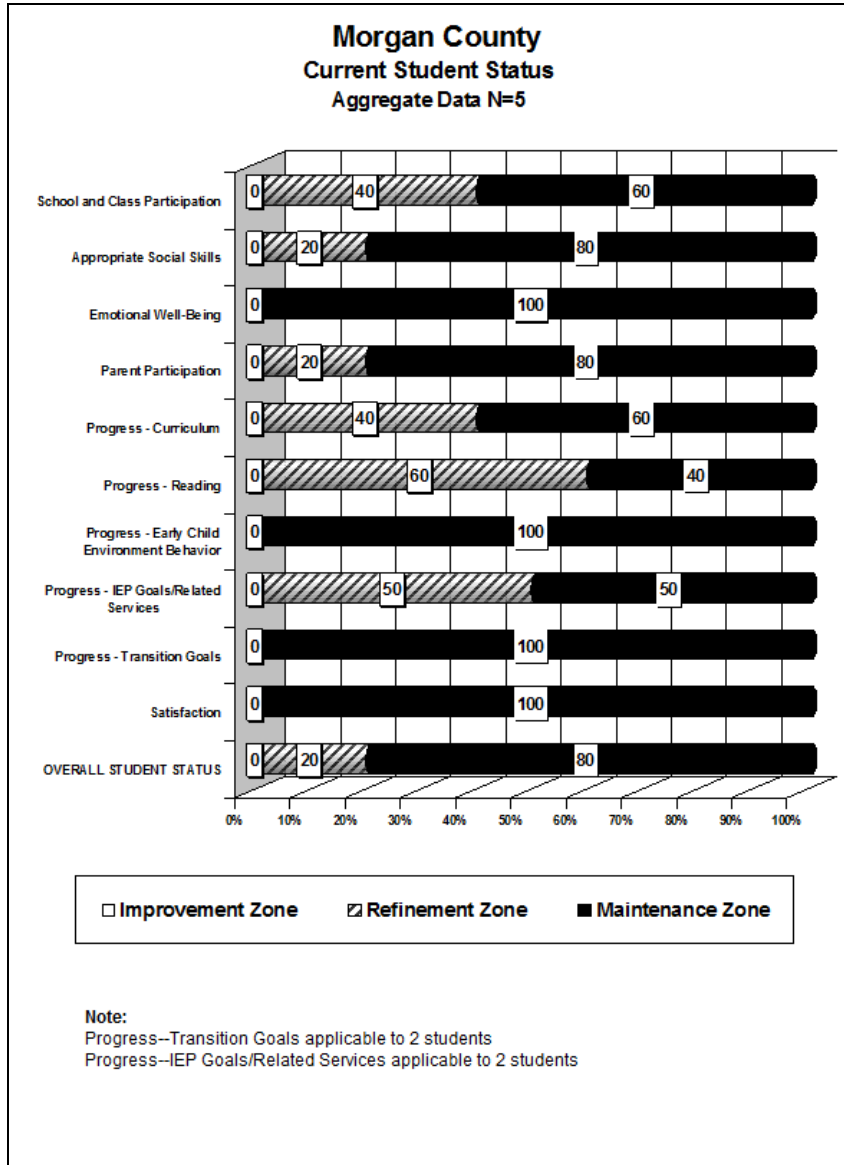
- SSR RESULTS
- FINDINGS OF NONCOMPLIANCE
- IMMEDIATE CORRECTION STRATEGIES
- IMPROVEMENT STRATEGIES
- DOCUMENTATION OF CORRECTIVE ACTION

