



PETE CERVINKA  
DIRECTOR

CALIFORNIA HEALTH & HUMAN SERVICES AGENCY  
**DEPARTMENT OF DEVELOPMENTAL SERVICES**

1215 O Street, Sacramento, CA 95814 • [www.dds.ca.gov](http://www.dds.ca.gov)



GAVIN NEWSOM  
GOVERNOR

January 6, 2025

Melissa Gruhler, Executive Director  
Far Northern Regional Center  
1900 Churn Creek Road #114  
Redding, CA 96002

Dear Melissa Gruhler:

This letter is to convey the results of the Department of Developmental Services' (Department) review of the Early Start Program at Far Northern Regional Center (FNRC). This review was conducted through Department's Self-Assessment Monitoring (SAM) system August 5, 2025, through September 26, 2025, to ensure that California meets Part C of the Individuals with Disabilities Education Act (IDEA) requirements.

FNRC completed a self-assessment review of 60 records. This consisted of 30 regular records and 30 transition records. The Department verified the documentation and compliance for each of the 60 records. The following items were subsequently cleared through the pre-finding correction process:

- Timely Initial Individualized Family Service Plan (IFSP)
- Timely Provision of Services
- Timely Local Educational Agency (LEA) Notification

FNRC completed the required actions for each of the identified findings and the Department considers this matter closed as of September 26, 2025. The details of the findings are in the enclosed monitoring report.

Thank you for your cooperation during the monitoring review of FNRC's Early Start program and your commitment to serve children and families. If you have any questions, please contact Reyna Ambriz, Early Start Branch Manager, at (916) 651-0364, or by email at [Reyna.Ambriz@dds.ca.gov](mailto:Reyna.Ambriz@dds.ca.gov).

Sincerely,

Original signed by

MARICRIS ACON  
Deputy Director  
Early Childhood and Youth Services Division

Enclosure

cc: Joseph Cullis, Board Chair, FNRC  
Chere Sullivan, FNRC

**EARLY START MONITORING REPORT SUMMARY  
FAR NORTHERN REGIONAL CENTER**

DATE OF REVIEW: AUGUST 5, 2025-SEPTEMBR 26, 2025

FINAL REPORT DATE: JANUARY 6, 2026

<b>ITEMS AT 100% COMPLIANCE</b>				
	REQUIREMENT	RECORDS IN COMPLIANCE	TOTAL RECORDS REVIEWED	COMPLIANCE PERCENTAGE
R1	Obtained written parental consent for evaluation/assessment.  34 Code of Federal Regulations (CFR), Sections 303.321(a) and 303.420(a)(2)	30	30	100%
R2	Initial evaluation determined the infant's or toddler's level of functioning in all developmental domains, including hearing, vision, and health.  34 CFR, Sections 303.21, 303.24, 303.310, 303.321 and Title 14, California Early Intervention Services Act (CEISA) Section 95014	30	30	100%
R3	Initial assessment for service planning identified unique strengths and service needs in all five developmental domains, including hearing, vision, and health, prior to the initial IFSP.  34 CFR, Sections 303.21, 303.24, 303.310, 303.321 and Title 14, CEISA Section 95014	30	30	100%
R4	Written notice of the Individualized Family Service Plan (IFSP) meeting.  34 CFR, Section 303.342(d)(2)	30	30	100%
R7	The IFSP included the frequency and length for all early intervention services.  34 CFR, Section 303.344(d)(1)(i)	30	30	100%

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	REQUIREMENT	RECORDS IN COMPLIANCE	TOTAL RECORDS REVIEWED	COMPLIANCE PERCENTAGE
R8	Early intervention services are provided in the natural environment or the IFSP contains an appropriate justification when services are not provided in a natural environment.  34 CFR, Sections 303.26, 303.126 and 303.344(d)(1)(ii)	30	30	100%
T1	The IFSP included timely transition steps and services.  34 CFR, Sections 303.209(d) & (e) and 303.344(h)	30	30	100%
T3	Transition Conference occurred in a timely manner and the Local Educational Agency (LEA) was invited to the transition meeting.  34 CFR, Section303.209(c)(1)	30	30	100%

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**CLEARED FINDINGS**

Findings cleared prior to the issuance of the report. No further action is required.

<b>REQUIREMENT</b>		ORIGINAL RECORDS IN COMPLIANCE	TOTAL RECORDS REVIEWED	ORIGINAL COMPLIANCE PERCENTAGE	SUBSEQUENT RECORDS IN COMPLIANCE	TOTAL SUBSEQUENT RECORDS REVIEWED	SUBSEQUENT COMPLIANCE PERCENTAGE
R5	Initial IFSP meeting was conducted within the 45-day timeline.  34 CFR, Sections 303.310 and 303.342(a)	29	30	96.67%	█	█	100%
R6	Timely provision of services  34 CFR, Sections 303.344(f)(1) and 303.420(b)(2) Title 17, California Code of Regulations (CCR), Section 52109(b)	29	30	96.67%	█	█	100%
T2	Timely notification to LEA.  34 CFR, Sections 303.209(b) and 303.401(d)	28	30	93.33%	█	█	100%

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**RECOMMENDATIONS**

The Department encourages FNRC to review available technical assistance resource related to the IFSP. These resources include but are not limited to:

- Early Start Service Coordinator's Handbook: <https://earlystartneighborhood.org/resources/resources-for-early-start-personnel/service-coordination-handbook/>
- IFSP Resources through the Early Childhood Technical Assistance Center: <https://ectacenter.org/topics/ifsp/ifspprocess.asp>
- Educational & Developmental Intervention Services - IFSP Process Guidance Handbook:  
<https://ectacenter.org/eco/assets/pdfs/EDISIFSPProcessGuidanceHandbook.pdf>