PETE CERVINKA
DIRECTOR

CALIFORNIA HEALTH & HUMAN SERVICES AGENCY
DEPARTMENT OF DEVELOPMENTAL SERVICES
1215 O Street, Sacramento, CA 95814 • www.dds.ca.gov

GAVIN NEWSOM
GOVERNOR

October 28, 2026

SENT VIA EMAIL ONLY

Lori Banales, Executive Director
Alta California Regional Center
4151 East Commerce Way, Suite 100
Sacramento, CA 95834

Dear Lori Banales:

This letter is to convey the results of the Department of Developmental Services' (Department) review of the Early Start Program at Alta California Regional Center (ACRC). This review was conducted through the Department's Self-Assessment Monitoring (SAM) from March 13, 2026, to May 6, 2026, to ensure that California meets Part C of the Individuals with Disabilities Education Act (IDEA) requirements.

ACRC completed a self-assessment of 80 records through SAM. This consisted of 40 regular records and 40 transition records. The Department verified the documentation and the findings for each of the 40 records. The Department identified findings of noncompliance in the following areas:

- Individualized Family Service Plan (IFSP) must be completed within 45 days from the date of referral,
- Timely provision of services,
- IFSP must include the frequency and length for all identified early intervention services,
- Written parental consent must be obtained prior to the provision of early intervention services, and
- Location of all early intervention services must be identified on the IFSP.

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 systemic-level (prong 2) areas of noncompliance, must be submitted to the Department within 30 days of the date of this letter.

As part of the plan of correction, ACRC 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 ACRC to provide subsequent records to clear systemic noncompliance. In addition, please see the recommendations listed on page 7 of the monitoring report.

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

Sincerely,

Original Signed by:

MARICRIS ACON
Deputy Director
Early Childhood and Youth Services Division

Attachment

cc: Dan Lake, Board President, ACRC
Jennifer Bloom, ACRC

EARLY START MONITORING REPORT SUMMARY
ALTA CALIFORNIA REGIONAL CENTER

DATE OF REVIEW: MARCH 13, 2026 – MAY 6, 2026
FINAL REPORT DATE: OCTOBER 28, 2026

ITEMS AT 100% COMPLIANCE				
REQUIREMENT		RECORDS IN COMPLIANCE	TOTAL RECORDS REVIEWED	COMPLIANCE PERCENTAGE
R8	Early intervention services are provided in the natural environment, or the Individualized Family Service Plan (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)	40	40	100%
T2	Timely notification to Local Educational Agency (LEA). 34 CFR, Sections 303.209(b) and 303.401(d)	40	40	100%

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CLEARED FINDINGS Findings cleared prior to the issuance of the report. No further action is required.							
REQUIREMENT		ORIGINAL RECORDS IN COMPLIANCE	TOTAL RECORDS REVIEWED	ORIGINAL COMPLIANCE PERCENTAGE	SUBSEQUENT RECORDS IN COMPLIANCE	TOTAL SUBSEQUENT RECORDS REVIEWED	SUBSEQUENT 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)	39	40	97.50%	[redacted]	[redacted]	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	39	40	97.50%	[redacted]	[redacted]	100%

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R3	Initial assessment for service planning identified unique strengths and service needs in all six 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, California Early Intervention Services Act (CEISA) Section 95014	39	40	97.50%	[redacted]	[redacted]	100%
R4	Written notice of the IFSP meeting. 34 CFR, Section 303.342(d)(2)	39	40	97.50%	[redacted]	[redacted]	100%
T1	The IFSP included timely transition steps and services. 34 CFR, Sections 303.209(d) & (e) and 303.344(h)	37	40	92.50%	[redacted]	[redacted]	100%

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REQUIREMENT		ORIGINAL RECORDS IN COMPLIANCE	TOTAL RECORDS REVIEWED	ORIGINAL COMPLIANCE PERCENTAGE	SUBSEQUENT RECORDS IN COMPLIANCE	TOTAL SUBSEQUENT RECORDS REVIEWED	SUBSEQUENT COMPLIANCE PERCENTAGE
T3	Transition Conference occurred in a timely manner, and the LEA was invited to the transition meeting. 34 CFR, Section 303.209(c)(1)	37	40	92.50%	[redacted]	[redacted]	100%
O5	A Periodic Review was completed when early intervention services were added, decreased or changed. 34 CFR, Section 303.342(b)(1)(ii)	38	40	95.00%	[redacted]	[redacted]	100%

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NONCOMPLIANCE

Alta California 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 (CHILD-SPECIFIC) OUTSTANDING	PRONG 2 (SYSTEMIC) OUTSTANDING
R5	Initial IFSP meeting was conducted within the 45-day timeline. 34 CFR, Sections 303.310 and 303.342(a)	37	40	92.50%		x
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)	35	40	87.50%		x
R7	The IFSP included the frequency and length for all early intervention services. 34 CFR, Section 303.344(d)(1)(i)	30	40	75.00%		x
O3	Parental consent was obtained prior to the provision of services. 34 CFR, Section 303.342(e)	39	40	97.50%	x	

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REQUIREMENT		RECORDS IN COMPLIANCE	TOTAL RECORDS REVIEWED	COMPLIANCE PERCENTAGE	PRONG 1 (CHILD-SPECIFIC) OUTSTANDING	PRONG 2 (SYSTEMIC) OUTSTANDING
O4	Location of all services specified on the IFSP. 34 CFR, Section 303.344(d)(1)(iii)	15	40	37.50%		x
T-09	The Transition Plan is documented as part of an IFSP. 34 CFR, Section 303.209(d)(2) and 303.344(h).	36	40	90.00%		x

Key:
R: "Regular" corresponds to the Regular Review Tool item, followed by the number of the Regular Review Tool item (ex.- R1 refers to the Regular Review Tool item number 1).
T: "Transition" corresponds to the Transition Review Tool item, followed by the number of the Transition Review Tool item (ex.- T3 refers to the Transition Review Tool item number 3).
O: "Other" refers to an additional finding, not included in the Regular or Transition review tools.

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RECOMMENDATIONS
Considering what is outlined above, the Department recommends ACRC to align practices/procedures related to: • Timely Initial IFSP, • Timely Provision of Services, • Frequency and Length, • Location of all services specified on the IFSP, and • Transition Plan is documented as part of an IFSP. For further information, the Department encourages ACRC 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 303.310, 303.342(a), 303.344(f)(1), 303.420(b)(2), 303.344(d)(1)(i) 303.342(e), 303.344(d)(1)(iii), 303.209(d)(2) and 303.344(h). Title 17, California Code of Regulations (CCR) Section 52109(b)