

**New Hampshire
Department of Education
Bureau of Special Education Support**

**Monitoring Review for Approval of
Private Provider Special Education
Programs**

**Seven Hills at Crotched Mountain
Summary Report
2023 - 2024**

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**Monitoring Visit Conducted on March 21, 2024
Report Date: May 20, 2024**

Overview of the Seven Hills at Crotched Mountain Program

Seven Hills at Crotched Mountain School is an entity of the Seven Hills Foundation, “an integrated health and human services network providing exceptional integrated clinical, education, and community based supports to children and adults with disabilities and significant life challenges”.

Seven Hills at Crotched Mountain School is located at 1 Verney Drive, Greenfield, NH. It is a New Hampshire Department of Education (NHED), Bureau of Special Education Support (Bureau), Approved Special Education Program and has licensures for residential facilities issued through the Department of Health and Human Services.

As an approved year round program, operating 220 days, Seven Hills at Crotched Mountain School has the capacity to serve 105 students of all genders in grades kindergarten through twelve and awards a certificate of completion. Students enrolled in this program have a primary education disability of Acquired Brain Injury, Autism, Deaf-Blindness, Developmental Delay, Emotional Disturbance, Hearing Impairments, Intellectual Disability, Multiple Disabilities, Orthopedic Impairment, Other Health Impairments, Speech-Language Impairments, Specific Learning Disability, Traumatic Brain Injury, and Visual Impairments.

The goal of Seven Hills at Crotched Mountain School is to “provide students with the skills they need to succeed in the least restrictive environment possible”. An innovative special education, recreation, arts, music, and vocational program is provided for students requiring a more supported least restrictive environment with class sizes ranging from 6-8 students. Seven Hills at Crotched Mountain School has an assistive technology professional on staff. Students have access to Chromebooks, laptops, and iPads, teachers have access to Google Classroom and Lesson Pixs, and most classrooms have smartboards.

Seven Hills at Crotched Mountain School seamlessly integrates clinical services and extracurricular activities into the curriculum to provide a comprehensive program that supports each student’s day and aligns with their individualized education program. Clinical services provided include applied behavior analysis, assistive technology, mental health counseling, occupational therapy, speech and language therapy, recreational therapy, orientation and mobility services, physical therapy and the services of a school psychologist.

Seven Hills at Crotched Mountain School is located on a 125 acre campus with thousands of surrounding acres of preserved habitat that naturally fosters a therapeutic environment where students are encouraged to explore and thrive. The campus includes a beautiful lake, green house and gardens, nature trails, and recreation areas. The school has a gymnasium, media center, art room, multiple therapy rooms, indoor pool, therapeutic pool, a bowling alley, farm program classrooms, professional kitchen, student dining hall, and student residences.

Students 14 years old and older can participate in workforce development activities and explore various vocational opportunities in the areas of animal care, gardening, culinary arts,

maintenance, landscaping, and laundry services, maximizing each student's interests and abilities.

The leadership team at Seven Hills at Crotched Mountain School consists of the Vice President of Children's Congregate Care, Assistant President of Clinical Operations, Assistant Vice President of Operations, Principal, Director of Clinical Services and Assistant Director of Student Services.

Program Strengths and Notable Achievements and Recommended Preventive Actions

Program Strengths and Notable Achievements

During the monitoring visit, it had been revealed that the **Seven Hills at Crotched Mountain School** includes several practices in their teaching, lessons, and expectations which are noteworthy. Such practices include:

- Mutual respect between all staff and students. Staff and students share a trusting relationship which was observed in all classrooms and recreation areas.
- A classroom environment fostering a multi-sensory approach to teaching including multiple modes of communication.
- Classrooms that are safe, comfortable, and supportive environments where students are encouraged and able to engage.
- Combining verbal information with visual examples, as well as providing students with multiple modes of communicating their knowledge of learned material.
- Recreational spaces, both inside and outside, promoting positive interactions among students and staff and offering opportunities for students to relax and practice their social skills.
- Building upon students' strengths and knowledge while strengthening areas of weakness to promote independence, engaging relationships, and productive lives for students at home, at school, and in the community.
- Creating activities for students that mirror similar types of activities offered in public schools (Holiday Dances and Prom, March Madness, Special Olympics, Graduation, School Play, Talent Show, and Award Days).

Recommended Preventative Actions

During the monitoring visit, the NHED did not identify any recommended preventative actions at **Seven Hills at Crotched Mountain School**.

Overview of the Monitoring Review for Approval of Special Education Programs Process

Each Private Provider must meet the requirements for special education program approval pursuant to The Individuals with Disabilities Education Improvement Act (IDEA) (2004), The New Hampshire Standards for the Education of Children with Disabilities, and New Hampshire State Statutes (RSA 186-C:5, RSA 189:64).

The Monitoring Review Process for Approval of Private Provider Special Education Programs ensures that students with educational disabilities have access to; can participate in; and can demonstrate progress within the general education curriculum, thereby improving student learning. The primary focus of the monitoring review is to improve educational results and functional outcomes for all children with disabilities.

