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|  |  | **Dracut****Tiered Focused Monitoring Report****Continuous Improvement and Monitoring Plan****Onsite Dates:** **February 11-15, 2019** **Tier Level** **2****Date of Final Report:** **07/16/2019** |
|  |  | **Jeffrey C. Riley****Commissioner of Elementary and Secondary Education**  |
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During the 2018-2019 school year, Dracut participated in a Tiered Focused Monitoring Review conducted by the Department’s Office of Language Acquisition (OLA). The purpose of the Tiered Focused Monitoring Review is to monitor compliance with regulatory requirements focusing on English Learner Education.

District/charter schools are reviewed every six years through Tiered Focused Monitoring except the districts that repeat as Tier 4 for three consecutive years. These districts’ ELE programs are reviewed every 3 years until such time they are no longer Tier 4.

There are 13 ELE criteria that target implementation of the requirements related to ELE programs under state and federal law and regulations:

ELE 1: Annual English Language Proficiency Assessment

ELE 2: State Accountability Assessment

ELE 3: Initial Identification of ELs and FELs

ELE 5: ELE Program and Services

ELE 6: Program Exit and Readiness

ELE 7: Parent Involvement

ELE 8: Declining Entry to a Program

ELE 10: Parental Notification

ELE 13: Fallow-up Support

ELE 14: Licensure Requirements

ELE 15: Professional Development Requirements

ELE 17: Program Evaluation

ELE 18: Records of ELs

Tiered Focused Monitoring allows for differentiated monitoring based on a district’s level of need, the Tiers are defined as follows:

Districts in Tiers 1 and 2 have been determined to have no or low risk:

* Tier 1/Self-Directed Improvement: Data points indicate no concern on compliance and performance outcomes – meets requirements.
* Tier 2/Directed Self-Improvement: No demonstrated risk in areas with close link to student outcomes – low risk.

Districts in Tiers 3 and 4 have demonstrated greater risk:

* Tier 3/Corrective Action: Areas of concern include both compliance and student outcomes – moderate risk.
* Tier 4/Cross-unit Support and Corrective Action: Areas of concern have profound effect on student outcomes and ongoing compliance – high risk.

The monitoring process differs depending on the tier assigned to the district as well as the district’s previous tier assignment.

The review process includes the following:

1. Self-Assessment
* District reviews English Learner Education documentation for required elements including document uploads.
* District reviews a sample of English learner (EL) student records selected across grade levels and EL focus areas such as opt-out students, former ELs and students and/or parents who need translation and/or interpretation.
* Upon completion of these two internal reviews, the district’s self-assessment is submitted to the Department for review.
1. Verification
* Review of EL student records: The Department may select a sample of student records and request certain documentation to be uploaded to the WBMS as evidence of implementation of the ELE criteria.
* Review of additional documents for English Learner Education
* Surveys of parents of ELs: Parents of ELs are sent a survey that solicits information regarding their experiences with the district’s implementation of English Learner Education program(s), related services, and procedural requirements.
* Interviews of staff

**Report: For Tier 1 & 2 Tiered Focused Monitoring Reviews**

Within approximately 20 business days of the onsite visit, the onsite chairperson will forward to the superintendent or charter school leader the findings from the Tiered Focused Monitoring Review. Within 10 business days of receipt of the findings, the district reviews and comments on the findings for factual accuracy before they are finalized. After the report is finalized, all districts in Tiers 1 and 2, as part of the reporting process, will develop a Continuous Improvement and Monitoring Plan (CIMP) for any criteria receiving a rating of "Partially Implemented," "Not Implemented," and “Implementation in Progress.” The CIMP outlines an action plan, identifies the success metric, describes the measurement mechanism and provides a completion timeframe to bring those areas into compliance with the controlling statute or regulation. District and charter schools are expected to incorporate the CIMP actions into their district and school improvement plans, including their professional development plans.

# **DEFINITION OF COMPLIANCE RATINGS**

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| **Commendable** | Any requirement or aspect of a requirement implemented in an exemplary manner significantly beyond the requirements of law or regulation. |
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| **Implemented** | The requirement is substantially met in all important aspects. |
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| **Implementation in Progress** | This rating is used for criteria containing new or updated legal requirements and means that the district has implemented any old requirements contained in the criterion and is training staff or beginning to implement the new requirements in such a way that the onsite team anticipates that the new requirements will be implemented by the end of the school year. |
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| **Partially Implemented** | The requirement, in one or several important aspects, is not entirely met. |
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| **Not Implemented** | The requirement is totally or substantially not met. |
| **Not Applicable**  | The requirement does not apply to the school district or charter school. |

For more information on the Tiered Focused Monitoring approach, please go to: *http://www.doe.mass.edu/ell/cpr/?section=reports*

