



Office of the Inspector General (OIG)
Quality Assurance Unit – Education Audit Team

Western Maryland Children's Center

Audit Date(s): November 20, 2024

Location: Western Maryland Children's Center
18420 Roxbury Road
Hagerstown, MD 21740

School Principal: Prakash Anthony
Superintendent: Stacy Rauer

QA Education Audit Team: Ty Blackwell, Lead QA Specialist
Chasity Leffall, QA Specialist
Landon Saunders, QA Specialist

Kevin Hoefs

Kevin Hoefs
Director of Quality Assurance

1.8.25

Date



**Office of the Inspector General (OIG)
Quality Assurance Unit – Education Audit Team**

Western Maryland Children's Center

Audit Date(s): November 20, 2024

Location: Western Maryland Children's Center
18420 Roxbury Road
Hagerstown, MD 21740

School Principal: Prakash Anthony
Superintendent: Stacy Rauer

QA Education Audit Team: Ty Blackwell, Lead QA Specialist
Chasity Leffall, QA Specialist
Landon Saunders, QA Specialist

ENTRANCE CONFERENCE:

On November 20, 2024, an Entrance Conference was conducted by Landon Saunders, QA Specialist. In attendance was Prakash Anthony, Principal Lakisha Young, Special Educator, and Monique Johnson, OS III. The QA Specialist discussed the audit process and addressed all concerns and questions.

EXIT CONFERENCE:

On November 20, 2024 an Exit Conference was held between Landon Saunders, QA Specialist, Prakash Anthony, Principal, Lakisha Young, Special Educator, and Monique Johnson, OS III. The QA Specialist discussed the preliminary findings of the education audit.

NO.	Standard	Data Source	Findings
Assessment and Records			
AR-1	Students will receive an educational assessment upon admission to the facility within 5 business days	File review	A review of Star reports in student folders indicated that 18 students received the assessment. All students received the assessment within 5 business days.
AR-2	Students will be reassessed at the 90 day mark to determine gains in reading and mathematics	File review	There were 0 students reassessed at the 90 day auditing mark.
AR-3	Students will be reassessed in 90 day increments to measure reading and math gains	File review	There were 0 students during the audited period that reached the 90 day assessment mark.
AR-4	Student records are requested upon facility admission from the LEA within 1 JSEP school day	File review	A review of the 36 records during the audit period indicated that 33 of 33 records (100%) were requested from the LEA within the first JSEP school day. *One student record was retained from being detained previously *Two students were not enrolled in school prior to placement

NO.	Standard	Data Source	Findings
AR-5	Student records are received from the LEA within 2 school days of request	File review	<p>A review of the 36 files of students admitted to the school during the audit period indicated that 28 of 33 records (84%) were received from the LEA within 2 days of the request.</p> <p>*One student record was retained from previous placement</p> <p>*Two students were not enrolled in school prior to placement</p>
AR-6	Record review and credit audit is completed and reviewed with the student within 3 JSEP school days of records being received	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • File review • Review of Individual Learning Plans 	<p>A review of the 36 files and ILPs of students admitted to the school during the audit period indicated that 26 of 27 records (86%) were reviewed with the student within 3 JSEP school days of records being received.</p> <p>*Seven students exited before review was due</p> <p>*Records were not received for two students that were not attending school prior to placement</p>
Schedule of instruction and Attendance			
SA-1	The education program operates at least 220 school days and a minimum of 1,320 school hours during a 12-month period.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Review of School calendar • Review of facility cameras 	<p>A review of school calendar indicated that the education program is scheduled to provide instruction that exceeds the 220 days and 1,320 hours minimum for instruction. During the audited period, the school was scheduled for 40 days for Summer School. There were 45 days scheduled for the first quarter. There was 240 hours scheduled for the summer. Two hundred –seventy hours was scheduled for the first quarter. A review of the facility cameras indicated the school met for the prescribed days and hours.</p>

NO.	Standard	Data Source	Findings
SA-2	There is a written calendar that states the specific days and total number of days for educational programs.	Review of School calendar	The written calendar indicated that during the audited period, the school was scheduled for 40 days for Summer School. There were 45 days scheduled for the first quarter. According to logbooks and camera review, school was held on each of those days.
SA-3	There is a written schedule for each school that states the beginning and end of the 6-hour school day and the specific time periods during the school day when the areas of instruction are implemented.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Review of School schedule • Review of the Facility Schedule 	A review of the school schedule indicated that there was a schedule outline for a six hour school day.
SA-4	Unit based instruction is provided at a minimum of 6 hours per week to students who are unable to attend the School because of illness or injury.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Review of facility cameras • Review of logbooks • Interview with the school principal 	Unit based instruction was provided to students unable to attend the school because of illness or injury.
SA-5	Students attend class on-time without delay due to residential staffing	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Camera Review • Logbook Review • Attendance records 	A review of facility cameras indicated that there were 0 incidents of units being late to school due to residential staffing.
SA-6	Students attend class on-time without delay due	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Camera Review • Logbook Review 	A review of facility cameras indicated that there were 27 incidents of units being late to school due to safety/security issues.