The Bureau's Approval of Private Provider Special Education Programs Monitoring Process (AP3s) consists of a review of required application materials and an on-site component with program visit(s) and random sampling. The AP3s process occurs during the last year of approval of the Private Special Education Program (Private Provider).

The spring prior to the AP3s process, the Bureau notified **Seven Hills at Crotched Mountain School** of the upcoming monitoring and scheduled a time to meet with the administrative team to review the process and answer any questions. The Bureau sent written communication in the fall of the monitoring year which included an overview of the monitoring process and tentative dates for the on-site Data Collection Form training and on-site monitoring visit.

As part of the AP3s process **Seven Hills at Crotched Mountain School** submitted required application materials for review and the Bureau confirmed their nonpublic school approval.

The Bureau visited the program on March 21, 2024 to conduct the AP3s on-site monitoring visit. Prior to conducting this visit, the Bureau provided training to **Seven Hills at Crotched Mountain School** staff on how to complete the On-site Data Collection Form for the random sampling and what would be acceptable evidence.

Based on the on-site monitoring components for the AP3s Process there is one main component to corrective actions titled, "*Corrective Action Regarding the Implementation of the Regulations*", which typically involves the Private Provider participating in or providing professional development training to appropriate personnel for areas found in noncompliance. For any corrective action regarding the implementation of the regulations, evidence of provided trainings is required and must be submitted to the Bureau. It is

recommended that all corrective actions be verified by the Bureau within three months from the date of this report but cannot go unaddressed longer than one year of the date of the on-site monitoring visit. Any required Corrective Action completed and verified compliant prior to the report meeting will be noted as verified compliant in the written report. The final close-out letter will not be issued until all corrective actions have been verified corrected.

The New Hampshire Department of Education, Bureau of Special Education Support review members for **Seven Hills at Crotched Mountain School's** on-site monitoring review included Heidi Clyborne and Alexandra Ferraro.

Special Education Procedures and Effective Implementation

Each Private Provider must have Special Education Procedures and effective implementation of practices that are aligned and support the implementation of IDEA and the *New Hampshire Standards for the Education of Children with Disabilities*.

During **Seven Hills at Crotched Mountain School's** initial program approval, effective November 19, 2022 AP3s process, Special Education Procedures were verified compliant with State and Federal regulations regarding administration, confidentiality of information, program requirements, responsibilities of private providers of special education implementation of IEPs, behavioral interventions, RSA 126-U Limiting the use of child restraint practices in schools and treatment centers, qualifications and requirements for instructional, administrative and support personnel, change in placement or termination of enrollment, physical facilities, health and medical care, photography and audio-visual recording, and emergency planning and preparedness.

Private Providers monitored for program approval prior to the last rule change (Ed 1119.01 Confidentiality Requirements) needed to submit, for review, only the sections of their Special Education Procedures pertaining to the revised rule. Since there have been no changes in the rules affecting the Special Education Procedures since **Seven Hills at Crotched Mountain School's** November 19, 2022 AP3s process, submission was not required.

Based on the review of **Seven Hills at Crotched Mountain School's** Special Education Procedures the monitoring team determined there were **0 findings of noncompliance**.

Private Provider Curriculum and Effective Implementation

Seven Hills at Crotched Mountain's K-8 curriculum was verified compliant during their initial program approval effective November 19, 2022 in the learning areas of Arts Education, English/Language Arts, Health Education, Physical Education, Family & Consumer Science, Information & Communications Technologies, Mathematics, Science,

Social Studies, and Technology Education, pursuant to Ed 306.26(b)(1) and (2) & Ed 306.27(c).

Since **Seven Hills at Crotched Mountain School's** initial program approval there has been one change to the New Hampshire Minimum Standards, Ed 306.49 Holocaust and Genocide Education Program, which was widely shared with all of New Hampshire's Private Providers of Special Education Programs in 2022. With the understanding that the State is currently reviewing and making recommendations for some revisions to the Administration of Minimum Standards (Ed 306), the Bureau has determined that reviewing curriculum for the addition of Ed 306.49 is not warranted at this time.

Students at **Seven Hills at Crotched Mountain School** receive a certificate of completion.

Based on the previous review of **Seven Hills at Crotched Mountain School's** curriculum, the monitoring team determined there were **0 findings of noncompliance**.

Personnel

The Bureau has reviewed **Seven Hills at Crotched Mountain School's** personnel certifications using the New Hampshire Educator Information System. The review process was for educators employed during 2023 – 2024 school year.

The personnel roster provided by **Seven Hills at Crotched Mountain School** was compared to the data in the New Hampshire Educator Information System. Each personnel member's endorsement was compared to the subject/assignment. This process was used for personnel that hold Beginning Educator Certification (BEC) and Experienced Educator Certification (EEC). If the endorsement was appropriate to the subject/assignment, then the renewal date of the endorsement was verified to ensure that the endorsement was current.

If there was a discrepancy between endorsement and the subject/assignment, the private provider was given an opportunity to verify the data. If the discrepancy could not be resolved a finding of noncompliance was made based on Personnel Standards pursuant to Ed 1114.10(a), 34 CFR 300.18, and 34 CFR 300.156.