GLOSSARY

AAA.....	Alabama Alternate Assessment	LEA.....	Local Education Agency (to include State-Operated/State-Supported Agencies)
AAC.....	Alabama Administrative Code	LEP.....	Limited English Proficiency
ADRS.....	Alabama Department of Rehabilitation Services	LRE.....	Least Restrictive Environment
ALSDE.....	Alabama State Department of Education	MD.....	Multiple Disabilities
AMSTI.....	Alabama Math, Science and Technology Initiative	OHI.....	Other Health Impairment
ARI.....	Alabama Reading Initiative	OI.....	Orthopedic Impairment
AYP.....	Adequate Yearly Progress	OT.....	Occupational Therapy
AOD.....	Alabama Occupational Diploma	PST.....	Problem Solving Team
CRS.....	Children’s Rehabilitation Services	PT.....	Physical Therapy
CTIP.....	Career Technical Implementation Plan	SES.....	Special Education Services
DB.....	Deaf-Blindness	SETS.....	Special Education Tracking System
DD.....	Developmental Delay	SLD.....	Specific Learning Disability
ECEC.....	Environmental, Cultural, and/or Economic Concerns Checklist	SLI.....	Speech or Language Impairment
ED.....	Emotional Disability	SPDG.....	State Personnel Development Grant
EI.....	Early Intervention	SSR.....	Student Services Review
ESL.....	English as a Second Language	STI.....	Software Technology Incorporated
ESY.....	Extended School Year	TBI.....	Traumatic Brain Injury
HI.....	Hearing Impairment	VI.....	Visual Impairment
ID.....	Intellectual Disability	VRS.....	Vocational Rehabilitation Services
IEP.....	Individualized Education Program		

SSR Results: (Legend—Maintenance Zone=Optimal/Good Conditions; Refinement Zone=Fair/Borderline Conditions; Improvement Zone=Poor/Adverse Conditions)

The graphs depicting the results of the SSR Reviews are based on a selected number of students with disabilities and should not be interpreted to represent the services as a whole for all students with disabilities in the LEA



FINDINGS OF NONCOMPLIANCE	IMMEDIATE CORRECTION STRATEGIES (30-Day items)	IMPROVEMENT STRATEGIES		DOCUMENTATION OF CORRECTIVE ACTION	
		3-Month Training	6-Month Training	3-Month Training	6-Month Training
Child Find					
The education agency activities did not include identification of students with disabilities birth to 21. AAC 290-8-9-.01(a); 34 CFR § 300.101(a); .301(c)(1)(i); .323(c)(1)			Provide child find activities to include identification of students with disabilities birth to 21 to the appropriate public service providers including, but not limited to, private schools, daycare centers, public health offices, mental health centers, Head Start, Department of Human Resources, community centers, radio and television announcements, articles in local newspapers, civic club presentations and medical personnel offices		Provide to the ALSDE documentation of the activities conducted to ensure child find activities have been conducted. The documentation must include copies of letters, notices, articles, radio and television announcements that were disseminated. Provide to the ALSDE documentation of the activities conducted to ensure child find activities have been conducted in private schools. The documentation must include copies of the letters and any relevant communication between the LEA and the private school staff.
Protection In Evaluation Procedures					
The education agency did not assess all areas related to the suspected disability, whether or not commonly linked to the disability category. AAC 290-8-9-.02(1)(f); 34 CFR § 300.304(c)(4) In evaluation decisions the education agency did not administer tests and other evaluation materials as may be needed to produce the data needed to determine whether the child has a particular disability or continues to be a	Convene the IEP Team and review the eligibility of the students discussed during the on-site visit. Reevaluate students as determined appropriate by a review of eligibility.	Provide to the appropriate teachers and administrators information, training, and/or technical assistance on the following: The proper completion of the <i>Notice of Proposed Meeting/</i>		Provide to the ALSDE documentation of the information, training, and/or technical assistance provided including, but not limited to, training agenda/outline and participant sign-in forms.	

