



PETE CERVINKA  
DIRECTOR

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

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GAVIN NEWSOM  
GOVERNOR

July 21, 2026

SENT VIA EMAIL ONLY

Mark Klaus, Executive Director  
San Diego Regional Center  
4355 Ruffin Road, Suite 200  
San Diego, CA 92123

Dear Mark Klaus:

This letter is to convey the results of the Department of Developmental Services' (Department) review of the Early Start Program at San Diego Regional Center (SDRC). This review was conducted through the Department's Self-Assessment Monitoring (SAM) system February 6, 2026 through April 1, 2026 to ensure that California meets Part C of the Individuals with Disabilities Education Act (IDEA) requirements.

ELARC completed a self-assessment of 90 records through SAM. This consisted of 45 regular records and 45 transition records. The Department verified the documentation and the findings for each of the 90 records. The Department identified findings of noncompliance in the following areas:

- Timely provision of services, and
- The date of referral is documented in the infant or toddler's record

The details of the findings are in Monitoring Report Summary (see the Attachment).

Required Action:

The U.S. Department of Education's Office of Special Education Programs (OSEP) requires the state lead agency, the Department, to verify correction of noncompliance based on the individual child level (prong 1) and the systemic level (prong 2) as soon as possible, and no later than one year from the date of this letter. A plan, signed by you, addressing the systemic level (prong 2) areas of noncompliance is required to be submitted to the Department within 30 days of the date of this letter.

As part of the plan of correction, SDRC should identify and address the root cause of noncompliance on each outstanding finding. Identifying the root cause ensures that corrective actions are meaningful and effective. Please forward the required evidence of clearance on each of the outstanding individual findings (prong 1) as soon as it is available (if applicable). The Department will require SDRC to provide subsequent records to clear the systemic level findings. In addition, please see recommendations listed on page 5 of the monitoring report.

Thank you for your cooperation during the monitoring review of the Early Start program at SDRC and your commitment to serving 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

Attachment

cc: Matthew Storey, Board President, SDRC  
Gabriella Ohmstede, SDRC  
Sarah Franco, SDRC  
Andrea-Lisa King, SDRC

**EARLY START MONITORING REPORT SUMMARY  
SAN DIEGO REGIONAL CENTER**

DATE OF REVIEW: FEBRUARY 6, 2026 – APRIL 1, 2026

FINAL REPORT DATE: JULY 21, 2026

| ITEMS AT 100% COMPLIANCE |                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                             |                       |                        |                       |
|--------------------------|-----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-----------------------|------------------------|-----------------------|
| REQUIREMENT              |                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                             | RECORDS IN COMPLIANCE | TOTAL RECORDS REVIEWED | COMPLIANCE PERCENTAGE |
| R1                       | Obtained written parental consent for evaluation/assessment.<br><br>34 Code of Federal Regulations (CFR), Sections 303.321(a) and 303.420(a)(2)                                                                                                                                                                             | 45                    | 45                     | 100%                  |
| R2                       | Initial evaluation determined the infant's or toddler's level of functioning in all developmental domains, including hearing, vision, and health.<br><br>34 CFR Sections 303.21, 303.24, 303.310, 303.321 and Title 14, California Early Intervention Services Act (CEISA) Section 95014                                    | 45                    | 45                     | 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 Individualized Family Services Plan (IFSP).<br><br>34 CFR, Sections 303.21, 303.24, 303.310, 303.321 and Title 14, CEISA Section 95014 | 45                    | 45                     | 100%                  |

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| ITEMS AT 100% COMPLIANCE |                                                                                                                                                                                                                                          |                       |                        |                       |
|--------------------------|------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-----------------------|------------------------|-----------------------|
| REQUIREMENT              |                                                                                                                                                                                                                                          | RECORDS IN COMPLIANCE | TOTAL RECORDS REVIEWED | COMPLIANCE PERCENTAGE |
| R5                       | Initial IFSP meeting was conducted within the 45-day timeline.<br>34 CFR, Sections 303.310 and 303.342(a)                                                                                                                                | 45                    | 45                     | 100%                  |
| R7                       | The IFSP included the frequency and length for all early intervention services.<br>34 CFR, Section 303.344(d)(1)(i)                                                                                                                      | 45                    | 45                     | 100%                  |
| 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.<br>34 CFR, Sections 303.26, 303.126 and 303.344(d)(1)(ii) | 45                    | 45                     | 100%                  |
| O3                       | Parental consent was obtained prior to the provision of services.<br>34 CFR, Section 303.342(e)                                                                                                                                          | 45                    | 45                     | 100%                  |
| T2                       | Timely notification to Local Educational Agency (LEA).<br>34 CFR, Sections 303.209(b) and 303.401(d)                                                                                                                                     | 45                    | 45                     | 100%                  |