NO.	Standard	Data Source	Findings
	to safety/security issues	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Attendance records 	
SA-7	Students attend class on-time without delay due to education staff shortages	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Camera Review Logbook Review Attendance records 	A review of attendance records indicated students were delayed to class on 0 occasions due to education staff shortages.
Special Education Instruction and Related Services			
IEP			
SE-A-1	The number of students identified as needing/receiving IEP services	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> MD Online IEP File Review Interview with staff 	There were 14 students admitted during the audited period that were identified as needing/receiving IEP services during the audited period.
SE-A-2	The percentage of IEPs that are current (received from LEA)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> MD Online IEP File Review Interview with staff 	During the audit period 14 IEPs were received from the LEA. There were 13 of 13 (100%) IEPs were current. *There was IEP received out of compliance. The student was released prior to the IEP meeting date.
SE-A-3	The number of IEPs that are out of compliance upon JSEP school enrollment	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> MD Online IEP File Review Interview with staff 	During the audit period 14 IEPs were received from the LEA. Thirteen IEPs were in compliance. *There was IEP received out of compliance. The student was released prior to the IEP meeting date.
SE-A-4	The number of youth who have had an initial IEP meeting within 20 days	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> MD Online IEP File Review Interview with staff 	During the audited period 12 out of 12 (100%) students had an initial IEP meeting within 20 days of admission. *One family refused the IEP meeting *One student was dismissed from special education services.

NO.	Standard	Data Source	Findings
SE-A-5	Youth receive instruction as outlined by the IEP	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • MD Online IEP • File Review • Interview with staff 	A review of 14 IEPs and student's files indicated the students were receiving instruction as outlined in their IEP.
IEP Implementation			
SE-B-1	Youth receive related services as outlined by the IEP	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • MD Online IEP • File Review 	A review of the student's IEPs indicated 7 students were to receive related services. IEP documentation showed all 7 students received related services as outlined in their IEP.
SE-B-2	Youth are provided supplementary aides as outlined by the IEP	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • MD Online IEP • File Review 	A review of the student's IEPs indicated 8 students received supplementary aid.
IEP Documentation			
SE-C-1	IEPs are current and are reviewed at least annually while in continuous custody/care	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • MD Online IEP • File Review 	A review of the student's IEPs indicated the IEPs were current.
Evaluations			
SE-D-1	Students are evaluated at least triennially.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • MD Online IEP • File Review 	A review the of Special Education files indicated all evaluations were up to date.
Child Find			
SE-E-1	Procedures are implemented to identify students who are currently identified as students who require special education services	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • MD Online IEP • File Review 	A review of Child Find procedures indicate a process for identifying students admitted to the school who required special education services. A review of student records found no students who were receiving special education services prior to admission that were not identified by the school.
SE-E-2	Procedures are implemented to identify students who may be in need	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • MD Online IEP • File Review • Interview with staff 	A review of Child Find procedures indicate a process for identifying students who may be in need of special education. During the audited period no students were identified.

NO.	Standard	Data Source	Findings
	of special education services.		
SE-E-3	The number of students identified who qualify for special education services not previously identified	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> MD Online IEP File Review Interview with staff 	A review of Child Find procedures outline a process to identify previously unidentified students who may qualify for special education services. During the audited period no students were identified
Teacher Certification			
TC-1	All Education staff have valid certifications	Review information from the Superintendent and DJS HR Certification Manager	A review of certification information submitted indicated that all educators currently hold valid certifications.
Instruction			
I-1	Instruction is provided to students to achieve credit requirements and assessments necessary to progress towards the standards for graduation from a public high school in Maryland	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> File review Review of Monthly Reports Interview with the principal 	A review of grade reports and transcripts indicated the students earned credits and assessments that allow the students to progress toward graduation.
I-2a	The number of core credits issued towards graduation requirements versus attempted during the semester	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Powerschool File review 	During the auditing period student's attempted 10 core credits. Of those credits 5 (50%) credits were issued.
I-2b	The number of elective credits issued towards graduation requirements versus attempted during the semester	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Powerschool File review 	During the auditing period student's attempted 25.5 elective credits. Of those credits 19 (75%) credits were issued.