Dracut

**SUMMARY OF COMPLIANCE CRITERIA RATINGS**

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|  | **English Learner Education Requirements** |
| **IMPLEMENTED** | ELE 1, ELE 2, ELE 3, ELE 6, ELE 8, ELE 9, ELE 10, ELE 13, ELE 15, ELE 18 |
| **PARTIALLY****IMPLEMENTED** | ELE 5, ELE 7, ELE 14 |
| **NOT IMPLEMENTED** | ELE 17 |

| **CRITERION****NUMBER** |  |
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|  | **Legal Standard** |
| **ELE 5** **ELE Programs and Services** | 1. The Department shall conduct on-site visits to school districts at least once every year for the purpose of evaluating the effectiveness of programs serving English learners and to validate evidence of educational outcomes.
2. The district uses assessment data to plan and implement educational programs for students at different instructional levels.
3. Children who are English learners shall be educated through sheltered English immersion or an alternative instructional program that meets the requirements of federal and state law, during a temporary transition period not normally intended to exceed the timelines established by the Department in benchmarks established pursuant to G.L. c. 71A, § 11. Alternative instructional programs include, but are not limited to, transitional bilingual education and dual language education or two-way immersion programs.
4. ELE programs shall be research-based and include subject matter content and an English language acquisition component.
5. The district only groups ELs of different ages together in instructional settings if their levels of English proficiency are similar.
6. The district’s grouping of students ensures that ELs receive effective content instruction at appropriate academic levels and that ESL instruction is provided at the appropriate proficiency level. ESL instruction should be aligned to the Massachusetts Curriculum Frameworks and must integrate components of the WIDA English Language Development (ELD) Standards.
7. The evaluation of ELE programs (by the Department) shall include, but shall not be limited to: (i) a review of individual student records of English learners; (ii) a review of the programs and services provided to English learners; (iii) a review of the dropout, graduation, discipline and special education incidence rates of the English learner population in the district; (iv) using the best available data, a review of the dropout, graduation, discipline and special education rates of English learners who exited the English learner education program within the 3 school years preceding the on-site visit for that 3-year period; (v) a description of the processes by which school-based teams, consisting of educators, administrators and support staff, monitor the progress of English learners and former English learners; (vi) a review of the amount, frequency and effectiveness of English as a second language instruction; and (vii) a review of the administration and coordination of English learner education programs.

**Authority: Title VI; EEOA; G.L. c. 71A, §§ 4, 7A; 603 CMR 14.04.** |
|  | **Rating: Partially Implemented** | **District Response Required**:  | **Yes** |

**Department of Elementary and Secondary Education Comments:**

*Interviews and a review of documentation indicate that the district does not have an ESL curriculum or ESL curricular materials. ESL teachers use literacy programs to provide ESL instruction to ELs. Literacy programs and materials help students improve their reading skills and can be used as resources; however, they cannot replace an ESL curriculum or ESL curricular materials that are integral to an effective ELE program in which ELs of all grades and proficiency levels become English proficient at a rapid pace.*

| **CRITERION****NUMBER** | **ENGLISH LEARNER EDUCATION****III. PARENTAL INVOLVEMENT** |
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|  | **Legal Standard** |
| **ELE 7****Parent Involvement** | 1. The district develops ways to include parents or guardians of ELs in matters pertaining to their children’s education and ELE programs.
2. A request by a student’s parent or guardian to enroll the student in or transfer the student into a specific English learner education program offered by the school district shall be reviewed by the superintendent or the superintendent’s designee. The school district shall respond to such requests in no more than 20 school days after receipt of the request.
3. If a school district receives requests from the parents or legal guardians of not less than 20 students to implement a specific program to provide language instruction in that school district, the school district shall, not later than 90 days after receiving the request, respond and provide: (i) a plan for implementation of the requested program; or (ii) a denial of the request, in writing, including an explanation of the denial.
4. Each school district serving 100 or more ELs or in which ELs comprise at least five percent of the student population, whichever is less, shall establish an English learner parent advisory council.
5. Each school designated as underperforming or chronically underperforming and operating a program for English learners shall establish an English learner parent advisory council.
6. A school district or school required to establish a parent advisory council shall annually notify parents and guardians of ELs of the opportunity to participate in the council and shall provide the notification in a language the parent or guardian can understand.

