

Independent School Special Education Review Report

REPORT

**August 1,
2017**

Meadows Educational Center

**Submitted by
Special Education Review Team**



Approval Recommendation

One year special education re-approval in the disability categories of: emotional disturbance (ED), intellectual disability (ID), other health impaired (OHI), and specific learning disability (SLD). Initial approval for the disability categories of autism spectrum disorders (ASD) and developmental delay (DD).

In addition, the AOE recommends that the Meadows Educational Center implement the following prior to its next review:

- A. Provide an updated application and intake process to ensure that Meadows Educational Center does not accept students who qualify under an alternate disability category other than those approved.

Rationale

Based on the rules for Special Education Approval for Independent Schools, The Meadows Educational Center did not adequately meet expectations because they were serving students outside the approved disability categories. The Agency finds that corrective actions made in the short term will ameliorate the problem and therefore allow Meadows Educational Center to continue serving students it is currently approved to serve. The Agency will review in one year.

School Description

The Meadows Educational Center is seeking re-approval in the areas of; emotional disturbance, intellectual disability, other health impaired and specific learning disability for students grade K-12. The Meadows Educational Center is also seeking initial approval for the disability categories of developmental delay and autism spectrum disorders.

Review Description

The Meadows Educational Center, located in Brattleboro, Vermont, was visited by Agency of Education staff on 3/2/2017. According to student records, there are currently 24 Vermont students receiving educational services at this school. During the visit, the Agency employee interviewed staff, toured facilities, observed staff/student interactions, and reviewed student files and IEPs. Observations and file reviews were conducted for four (4) Vermont students. The students were selected to provide a range of ages, diagnosis, and sending school districts. The students reviewed qualified under the disability categories of emotional disturbance, other health impaired, and autism spectrum disorder. Serving a student with autism spectrum disorder places Meadows Educational Center out of compliance as they are not approved to serve that disability category.

Review Findings

2228.1 - The Meadows Educational Center demonstrated the policies, procedures, and staff training to support students in the disability categories of; developmental delay, emotional disturbance, intellectual disability, other health impaired, specific learning disability, and autism spectrum disorders.

2228.3 - The Meadows Educational Center demonstrated written policies and/or procedures in the areas of: (1) admissions, (2) least restrictive environment, (3) discipline, (4) graduation, (5) faculty qualifications, and (6) faculty-student ratios.

2228.3.1 - The Meadows Educational Center did not demonstrate evidence in all of the following; minimum maintenance of (1) educational records, and coordination with LEA and parents review, (2) participation in evaluation and IEP procedures through IEP review, (3) implementation of IEPs through progress reporting.

Note on Evidence

Based on a review of four IEPs, school documentation of schedules, staffing, and contract services, the following services were found to be undeliverable and have since been corrected.

- A. 330 minutes of small group instruction with special educator that conflicts with daily school schedule.
- B. Special education services provided to a student who qualifies under the disability category of autism spectrum disorders places Meadows Educational Center out of compliance.

2228.3.2 - The Meadows Educational Center meets expectations regarding licensed staff. Special education teachers were licensed by the Agency of Education.

2228.4 - The Meadows Educational Center demonstrated policies, procedures, and written agreements outlining tuition and establishment of the division of legal responsibilities with regards to students on IEPs.

Questions: Contact Chris Kane at chris.kane@vermont.gov