NO.	Standard	Data Source	Findings
I-3	The number of students who completed their course of study and were issued a MD High School Diploma	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Powerschool • File review 	A review of student files and Audit book indicated 0 students were issued a High School Diploma while enrolled at the school.
I-4	The number of students who obtained GED waiver	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Powerschool • File review 	A review of student files and school Principal information provided indicated that 0 students obtained GED waivers during the audited period.
I-5	The program offers students preparation courses for the GED examination	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Review of education policy and procedures • Interview with Principal 	A review of the program indicated the school does provide GED preparation courses. Five students were enrolled in GED prep courses during the audited period.
I-6	The number of GED sections passed per student versus The number attempted	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • File review • Review of Monthly Reports • Interview with the principal 	During the summer school session students attempted to pass 3 GED sections. One GED section was passed by the students. During the first quarter students attempted to pass 7 GED sections. Two GED sections were passed by the students.
I-7	The number of GEDs obtained	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • File review • Review of Monthly Reports • Interview with the principal 	A review of student files and information provided by the Principal indicated that 1 student obtained a GED.
I-8	The program offers vocational education programs	Review of school schedule and class offerings	<p>A review of program materials indicated the school offered the following vocational programs:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Drivers Education • Serve Safe Food Handler Certification • OSHA-10, OSHA-30 • Code.Org

NO.	Standard	Data Source	Findings
I-9	The number of youth enrolled in vocational program	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • File review • Review of Monthly Reports • Interview with the principal 	A review of student files and information provided by the Principal indicated 10 students were enrolled in vocational programs during the audited period.
I-10	The number of youth obtaining certification versus attempt	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • File review • Review of Monthly Reports • Interview with the principal 	A review of student files and information provided by the school principal indicated that 0 students obtained certification during the audited period.
I-11	The percentage of youth passing their courses upon discharge and return to the community	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • File review • Review of Monthly Reports • Interview with the principal 	Per information provided by JSEP, (66%) of the students passed their courses during the summer session upon discharge and returning to the community. There were (68%) of the students who passed their courses during the first quarter upon discharge and returning to the community.
Post-Secondary Education			
PE-1	The program offers students with diplomas or GED to take college courses	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Review of Monthly Reports • Interview with the principal 	<p>Program information provided by the Principal indicated that the school offers the following college options:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Anne Arundel Community College • Baltimore City Community College • Frederick Community College • Garrett Community College • Accuplacer Preparation • Non-Credit vocational programs from the colleges of the schools listed
PE-2	Course offerings are a minimum of	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Review of Monthly Reports 	A review of a list of post-secondary options provided by the JSEP Superintendent indicates that there are a

NO.	Standard	Data Source	Findings
	2.5 hours per school day	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Interview with the principal 	combination of offerings from local colleges and online certification classes to provide at least 2.5 hours of classes per day.
PE-3	The number of students enrolled in credit bearing college courses	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Review of Monthly Reports Interview with the principal 	An interview with the Principal indicated there were 2 students enrolled in a credit bearing courses while in the placement.
PE-4	The number of college credits obtained while in placement versus those attempted	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Review of Monthly Reports Interview with the principal 	An interview with the Principal indicated there were 0 students to obtain college credits while in placement.
Re-Entry			
RE-1	The number of students who had a re-entry/transition meeting (Committed Only)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Review of the Re-entry Committed or Detention Youth Log Review of ASSIST Student file review 	N/A
RE-2	The number of students whose re-entry meeting was held prior to release from commitment. (Committed Only)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Review of the Re-entry Committed or Detention Youth Log Review of ASSIST Student file review 	N/A
RE-3	The number of eligible students who returned to their “home school” within their LEA	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Review of the Re-entry Committed or Detention Youth Log 	N/A

NO.	Standard	Data Source	Findings
		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Review of ASSIST • Student file review 	
RE-4	The number of students enrolled in an alternative educational placement	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Review of the Re-entry Committed or Detention Youth Log • Review of ASSIST • Student file review 	N/A
RE-5	The number of students who remained engaged with their LEA 90 days post release	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Review of the Re-entry Committed or Detention Youth Log • Review of ASSIST • Student file review 	N/A
RE-6	The number of credits obtained when transfer occurred mid-quarter or mid-semester	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Review of the Re-entry Committed or Detention Youth Log • Review of ASSIST • Student file review 	N/A