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| <p style="text-align: center;"><b>CLEARED FINDINGS</b><br/>Findings cleared prior to the issuance of the report. No further action is required.</p> |                                                                                                                                        |                                      |                              |                                      |                                        |                                            |                                        |
|-----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|--------------------------------------|------------------------------|--------------------------------------|----------------------------------------|--------------------------------------------|----------------------------------------|
| REQUIREMENT                                                                                                                                         |                                                                                                                                        | ORIGINAL<br>RECORDS IN<br>COMPLIANCE | TOTAL<br>RECORDS<br>REVIEWED | ORIGINAL<br>COMPLIANCE<br>PERCENTAGE | SUBSEQUENT<br>RECORDS IN<br>COMPLIANCE | TOTAL<br>SUBSEQUENT<br>RECORDS<br>REVIEWED | SUBSEQUENT<br>COMPLIANCE<br>PERCENTAGE |
| R4                                                                                                                                                  | Written notice of the IFSP meeting.<br>34 CFR, Section 303.342(d)(2)                                                                   | 43                                   | 45                           | 95.56%                               | ■                                      | ■                                          | 100%                                   |
| T1                                                                                                                                                  | The IFSP included timely transition steps and services.<br>34 CFR, Sections 303.209(d) & (e) and 303.344(h)                            | 43                                   | 45                           | 95.56%                               | ■                                      | ■                                          | 100%                                   |
| T3                                                                                                                                                  | Transition Conference occurred in a timely manner, and the LEA was invited to the transition meeting.<br>34 CFR, Section 303.209(c)(1) | 42                                   | 45                           | 93.33%                               | ■                                      | ■                                          | 100%                                   |

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**NONCOMPLIANCE**

San Diego Regional Center must clear findings on both the child-specific and systemic levels. Systemic level findings must be cleared as soon as possible but no later than one year from the final report date. **A Plan of Correction and subsequent review are required to clear these items.**

| REQUIREMENT |                                                                                                                                                         | RECORDS IN COMPLIANCE | TOTAL RECORDS REVIEWED | COMPLIANCE PERCENTAGE | PRONG 1<br>(CHILD-SPECIFIC)<br>OUTSTANDING | PRONG 2<br>(SYSTEMIC)<br>OUTSTANDING |
|-------------|---------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-----------------------|------------------------|-----------------------|--------------------------------------------|--------------------------------------|
| R6          | Timely provision of services.<br><br>34 CFR, Sections 303.344(f)(1) and 303.420(b)(2), Title 17, California Code of Regulations (CCR), Section 52109(b) | 44                    | 45                     | 97.78%                |                                            | X                                    |
| O7          | The date of referral is documented in the infant's or toddler's record.<br><br>Title 17 CCR Section 52060(a)                                            | 43                    | 45                     | 95.56%                |                                            | X                                    |

Key:

R: "Regular" corresponds to the Regular Record Tool item

T: "Transition" corresponds to the Transition Record Tool item

O: "Other" refers to an additional finding

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**RECOMMENDATIONS**

Considering what is outlined above, the Department recommends SDRC to align practices/procedures related to:

- Timely provision of services, and
- The initial referral date is documented in the infant's or toddler's record.

For further information, the Department encourages SDRC to further review available technical assistance resources related to the IFSP. These resources include but are not limited to:

- 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>

As required by 34 Code of Federal Regulations (CFR) Sections 303.344(f)(1) and 303.420(b)(2), Title 17, California Code of Regulations (CCR) Section 52109(b) and Title 17 CCR Section 52060(a).