



Critical Fact Sheet

A Publication of the Office of Special Education and Early Learning

General Supervision: What You Need to Know but Have Been Afraid to Ask!

Overview/Background:

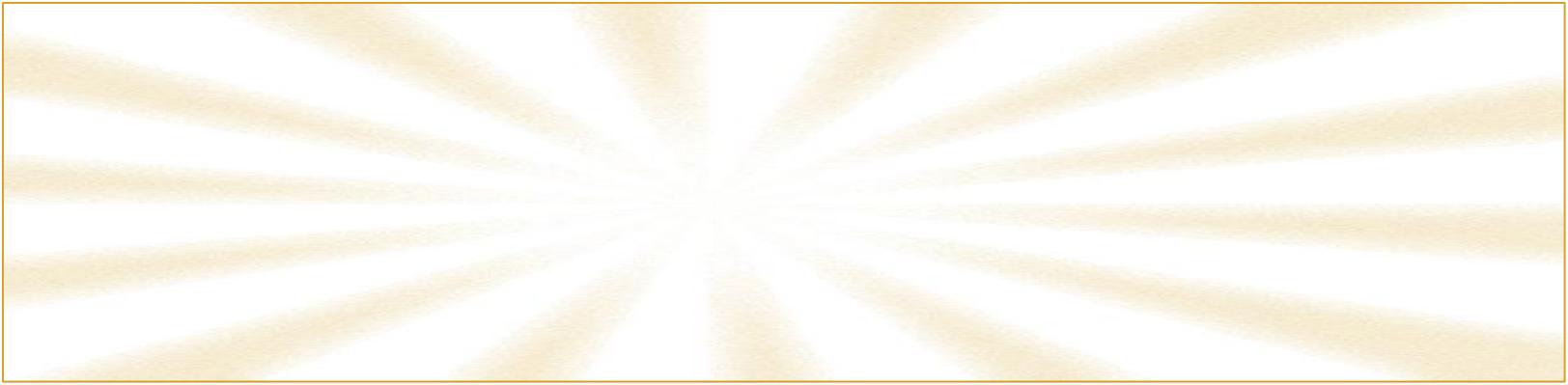
The Individuals with Disabilities Education Act (IDEA) requires State Education Agencies (SEAs) such as the Kentucky Department of Education (KDE), to oversee IDEA compliance by school districts within the states. The oversight mandate is known as the IDEA “general supervision” requirement. The states’ general supervision authority requires SEAs to ensure that each student with an IEP within the state receives a Free Appropriate Public Education (FAPE). SEAs provide general supervision through a variety of methods. Although there are many important parts of general supervision, the key to making sure school districts are complying with the IDEA rests with SEA monitoring.

The importance of monitoring was emphasized in the most recent IDEA Reauthorization in 2004. 20 USC 1416 (a)(2) states the primary focus of federal and state monitoring activities shall be on:

- improving educational results and functional outcomes for all children with disabilities; and,
- ensuring that States meet the program requirements under this part, with particular emphasis on those requirements that are *most closely related to improving educational results for children with disabilities*. (Emphasis added.)

This was a far-reaching change—from monitoring IDEA compliance to focusing on the indicators with the greatest effect on student outcomes. This new type of monitoring is known as *focused monitoring*. By focusing *only* on the areas in the IDEA that make a difference in student outcomes, the issue of the ineffectiveness of the original compliance monitoring system was resolved. Tasks not related to student outcomes are not relevant in the age of focused monitoring. On-site monitoring must be reserved for activities which can only be accomplished when visiting the district, such as staff interviews or classroom observations.

Monitoring takes many forms. The KDE exercises its general supervision responsibilities, including monitoring, for all public agencies involved in the provision of special education and related services. To meet this requirement, the KDE conducts monitoring activities to identify and correct noncompliance at the individual student level and the systems level.



KDE monitoring consists of the following activities:

- LEA Annual Determinations
- Desk audits for State Performance Plan (SPP) *compliance* indicators
- Focused Monitoring (specific districts targeted for certain issues) based on SPP outcomes indicators
- Statewide Consolidated Monitoring (SCM)
- Fiscal monitoring of school districts
- Monitoring of Area Technology Centers (ATCs) and the Kentucky School for the Blind and Kentucky School for the Deaf
- Monitoring of correctional facilities
 - Department of Juvenile Justice/Kentucky Educational Collaborative for State Agency Children (KECSAC) facilities
 - Department of Corrections' correctional facilities (ages 18-21)

If a district is cited for IDEA noncompliance and is subject to a corrective action plan (CAP), the KDE is charged with ensuring the district corrects individual student noncompliance which was discovered during the monitoring process. If the noncompliance is systemic, the KDE must also review district records to make sure the noncompliance issue has been remedied throughout the district.

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