

Jeffrey C. Riley

*Commissioner*

By email August 2, 2021

***Massachusetts Department of Elementary and Secondary Education***

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Gregg Weltz

Executive Director, School & Main Institute 95 Oceanside Drive

Scituate, MA 02066 Dear Gregg Weltz:

I am writing to update you on the status of the turnaround plan for the Paul A. Dever School (Dever).

On June 22, 2021, the Board of Elementary and Secondary Education adopted an amendment to 603 CMR 2.00: *Accountability and Assistance for School Districts and Schools.* The amendment allows the Department of Elementary and Secondary Education (Department) to refrain from issuing new accountability determinations for districts and schools for school year 2020-2021.

Instead of issuing new accountability determinations in fall 2021, the Department will use each district’s and school’s most recent accountability determination (from 2019), to ensure that they continue to receive support as needed. As a result, and consistent with 603 CMR 2.06 (6) (a), the Dever will remain in chronically underperforming status and the turnaround plan will remain in effect.

In addition, please see below for three updates to the turnaround plan for the Dever:

* On February 11, 2020, I named School & Main Institute as the Receiver of the Dever effective July 1, 2020. As a result, any references to “Receiver” or Michael Contompasis, former Receiver, in the current Turnaround Plan should be understood to be a reference to School & Main Institute, as Receiver.
* Beginning in school year 2021-2022, the Dever will serve students in grades pre-K-6. (The school currently serves students in grades pre-K-5.) This decision was made collaboratively with the Boston Public Schools.
* Beginning in school year 2021-2022, the Dever will offer a fully inclusive learning environment by phasing out the Therapeutic Learning Center (TLC) for students with Emotional Impairments (EI). Students in every classroom will be supported by a teaching team that includes staff with the license and skills to support students with disabilities.

This shift will continue the process outlined in the turnaround plan of creating inclusive classroom environments and rigorous instruction that address the needs of all Dever students.

Sincerely,

Jeffrey C. Riley

Commissioner of Elementary and Secondary Education

Cc: Brenda Cassellius, Boston Public Schools Margaret Reardon, Paul A. Dever School

Russell Johnston, Department of Elementary and Secondary Education Lauren Woo, Department of Elementary and Secondary Education

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