



**State of Vermont**  
1 National Life Drive, Davis 5  
Montpelier, VT 05604  
[education.vermont.gov](http://education.vermont.gov)

[phone] 802-828-1130  
[fax] 802-828-6430

*Agency of Education*

November 5, 2024

Attn: Superintendent Reen and Director of Student Support Services, Beth McGeorge  
Mount Abraham Unified School District  
72 Munsill Avenue, Suite 601  
Bristol, VT 05443

RE: Credible Allegation Investigation

Dear Beth McGeorge,

This letter is notification of possible non-compliance with one or more federal and/or State requirements identified by the Agency of Education (AOE).

Local Education Agencies (LEAs) are expected to maintain compliance with all federal and State requirements including, but not limited to:

- The Individuals with Disabilities Education Act of 2004 (IDEA) Part B
- Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973
- Vermont State Board of Education Rule 4500, Use of Restraint and Seclusion in Schools
- The Americans with Disabilities Act of 1990 (ADA)
- Act 35 of 2021 and Act 166 of 2022, Prohibition of Suspension or Expulsion of Students Under the Age of Eight
- State of Vermont Special Education Rules (2022)

Based on the guidance issued by the U.S. Department of Education Office of Special Education and Rehabilitation Services on the State Education Agency's responsibilities for state general supervision and monitoring under Parts B and C of the IDEA, [OSEP QA 23-01](#), the State is required to conduct due diligence to address each area of concern and reach a conclusion.



The table below describes the alleged compliance violation(s) identified and reported under investigation. Immediate action steps are included below. Suggested corrective actions, and/or corrective action timelines if applicable, will be indicated in a follow-up notification letter.

Reference	Details
State of Vermont Special Education Rules and Federal Individuals with Disabilities Education Act 2362.2.1 Initial Evaluations (34 C.F.R. § 300.301)	Either a parent of a child, or an LEA, or the AOE, or other State agency, may initiate a request for an initial evaluation to determine if a child or student is eligible for special education and related services. Implementation of Response to Intervention (RTI), Multi-tiered System of Supports (MTSS) or other strategies for academic and behavioral support shall not cause the evaluation of a child or student suspected of having a disability to be delayed or denied.
2363.4 Parent Participation in IEP Meeting (34 C.F.R. § 300.322)	(a) Each LEA shall take steps to ensure that one or both parents of a child with a disability are present at each IEP meeting or are afforded the opportunity to participate.
2362 Eligibility for Children Ages Six Years through 21 (34 C.F.R. § 300.306)	(a) A child shall be eligible for special education if: (1) He or she has one or more of the disabilities described in Rule 2362.1; (2) Except for the disability categories of Deaf-Blindness and Specific Learning Disability, the disability results in an adverse effect on the child's educational performance in one or more of the basic skill areas as described in subsection (g), below; and (3) The student needs special education services to access and benefit from his or her educational program and this support cannot be provided through the educational support system, standard instructional conditions or supplementary aids and services provided in the school.
2360.2.13 Personnel Qualifications	(a) The Vermont Agency of Education has established and maintains qualifications to ensure that personnel necessary to carry out this part are appropriately and adequately prepared and trained, including that those personnel have the content knowledge and skills to serve children with disabilities.



These allegations of noncompliance will be reviewed as part of Vermont's General Supervision and Monitoring System, which is the Agency of Education's approach for monitoring, documenting, and enforcing accountability of the implementation of the Individuals with Disabilities Education Act (IDEA). For more information about the General Supervision and Monitoring System, please visit:

<https://education.vermont.gov/student-support/vermont-special-education/general-supervision-and-monitoring-system>.

**Immediate Action Steps: Please submit the documents below by end of day December 3, 2024.**

**Prepare the following documents:**

1. Current district procedures and processes related to initial evaluation requests and LEA response.
2. Evidence of Child Find activities during the 2023-24 school year.
3. A document outlining the district's current MTSS processes, including documents that are available to support community members.
4. Building level schedules from each school in MAUSD for 2023-24 school year with evidence of opportunities for students to receive specially designed instruction.
5. A sampling of seventeen IEPs, parent feedback forms, and evaluation reports selected by the AOE and three IEPs, parent feedback forms, and evaluation reports selected by the school district to be shared via the AOE secure file share in a folder titled "Mt. Abraham Credible Allegation Investigation SY 24-25." Instructions, including perm numbers for the requested student IEPs, will be included in a follow-up communication to Patrick Reen and Beth McGeorge.
6. Current district procedures and processes for ensuring that general education teachers have an opportunity to become familiar with individualized student plans.
7. Evidence of past, current, and future training opportunities that are being provided to paraeducators to support their professional development.
8. Contact information for the following personnel for interview purposes:  
Assistant Director of Student Support Services for MAUSD  
A minimum of three special education teachers across MAUSD schools.  
A minimum of three general education teachers across MAUSD schools.  
A minimum of three paraeducators across MAUSD schools.  
An individual who supports the coordination of the Educational Support Team.



A member of the District's Evaluation Planning Team (if applicable).  
District's MTSS coordinator.

**Please provide coverage for classroom teachers/administrator interviews that will be conducted virtually.**

Contact Cassie Santo, Interim Special Education Director, at [Cassie.Santo@vermont.gov](mailto:Cassie.Santo@vermont.gov) with any questions.

The AOE will reach a conclusion within a reasonable amount of time regarding whether there are issues of noncompliance under State and federal laws. The amount of time is not specified by any rule or policy, as it may vary depending upon the complexity of the issues involved and the response to requests for information from individuals and school personnel.

The school district will receive notice in writing with the AOE's conclusion. If there is a finding of noncompliance, the written notice will include:

1. A description
2. The statutory or regulatory State and/or Federal requirement(s)
3. A description of data supporting the State's conclusion
4. A statement that the noncompliance must be corrected as soon as possible, and in no case later than one year
5. Any required corrective action(s) and
6. A timeline for submission of evidence of correction

Thank you for your immediate attention and action to this notification.

Sincerely,

Cassie Santo  
Vermont State Director of Special Education  
Vermont Agency of Education