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<p>child with a disability. AAC 290-8-9-.02(1)(d)(2)(v); 34 CFR § 300.305(a)(c)</p> <p>Upon completing the administration of tests and other evaluation materials, a team of qualified professionals and the parent of the student did not determine whether the student has a disability. AAC 290-8-9-.04(1); 34 CFR § 300.306(a)(1); .10(c)(2)</p> <p>The required assessments were not administered to each student before the eligibility determination meeting. AAC 290-8-9-.03; 34 CFR § 300.301(a)</p> <p>An evaluation is not conducted every three years for each student with disabilities unless the parent and the education agency agree that a reevaluation is unnecessary. AAC 290-8-9-.02(6)(c); 34 CFR § 300.303(b)(1)(2)</p> <p>Children with disabilities are not included in the general state and district-wide assessment programs with appropriate accommodations and modifications in administration, if necessary. AAC 290-8-9-.02(8); 34 CFR § 300.157</p>	<p>Convene the IEP Team/ Eligibility Committee and determine eligibility for the students who were evaluated as determined appropriate by the review.</p> <p>Use the information in the file to correct the eligibility report by documenting the missing information on the appropriate pages of the <i>Notice and Eligibility Decision Regarding Special Education Services</i> form for the students.</p> <p>Indicate corrected copy and date of correction on the <i>Notice and Eligibility Decision Regarding Special Education Services</i> form.</p> <p>Complete the <i>Notice of Intent Regarding Special Education Services</i> form with explanation regarding omission of the documentation on the eligibility report.</p> <p>Send a copy of both forms to the parent and/or student.</p> <p>Document the date sent in the appropriate place on the <i>Notice and Eligibility Decision</i></p>	<p><i>Consent for Agency Participation</i> form.</p> <p>The completion of the <i>Alabama Student Assessment</i> forms in the IEP.</p> <p>Ensuring parents are given an opportunity to participate in all meetings when decisions are being made regarding identification, evaluation, placement, and provision of services.</p> <p>Timeline compliance and documentation.</p> <p>Overdue eligibility determinations, including any that were overdue at the time of the monitoring visit.</p> <p>Refining the central office procedures for monitoring compliance to timelines for initial and continued eligibility.</p>		<p>The participant sign-in forms should contain columns for the following: name, position, and school/worksite.</p>	

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	<p><i>Regarding Special Education Services form.</i></p> <p>Provide to the parent/student the <i>Notice of Intent Regarding Special Education Services</i> form with explanation regarding corrective action taken.</p> <p>Obtain the missing consent form for the students.</p>	<p>The evaluation, eligibility, and reevaluation process/criteria and requirements for each disability area.</p> <p>The evaluation process, using appropriate assessment data to determine eligibility.</p> <p>Interpreting evaluation data correctly.</p> <p>The required information that must be documented on the eligibility report.</p> <p>The required Eligibility Committee or IEP Team composition.</p> <p>Providing a copy of the eligibility report to the parent and documenting that a copy was given on the <i>Notice and Eligibility Decision Regarding Special Education Services</i> form.</p>			

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		<p>The proper use and completion of notice and consent forms.</p> <p>The reevaluation process.</p> <p>The process of comprehensively reviewing data to make decisions on the need for additional data to determine continued eligibility.</p> <p>The appropriate steps to take to complete the initial evaluation or reevaluation process.</p>			
Individualized Education Program (IEP)					
<p>Each student with disabilities does not have an appropriate IEP developed prior to receiving services. AAC 290-8-9-.05(2)(b); 34 CFR § 300.3231(a)</p> <p>Each student with disabilities does not have the IEP developed within thirty days of eligibility determination. AAC 290-8-9-.05(2)(a)(b); 34 CFR § 300.101(b)(2); .323(a)</p> <p>Each student's IEP does not include a student profile, detailing how the student's disability affects the student's involvement and progress in the general curriculum or for preschool children as appropriate, how the disability</p>	<p>Review the IEPs of the students discussed during the on-site visit.</p> <p>Revise IEPs as determined appropriate by the review.</p> <p>Address the components that were not completed as required.</p> <p>Send a copy of the completed/ amended IEP to the parents of the students.</p>	<p>Provide to the appropriate teachers and administrators information, training, and/or technical assistance on the following:</p> <p>The proper completion of the <i>Notice of Proposed Meeting/ Consent for Agency Participation</i> form.</p> <p>The required IEP Team composition.</p>		<p>Provide to the ALSDE documentation of the information, training, and/or technical assistance provided including, but not limited to, training agenda/outline and participant sign-in forms.</p> <p>The participant sign-in forms should contain columns for the following: name, position, and school/worksite.</p>	