Based on the review of **Seven Hills at Crotched Mountain School's** personnel certifications, the monitoring team determined there was **0 findings of noncompliance**.

General Program Approval Requirements

Each Private Provider must meet the requirements for special education program approval pursuant to The Individuals with Disabilities Education Improvement Act (IDEA) (2004),

The New Hampshire Standards for the Education of Children with Disabilities, and New Hampshire State Statutes (RSA 186-C:5, RSA 189:64).

The monitoring review for the approval of Private Provider Special Education Programs includes an application with specified materials that must be submitted to the Bureau at least 30 days prior to the onsite monitoring visit in the year monitored.

Based on the review of the **Seven Hills at Crotched Mountain School's** application materials, the monitoring team determined there were **0 findings of noncompliance**.

Program Monitoring and Random Sampling

Per RSA 186-C:5 the Monitoring Process must include on-site monitoring to include program monitoring and random sampling. The AP3s Process for **Seven Hills at Crotched Mountain School** included an on-site monitoring visit during which the Bureau monitoring team was provided with a program overview and visited all approved locations for the approved program. Collected random sampling data using the On-site Data Collection Form was reviewed prior to the on-site visit since **Seven Hills at Crotched Mountain School** submitted required evidence with their application materials. Random sampling data consisted of comprehensive reports per Ed 1114.06(i), Ed 1114.06 (j), Ed 1114.06 (k) and service implementation per Ed 1114.03(a).

At least 30 days prior to the scheduled monitoring on-site visit **Seven Hills at Crotched Mountain School** submitted to the Bureau a completed On-site Data Collection Form that included a coded list of twenty percent of the New Hampshire students enrolled in the program the year prior to monitoring for verification of comprehensive reports and a coded list of the services **Seven Hills at Crotched Mountain School** was responsible for providing to all of their NH students enrolled in the program during the three-week period of October 23, 2023 - November 10, 2023 for verification of service implementation. **Seven Hills at Crotched Mountain School** was notified by the Bureau of the three-week time period on December 14, 2023.

Since **Seven Hills at Crotched Mountain School** submitted documentation for implementation of services and comprehensive reports with their application materials, the Bureau was able to review the evidence and complete the random sampling using their submitted Data Collection Form prior to the on-site visit.

Based on the review of the **Seven Hills at Crotched Mountain School's** program monitoring and random sampling, the monitoring team determined there was **1 finding of noncompliance**.

Required Corrective Action was completed and verified compliant by the Bureau prior to the written report.

COMPLIANCE CITATIONS	AREA OF COMPLIANCE
Comprehensive Report Regulatory Component	Review Status
Ed 1114.06(i) Ed 1114.06(j) Ed 1114.06(k)	Each private provider of special education or other non-LEA program shall complete a minimum of 3 comprehensive reports per year on each child with a disability enrolled in the program. The reports shall describe the child's progress toward meeting the IEP goals, include a record of attendance, be written in terminology understandable to the parent, and be provided to the sending LEA and the parent of the child. Reports shall be provided to parents in the native language or other mode of communication used by the parent.
100% of student codes reviewed at Seven Hills at Crotched Mountain School program demonstrated evidence that a minimum of 3 comprehensive reports per year are completed on each child with a disability enrolled in the program meeting all compliance criteria. This results in 0 findings of noncompliance since comprehensive reports reviewed were in 100% compliance.	

COMPLIANCE CITATIONS	AREA OF COMPLIANCE
Service Implementation Regulatory Component	Review Status
Ed 1114.03(a)	A private provider of special education or other non-LEA program shall be responsible for providing students with disabilities all services detailed in their IEPs unless the provision of those services has been agreed upon by contract with the sending LEA.
86% of services, that were the responsibility of Seven Hills at Crotched Mountain School's program had evidence demonstrating provision. This results in 1 finding of noncompliance since service provision was not in 100% compliance.	
Corrective Action Regarding the Implementation of the Regulations: Provide training to appropriate staff to ensure that the private provider implements special education and related services as outlined in the IEP.	
Provide the dates, names of attendees, and a description of the trainings, which defines the private provider's procedure for complying with this specific rule, to the Bureau within 3 months from the date of this report.	
Corrections Verified Compliant prior to written report.	

Determining Program Approval Periods

<p>To determine the length of program approval the Approval of Private Provider Programs is broken down into 7 sections. Points are accumulated based on the number of findings in each section and weighted towards those areas most directly impacting the provision of FAPE.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Application Materials, not covered in other sections, (0-5 points) • Curriculum (0-22 points) • Personnel Certified (0-9 points) • Required Staff (0-9 points) • Special Education Procedures (0-5 points) • Service Provision (0-40 points) • Comprehensive Reports (0-10 points)
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A program is given a percent score based on the total number of points received out of the maximum possible. The higher a percentage a program receives the shorter their approval period.

- 5 years: 0-20%
- 4 years: 21-40%
- 3 years: 41-60%
- 2 years: 61-80%
- 1 year: 81-100%

Based on the findings outlined in this report **Seven Hills at Crotched Mountain School's** program received a score of **10%** and a **5 year program approval**.