

**New Jersey Department of Education  
Special Education Receiving School Monitoring**

**Receiving School:** Chancellor Academy I                      **County:** Morris

**Monitoring Dates:** April 24 and 25, 2006

**Monitoring Team:** Tammy Miller, Greg Margolis, Mark Lanzi

**Background Information:**

During the 2004–2005 school year, Chancellor Academy I conducted a self-assessment of policies, procedures, programs, services, and student outcomes. This self-assessment component of the monitoring process provided the Chancellor Academy I with an opportunity to evaluate its strengths and areas of need with regard to:

- The provision of a free, appropriate public education (FAPE) for students with disabilities in the least restrictive environment;
- The development and implementation of policies and procedures resulting in procedural compliance; and
- The organization and delivery of programs and services to meet the needs of the students with disabilities.

The self-assessment was designed to identify areas of strength, promising practices, areas that need improvement and areas that may be noncompliant with state and federal requirements. Chancellor Academy I developed an improvement plan to address identified areas of need.

The New Jersey Department of Education (NJDOE) conducted an on-site monitoring to verify the self-assessment findings, to assess the appropriateness of the improvement plan, and to determine the progress in implementing the plan.

During the monitoring process, the monitoring team reviewed Chancellor Academy I documents including policies and procedures, student records from sending districts, lesson plans, services as indicated in IEPs, staff evaluations, student count information, master student lists, class lists, schedules of students/teachers/related service personnel, and other relevant information. Interviews were conducted with the school's special education administrators, building principals, special education teachers, parents and related service personnel.

Non-compliant items reflected in this report may result in non-allowable costs imposed by the Division of Finance in accordance with N.J.A.C. 6A:23-4.1 through 4.16.

**School Strengths:**

Chancellor Academy I recently established two Outreach programs operated within public school districts. The Outreach programs are designed to address students' behavioral needs in a structured environment, while also making available opportunities to interact with their nondisabled peers for part of the school day.

Chancellor Academy I is commended for their offering of an advanced elective program for their junior and senior students. The school offers an oceanography program that includes classroom study, laboratory experiences, work projects and field trips to

## **New Jersey Department of Education Special Education Chancellor Academy Monitoring**

educate students through hands-on learning experiences. This program is enhanced with an aquaculture laboratory. Chancellor Academy I also provides an advanced art program for those who demonstrate an interest in fine arts. Students practice the correct use and care of a variety of professional tools, equipment and media. They strive to prepare a foundation for post-secondary art training and art related careers. The animal care program is designed to offer students an opportunity to care and work with a wide variety of animals. The school also offers a culinary arts/food services program. Students learn and apply safe and sanitary procedures to prepare and serve various types of food, including the school breakfasts and lunches.

Chancellor Academy I also provides students with a strong, supportive environment which assists students in addressing their social/emotional needs the school by offering specialty groups in areas such as alcohol and substance abuse prevention, anger management and a girls group. The school has also developed an active peer counseling program. The Chancellor Academy I has developed several opportunities for students to begin exploring their vocational interests. These include on-site work opportunities in a variety of areas within the school and off-site employers. The school also requires mandatory community service participation as criteria for graduation.

### **Areas Demonstrating Compliance With All Standards:**

**General Provisions, Free Appropriate Public Education (FAPE), Staff Requirements, Facility Requirements, Individualized Education Program (IEP)/Annual Review, Discipline and Student Records** were determined to be areas of compliance by the Chancellor Academy I during self-assessment and by the NJDOE during the on-site visit.

### **Section VII: Programs and Services**

#### **Summary of Findings:**

During self-assessment, the Chancellor Academy I accurately identified themselves compliant in the areas regarding, class size and age range, exceptions for class size and age range, special class program descriptions maintained at county office, certifications for specialized populations, special classes serving students with similar educational needs, teachers trained and instructing in CCCSs, collaboration for home instruction, dispensing medication, nursing services and policies and procedures relating to school functions and services.

During the self-assessment process, the Chancellor Academy I identified concerns in the area regarding medical exams for sport teams. The receiving school's improvement plan is sufficient to address this area. During the on-site visit, a review of records and staff interviews indicated that the receiving school has appropriately implemented specific activities to bring about correction in this area.

No additional areas of need were identified during the on-site visit.

**New Jersey Department of Education  
Special Education Chancellor Academy Monitoring**

**Summary**

On-site special education monitoring was conducted in the Chancellor Academy I on April 24 and 25, 2006. The purpose of the monitoring visit was to verify the school's report of findings resulting from their self-assessment and to review the Chancellor Academy's improvement plan.

The Chancellor Academy I is commended for the comprehensive review conducted during the self-assessment process. The receiving school is further commended for the many areas determined by the receiving school and verified by the NJDOE as compliant with federal and state statutes and regulations.

**General Provisions, FAPE, Staff Requirements, Facility Requirements, IEP/Annual Review, Discipline and Student Records** were determined to be areas of compliance by the Chancellor Academy I during self-assessment and by the NJDOE during the on-site visit.

Additional areas identified as consistently compliant by the Chancellor Academy I during self-assessment and verified during the on-site monitoring visit included class size and age range, exceptions for class size and age range, special class program descriptions maintained at county office, certifications for specialized populations, special classes serving students with similar educational needs, teachers trained and instructing in CCCSs, collaboration for home instruction, dispensing medication, nursing services, policies and procedures relating to school functions and services.

During the self-assessment process, the Chancellor Academy I identified an area of need regarding medical exams for sports teams.

No additional areas of need were identified within the various standards during the on-site visit.

The Chancellor Academy I is not required to submit revisions to their improvement plan since all areas of noncompliance have been identified and corrected by the school.