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<p>affects the child's involvement. AAC 290-8-9-.05(6)(a); 34 CFR § 300.320(a)(i)(ii)</p> <p>Each student's IEP does not include a statement of measurable annual goals. AAC 290-8-9-.05(6)(b)(o); 34 CFR § 300.320(a)(i)(ii)</p> <p>Each student's IEP is not written to the general education content standards; or Alabama Extended Standards for students with significant cognitive disabilities who are being assessed with the Alabama Alternate Assessment; or Developmental Standards for preschool children with disabilities. AAC 290-8-9-.05(6)(o)</p> <p>Each student's IEP does not include, if required, benchmarks enabling the student to be involved in and progress in the general curriculum. AAC 290-8-9-.05(6)(b); 34 CFR § 300.320(a)(2)(B)(ii)</p> <p>Each student's IEP does not include a statement of the special education and related services and supplementary aids and services or program modifications or supports for school personnel. AAC 290-8-9-.05(6)(c); 34 CFR § 300.320(a)(4)</p> <p>Each student's IEP does not include a statement of any individual modifications in the administration of the state testing program or why that assessment is not appropriate. AAC 290-8-9-.05(6)(e); 34 CFR § 300.320(a)(6)(i)</p> <p>Each student's IEP does not include documentation of completed progress notes. AAC 290-8-9-.05(6)(g); 34 CFR § 300.320(a)(3)(ii)</p>	<p>Send the <i>Notice of Intent Regarding Special Education Services</i> form to the parent with explanation regarding corrective action taken.</p> <p>Document the date sent in the appropriate place on the IEP form.</p> <p>Convene the IEP team to develop a current IEP for the applicable student(s).</p> <p>Develop a progress report reflecting progress toward IEP goals students.</p> <p>Provide a copy of the progress report to the parent.</p> <p>Review the IEPs and complete the <i>Alabama Student Assessment</i> forms for the students:</p> <p>Send a copy of the revised/amended IEP, including the <i>Alabama Student Assessment</i> forms, to the parent and document the date sent on the signature page of the IEP.</p>	<p>Parental participation in all meetings when decisions are being made regarding identification, evaluation, placement, and provision of services.</p> <p>IEP development that includes completion of the form as well as the process for developing an IEP based on the individual needs of the student. Begin with the profile and continue through the delivery and evaluation of services. Specifically train on all required IEP components. Procedures for providing a copy of the IEP to parents/students.</p> <p>The completion of the <i>Alabama Student Assessment</i> forms in the IEP.</p> <p>Progress reports that reflect progress toward</p>			

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<p>Each student's IEP does not include consideration of special factors. AAC 290-8-9-.05(6)(1); 34 CFR § 300.324(a)(2)(i-v)</p> <p>Each student's IEP does not include extended school year services documentation. AAC 290-8-9-.05(9); 34 CFR § 300.106(a)(b)</p> <p>The IEP and/or student's file does not document the involvement in each IEP meeting of one or both parent. AAC 290-8-9-.05(3)(a); 34 CFR § 300.321(a)(1)</p> <p>There is no documentation that a copy and/or access to the IEP is provided to regular/special education teacher(s) and other related service provider(s). AAC 290-8-9-.05(7); 34 CFR § 300.323(d)(1)</p> <p>There is no documentation that each teacher and provider is informed of his/her specific responsibilities relating to implementing the IEP. AAC 290-8-9-.05(7); 34 CFR § 300.323(d)(2)(i)</p> <p>There is no documentation that each teacher and provider is informed of the specific accommodations, modifications, and supports that must be provided in accordance with the IEP. AAC 290-8-9-.05(7); 34 CFR § 300.323(d)(2)(ii)</p> <p>The parents are not notified of the IEP meeting early enough to ensure participation. AAC 290-8-9-.05(a); 34 CFR § 300.322(a)(1)</p>	<p>Obtain the missing consent form for the students indicated. Complete <i>the Notice of Intent Regarding Special Education Services</i> form with explanation regarding the missing consent form.</p>	<p>IEP goals and are provided to the parent according to the schedule in the IEP.</p> <p>Completion of the notice and consent forms.</p> <p>The process for entering student information into the STISETS program.</p>			

