

June 18, 2026

SENT VIA EMAIL ONLY

Leinani Walter, Executive Director
Valley Mountain Regional Center
702 North Aurora Street
Stockton, CA 95202

Dear Leinani Walter:

This letter is to convey the results of the Department of Developmental Services' (Department) review of the Early Start Program at Valley Mountain Regional Center (VMRC). This review was conducted through the Department's Self-Assessment Monitoring (SAM) system October 9, 2025, through December 9, 2025, to ensure that California meets Part C of the Individuals with Disabilities Education Act (IDEA) requirements.

VMRC 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 one finding of noncompliance in the following areas:

- Timely provision of services

The details of the findings are in the 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, VMRC 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 VMRC to provide subsequent records to clear the systemic level findings. In addition, please see recommendations listed on page five of the monitoring report.

Thank you for your cooperation during the monitoring review of the Early Start program at VMRC 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.

Sincerely,

Original Signed by:

MARICRIS ACON
Deputy Director
Early Childhood and Youth Services Division

Attachment

cc: Erria Kaalund, Board President, VMRC
Tricia Simmons, VMRC