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

September 15, 2026

Enrique Roman, Executive Director
Kern Regional Center
3200 North Sillect Avenue
Bakersfield, CA 93308

Dear Enrique Roman:

This letter is to convey the results of the Department of Developmental Services' (Department) review of the Early Start Program at Kern Regional Center (KRC). The monitoring review was conducted through the Department's Self-Assessment Monitoring (SAM) system from May 8, 2026, through July 1, 2026, to assess compliance with Part C of the Individuals with Disabilities Education Act (IDEA).

KRC completed a self-assessment of 70 records. This consisted of 35 regular records and 35 transition records. The Department verified documentation for all 70 records and identified findings of noncompliance in the following areas:

- Early intervention services provided outside of the child's natural environment includes a child-specific justification, and
- Written parental consent obtained prior to the provision of early intervention services

Details of the findings are included in the Monitoring Report attached.

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, KRC 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 KRC to provide subsequent records to clear systemic noncompliance. In addition, please see recommendations listed on page 6 of the monitoring report.

Thank you for your cooperation during the monitoring review of the Early Start program at KRC 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: Tracy Miller, Board President, KRC
Omelia Trigueros, KRC
Ana Pena, KRC

EARLY START MONITORING REPORT SUMMARY
KERN REGIONAL CENTER

DATE OF REVIEW: MAY 8, 2026 – JULY 1, 2026
FINAL REPORT DATE: SEPTEMBER 15, 2026

ITEMS AT 100% COMPLIANCE				
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)	35	35	100%
R2	Initial evaluation determined the infant's or toddler's level of functioning in all developmental domains, including hearing, vision, and health. 34 Code of Federal Regulations (CFR), Sections 303.21, 303.24, 303.310, 303.321 and Title 14, California Early Intervention Services Act (CEISA) Section 95014	35	35	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, California Early Intervention Services Act (CEISA) Section 95014	35	35	100%
R4	Written notice of the Individualized Family Service Plan (IFSP) meeting. 34 CFR, Section 303.342(d)(2)	35	35	100%
R7	The IFSP included the frequency and length for all early intervention services. 34 CFR, Section 303.344(d)(1)(i)	35	35	100%

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ITEMS AT 100% COMPLIANCE				
REQUIREMENT		RECORDS IN COMPLIANCE	TOTAL RECORDS REVIEWED	COMPLIANCE PERCENTAGE
T1	The IFSP included timely transition steps and services. 34 CFR, Sections 303.209(d) & (e) and 303.344(h)	35	35	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
R5	Initial IFSP meeting was conducted within the 45-day timeline. 34 CFR, Sections 303.310 and 303.342(a)	34	35	97.14%	[redacted]	[redacted]	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)	34	35	97.14%	[redacted]	[redacted]	100%
T2	Timely notification to Local Educational Agency (LEA). 34 CFR, Sections 303.209(b) and 303.401(d)	32	35	91.43%	[redacted]	[redacted]	100%
T3	Transition Conference occurred in a timely manner, and the LEA was invited to the transition meeting. 34 CFR, Section 303.209(c)(1)	33	35	94.29%	[redacted]	[redacted]	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
T-O9	The Transition Plan is documented as part of an IFSP. 34 CFR, Section 303.209(d)(2) and 303.344(h).	34	35	97.14%	[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)	34	35	97.14%	[redacted]	[redacted]	100%

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NONCOMPLIANCE

Kern 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)	PRONG 2 (SYSTEMIC)
					OUTSTANDING	OUTSTANDING
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)	34	35	97.14%		X
O3	Parental consent was obtained prior to the provision of services. 34 CFR, Section 303.342(e)	34	35	97.14%		X

Key:
R: "Regular" corresponds to the Regular Review Rating Tool item
T: "Transition" corresponds to the Transition Review Rating Tool item
O: "Other" refers to an additional finding not included in the Regular or Transition Rating tools.

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RECOMMENDATIONS
Considering what is outlined above, the Department recommends KRC to align practices/procedures related to: • Natural Environment, and • Consent for IFSP Services For further information, the Department encourages KRC 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 303.7, 303.26, 303.126, 303.342(e), 303.344(d)(1)(ii), Title 17, California Code of Regulations (CCR) Section 52109(b) and Title 14, California Early Intervention Services Act (CEISA) Section 95014.