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<p>The IEP notice does not include the purpose, time, location, anticipated participants, and inform the parents that they may bring other individuals who have special expertise regarding the child. AAC 290-8-9-.05(b); 34 CFR § 300.322(b)(i)</p> <p>The education agency does not provide a copy of the IEP to the parent(s). AAC 290-8-9-.05(f); 34 CFR § 300.322(f)</p> <p>Consent is not obtained prior to the initial provision of special education services. AAC 290-8-9-.04(4)(a); 34 CFR § 300.300(b)(1)</p>					
Least Restrictive Environment					
<p>The education agency does not ensure that, to the maximum extent appropriate, students with disabilities, including students in public or private institutions or other care facilities, will be educated with students who do not have disabilities and document this based on the IEP. AAC 290-8-9-.06; 34 CFR § 300.114(a)(2)</p>	<p>Determine if the service delivery (e.g., opportunities for interaction with non-disabled peers, etc.) is appropriate.</p>		<p>Develop a system-wide plan, including timeline, for transitioning students into an age-appropriate setting and/or providing appropriate opportunities for interaction with non-disabled peers.</p>		<p>Provide to the ALSDE a copy of the plan for transitioning students into an age-appropriate setting and/or providing opportunities for interaction with non-disabled peers.</p>
Procedural Safeguards					
<p>Documentation available does not show that procedural safeguards were provided to parents upon initial referral, notification of IEP meeting (including parents of students who have reached the age of majority), reevaluation of the student, and when requesting a due process hearing.</p>	<p>Provide a copy of the <i>Special Education Rights</i> to the Parents and maintain documentation the form was received</p>	<p>Provide to the appropriate teachers and administrators information, training, and/or technical assistance on the Special Education Process.</p>		<p>Provide to the ALSDE documentation of the information, training, and/or technical assistance provided including, but not limited to, training agenda/outline and participant sign-in forms.</p>	

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				The participant sign-in forms should contain columns for the following: name, position, and school/worksite.	
Professional Development					
<p>The education agency inservice program did not make provisions for meeting the needs of special education teachers. 34 CFR § 300.156; .207</p> <p>The education agency inservice program did not make provisions for meeting the needs of regular education teachers. 34 CFR § 300.156; .207</p> <p>The education agency inservice program did not make provisions for meeting the needs of support personnel. 34 CFR § 300.156; .207</p> <p>The education agency inservice program did not make provisions for meeting the needs of administrators. 34 CFR § 300.156; .207</p> <p>The education agency inservice program did not make provisions for meeting the needs of related services personnel. 34 CFR § 300.156; .207</p>			<p>Provide special education teachers, general education teachers, administrators, related services personnel, and support personnel training on: Confidentiality, The Special Education Process, Shortened School Day, <i>Addressing Disproportionality in Alabama</i>, <i>Positive Behavior Supports</i>, and general special education issues.</p>		<p>Provide to the ALSDE documentation of required training including, but not limited to, training agenda/outline and the sign-in forms that include the name, position, and school/worksite of the participants.</p>

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Recovery of Misclassified Funds					
The education agency receiving state and/or federal dollars and is providing special education and related services to students with disabilities did not complete reports as required by the ALSDE? AAC 290-8-9-.10(10); 34 CFR § 300.211		Develop a process and/or procedures for ensuring Time and Effort documentation, as well as documentation of time worked under IDEA funds		Provide to ALSDE a copy of the developed procedures and documentation of the implementation.	

Steps to be taken by the ALSDE to ensure compliance with the Statutory Requirements

1. For each Immediate Correction Strategy (30-day item), the ALSDE will review corrections on line.
2. Sixty calendar days from the date the LEA received notification of the status of the immediate correction strategies, a random sample of updated data will be pulled and reviewed. The education agency must show 100% correction of noncompliance before SES is allowed to clear/close out the focused monitoring process. If the same findings are identified during the review of updated data, the education agency will not show 100% correction of noncompliance and Step 3 will be taken.
3. Twenty calendar days from the last review of new/updated data, a random sample of new/updated data will be pulled and reviewed. The education agency must show 100% correction of noncompliance before SES is allowed to clear/close out the focused monitoring process. If the same findings are identified during the review of updated data, the education agency will not show 100% correction of noncompliance and Step 4 will be taken.
4. Ten calendar days from the last review of new/updated data, a random sample of new/updated data will be pulled and reviewed. The education agency must show 100% correction of noncompliance before SES is allowed to clear/close out the focused monitoring process. If the same findings are identified during the review of updated data, the education agency will not show 100% correction of noncompliance and the ALSDE will determine what enforcement procedures will be considered.

Enforcement Procedures:

1. The Special Education Coordinator will receive a call from the Program Coordinator of Special Education.
2. A letter will be written to the Superintendent outlining the seriousness of correction of noncompliance.
3. A Compliance agreement will be implemented.
4. The Superintendent will be directed to come to the ALSDE and meet with the Director of the Office of Learning Support, Program Coordinator of Special Education, Focused Monitoring Administrator, and the Focused Monitoring Team Leader.
5. Withholding of funds procedures may be implemented.