# Section 9

# STATE DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION MONITORING OF EDUCATIONAL SERVICES AND PROGRAMS

# FOR CHILDREN WITH DISABILITIES

# Ed 1126

The Litchfield School District is committed to providing effective, high quality special education services to all children with disabilities. The District continually evaluates the special education and educationally related services it provides to children with disabilities to ensure that all students’ unique needs are met.

The District determines, at least annually, the degree to which special education and related services being provided for children with disabilities are effectively meeting the students’ needs. As part of its evaluation activities, the District also identifies program deficiencies and plans for future needs.

Evaluation of the overall functioning, efficiency and success of the special education programs offered by the District is conducted through a combination of objective and subjective techniques. This process includes an internal monitoring and review component that considers both individual and general program impact, as well as an external review process, which consists of the NH Department of Education Program Approval and Improvement Process.

**Individual Program Impact**

The effectiveness of students’ individualized education programs is determined through a careful analysis conducted by each child’s IEP team. The IEP team monitors the child’s progress toward achieving the measurable goals, including post-secondary goals when age appropriate, detailed in the student’s IEP. Evaluation measures may include:

* Curriculum based measurement
* Student observation
* Post testing and diagnostic reevaluations
* IEP progress reports
* Report cards
* Input from parents
* Student movement from more restrictive to less restrictive educational settings

**General Program Impact**

Participation in state and district-wide assessments is part of the statewide accountability system that helps to ensure that all children have a fair, equal, and significant opportunity to obtain a high-quality education through the New Hampshire Curriculum. The Litchfield School District ensures that all students with disabilities have the opportunity to participate in state and district-wide assessments with appropriate accommodations as necessary, to show what

they know and can do, and how they are progressing, based upon challenging state academic achievement standards.

Decisions about accommodations are determined by IEP teams and are specified in each student’s IEP. Students currently in grades 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7, and 10, who are identified by their IEP teams as appropriate for alternate statewide assessment based upon alternate achievement standards, will be included in New Hampshire’s Alternate Portfolio Assessment of Reading, Writing, and Mathematics skills, also known as: NH-Alt. This process begins each school year in September and ends in April for all participating students.

In a similar manner, the IEP team determines alternate forms for district-wide assessments to be provided for all eligible students.

Results of group assessments are formally analyzed by District staff to determine trends and patterns that may reflect areas in need of improvement. Instructional decisions are made in accordance with the analysis of assessment results in order to more effectively meet the needs all students. Alternate assessments are examined in order to reflect on progress, programming needs and potential adjustments that may be needed for students with more significant disabilities.

The following strategies are included in those utilized to assess general program effectiveness in the special education department:

* Parent Surveys
* General Staff Surveys
* Special Education Focus Group Meetings
* Professional Development Needs Survey
* New Hampshire Special Education Information System data
* Case-E Special Education Management System
* Professional development activities by school and grade level teams
* Special education monthly staff meetings

The above information will be used to identify program needs, training needs and any gaps in services that may exist. Systemic changes for the upcoming school year will be considered and planned for, based on the information gathered. Additionally, the information will be used to plan District professional development activities.

All professional and paraprofessional staff members within the District are evaluated using the Litchfield School District Professional Educator Growth Plan, which is aimed at professional growth and development. In this way, the Litchfield School District ensures that all staff may continue to improve their knowledge and skills in order to effectively meet the needs of all students.

**NH Department of Education Focused Monitoring**

The findings and recommendations from the external “Program Approval and Improvement Process,” conducted by the NH Department of Education, will be carefully considered and addressed by all members of the Litchfield School District Administrative Team. Team members/District officials will analyze the final report and implement the necessary activities to ensure full compliance with state and federal laws and regulations. Upon notification from the NH Department of Education regarding areas of non-compliance, all corrective action activities shall be completed as soon as possible, but in no case later than one year.

**PROGRAM EVALUATION ARTIFACTS:**

* New England Common Assessment Program Accommodation Guide
* Litchfield School District Professional Educator Growth Plan
* Parent Involvement Annual Survey sent out by the NH State Department of Education for parents:
* Preschool Survey
* School Age Survey
* Litchfield School District Parent Survey
* Litchfield School District Program Approval Report