**Authority: Title VI; EEOA; ESEA; G.L. c. 69, § 1J(x); G.L. c. 71A, §§ 5, 6A, 12; 603 CMR 14.04 and 14.09.** |
|  | **Rating: Partially Implemented** | **District Response Required**:  | **Yes** |

**Department of Elementary and Secondary Education Comments:**

*Interviews indicated that the process for obtaining an interpreter and translated documents for parents whose preferred language is not English was not clear.*

| **CRITERION****NUMBER** | **ENGLISH LEARNER EDUCATION****VI. FACULTY, STAFF AND ADMINISTRATION** |
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|  | **Legal Standard** |
| **ELE 14****Licensure Requirements** | Licensure requirements for districts where ELs are enrolled:1. Every district, including every Commonwealth charter school, has at least one teacher who has an English as a Second Language or Transitional Bilingual Education, or ELL license under G.L. c.71, § 38G and 603 CMR 7.04(3). (This requirement does not apply separately to Horace Mann charter schools.)2. Except at Commonwealth charter schools, every teacher or other educational staff member who teaches ELs holds an appropriate license or current waiver issued by the Massachusetts Department of Elementary and Secondary Education.3. Core academic teachers who provide sheltered English instruction to English learners in school districts, including charter schools and education collaboratives, must earn an SEI Teacher Endorsement as set forth in 603 CMR 7.00 and 603 CMR 14.00. Principals, assistant principals, and supervisors/directors who supervise or evaluate such teachers, must earn an SEI Teacher Endorsement or SEI Administrator Endorsement as set forth in 603 CMR 7.00 and 603 CMR 14.00.4. Any core academic teacher who is assigned to provide sheltered English instruction to an EL shall either hold an SEI Teacher Endorsement, or is required to earn such endorsement within one year from the date of the assignment. Any school district that assigns an EL to a core academic teacher who has a year to obtain an SEI endorsement, shall take all reasonable steps to ensure that such EL is assigned to core academic teachers with an SEI endorsement in subsequent school years.5. No principal, assistant principal, or supervisor/director shall supervise or evaluate a core academic teacher who provides sheltered English instruction to an EL unless such principal, assistant principal, or supervisor/director holds an SEI Teacher Endorsement or SEI Administrator Endorsement, or will earn either endorsement within one year of the commencement of such supervision or evaluation.6. Except at Commonwealth charter schools, any director of ELE program(s) who is employed in that role for one-half time or more has a Supervisor/Director license and an English as a Second Language (ESL), Transitional Bilingual Education (TBE) or an ELL license. 7. A core academic teacher assigned to provide instruction to an English learner in a bilingual education setting, such as dual language education or two-way immersion program, or transitional bilingual education program, must be properly qualified in the field and grade level of the assignment, and hold the appropriate endorsement, as follows: a. A core academic teacher responsible for the instructional componentprovided in a language other than English must hold the Bilingual Education Endorsement or a valid waiver issued by the Commissioner.b. A core academic teacher responsible for the instructional component provided in English must hold the Bilingual Education Endorsement or the SEI Endorsement.8. A principal, assistant principal, or supervisor/director who supervises or evaluates a core academic teacher assigned to provide instruction to an English learner in a bilingual education setting, such as dual language education or two-way immersion program, or transitional bilingual education program, must hold the Bilingual Education Endorsement or the SEI Endorsement.9. A valid Transitional Bilingual Education license or Transitional Bilingual Learning endorsement issued by the Department shall be deemed the equivalent of the Bilingual Education Endorsement.10. Prior to the beginning of each school year, districts, including charter schools shall verify that each of the educators in an English learner program is properly endorsed for that program.**Authority: Title VI; EEOA; G.L. c. 71, § 38G, §89(ii); G.L. c. 71A, § 10; St. 2002, c. 218, §§ 24, 25; 603 CMR 7.04(3), 7.09(3); 603 CMR 7.14(1)-(3); 603 CMR 7.15(9)(b)-(c); 603 CMR 7.15(13)(d); 603 CMR 14.07.** |
|  | **Rating: Partially Implemented** | **District Response Required:**  | **Yes** |
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**Department of Elementary and Secondary Education Comments:**

*A review of documentation and the relevant SEI Endorsement data indicated that most core academic teachers assigned to provide sheltered English instruction to English learners hold the SEI Teacher Endorsement, but some do not.*

| **CRITERION****NUMBER** | **ENGLISH LEARNER EDUCATION****VIII. PROGRAM PLAN AND EVALUATION** |
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|  | **Legal Standard** |
| **ELE 17****Program Evaluation** | The district conducts periodic evaluations of the effectiveness of its ELE program in developing students’ English language skills and increasing their ability to participate meaningfully in the educational program. Where the district documents that the program is not effective, it takes steps to make appropriate program adjustments or changes that are responsive to the outcomes of the program evaluation.**Authority: Title VI; EEOA; ESEA.** |
|  | **Rating: Not Implemented** | **District Response Required**:  | **Yes** |

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| **Department of Elementary and Secondary Education Comments:** |

*Documentation and staff interviews indicated that the district has not conducted periodic evaluations of the effectiveness of its ELE program in developing students' English language skills and increasing their ability to participate meaningfully in the educational program.*