



State of New Jersey
DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION
PO Box 500
TRENTON, NJ 08625-0500

CHRIS CHRISTIE
Governor

KIM GUADAGNO
Lt. Governor

KIMBERLEY HARRINGTON
Acting Commissioner

March 17, 2017

Dr. Crystal Edwards, Superintendent
Lawrence Township Public Schools
2565 Princeton Pike
Lawrenceville, NJ 08648

Dear Dr. Edwards:

The New Jersey Department of Education has completed a review of funds received and disbursed from one or more federal programs by the **Lawrence Township Public Schools**. The funding source reviewed was the Individuals with Disabilities Education Act (IDEA). The review covered the period July 1, 2015 through February 23, 2017. The resulting report is enclosed. Please provide a copy of the report to each board member. All issued Consolidated Monitoring Reports will be posted on the department's website at www.state.nj.us/education/compliance/monitor/. Also, pursuant to N.J.A.C. 6A:23A-5.6(c), you must post the report on the district's website.

If you have any questions, please contact Kathryn Holbrook at (609) 292-0198.

Sincerely,

Robert J. Cicellino, Director
Office of Fiscal Accountability and Compliance

RJC/KH/dk:Lawrence Township Public Schools CM Cover Letter
Enclosure

c: Kimberley Harrington
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**STATE OF NEW JERSEY
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**LAWRENCE TOWNSHIP PUBLIC SCHOOLS
2565 PRINCETON PIKE
LAWRENCEVILLE, NJ 08648
PHONE: (609) 671-5500**



New Jersey K-12 Education

**CONSOLIDATED MONITORING REPORT
MARCH 2017**

District: Lawrence Township Public Schools
County: Mercer
Dates On-Site: February 22 and 23, 2017
Case #: CM-031-16

FUNDING SOURCES

| Program | Funding Award |
|----------------|---------------------|
| IDEA Basic | \$ 1,220,719 |
| IDEA Preschool | 39,697 |
| Total Funds | <u>\$ 1,260,416</u> |

**LAWRENCE TOWNSHIP PUBLIC SCHOOLS
CONSOLIDATED MONITORING REPORT
MARCH 2017**

BACKGROUND

The Elementary and Secondary Education Act (ESEA) and the Individuals with Disabilities Act (IDEA) and other federal laws require that 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 the Every Student Succeeds Act (ESSA) regulations, only IDEA and Special Education will be reviewed during consolidated monitoring.

INTRODUCTION

The NJDOE visited the Lawrence Township Public Schools 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 February 23, 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 current district policies and procedures. The monitoring team members reviewed the supporting documentation for a sample of expenditures and conducted internal control reviews, as well as, interviews with program administrators and other district personnel as required. Additionally, the IDEA grant reviews included a review of student records, classroom visitations and interviews with instructional staff to verify implementation of Individualized Education Programs (IEP), a review of student class and related service schedules, and interviews of child study team members and speech-language specialists as required.

EXPENDITURES REVIEWED

The IDEA Basic and Preschool grant reviews included a sampling of purchase orders taken from the entire population and later identified as to the IDEA grant for the period July 1, 2015 through February 23, 2017.

**LAWRENCE TOWNSHIP PUBLIC SCHOOLS
CONSOLIDATED MONITORING REPORT
MARCH 2017**

GENERAL DISTRICT OVERVIEW OF USES OF IDEA GRANT FUNDS

IDEA Projects (Special Education)

The majority of FY 2017 IDEA funds were used to reduce district tuition expenditures for students receiving special education services in approved private schools for students with disabilities, and to support students with service plans in a nonpublic setting. Additional IDEA funds were utilized to provide professional development to staff providing services to students with disabilities and instructional materials.

DETAILED FINDINGS AND RECOMMENDATIONS

IDEA (Special Education)

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

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

If you have any questions, please contact Kathryn Holbrook via phone at (609) 292-0198 or via email at kathryn.holbrook@doe.state.nj.us.