



NASHOBA REGIONAL SCHOOL DISTRICT

**COORDINATED PROGRAM REVIEW
REPORT OF FINDINGS**

Dates of Onsite Visit: April 8-12, 2002

Date of Draft Report: June 18, 2002

Due Date for Comments: July 19, 2002

Date of Final Report: August 7, 2002

Action Plan Due: September 20, 2002

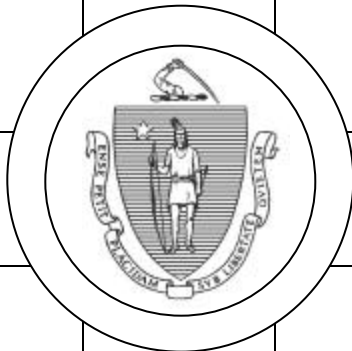
Department of Education Onsite Team Members:

Thelma J. Hunt , Chairperson

Robert Kyriakakis

Alex Lilley

Rebecca Walawender



David P. Driscoll, Commissioner of Education

MASSACHUSETTS DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION
COORDINATED PROGRAM REVIEW

NASHOBA REGIONAL SCHOOL DISTRICT

Table of Contents

| | |
|---|------------|
| OVERVIEW OF REVIEW PROCEDURES | 2 |
| REPORT INTRODUCTION | 4 |
| EXECUTIVE SUMMARY | 6 |
| DEFINITION OF TERMS | 10 |
| COMPONENT I: ASSESSMENT OF STUDENT PROGRESS | 11 |
| SPECIAL EDUCATION | 12 |
| TITLE 1..... | 23 |
| COMPONENT II: STUDENT IDENTIFICATION AND PLACEMENT | 25 |
| SPECIAL EDUCATION | 26 |
| CIVIL RIGHTS METHODS OF ADMINISTRATION | 33 |
| MOA 1 | 33 |
| TITLE 1..... | 36 |
| COMPONENT III: PARENTAL INVOLVEMENT | 38 |
| SPECIAL EDUCATION | 39 |
| CIVIL RIGHTS METHODS OF ADMINISTRATION | 44 |
| TITLE 1..... | 45 |
| SAFE AND DRUG FREE SCHOOLS | 47 |
| COMPONENT IV: CURRICULUM AND INSTRUCTION | 50 |
| SPECIAL EDUCATION | 51 |
| CIVIL RIGHTS METHODS OF ADMINISTRATION | 59 |
| TITLE 1..... | 60 |
| SAFE AND DRUG FREE SCHOOLS | 64 |
| COMPONENT V: STUDENT SUPPORT SERVICES | 65 |
| SPECIAL EDUCATION | 66 |
| CIVIL RIGHTS METHODS OF ADMINISTRATION | 72 |
| TITLE 1..... | 76 |
| COMPONENT VI: FACULTY, STAFF AND ADMINISTRATION | 78 |
| SPECIAL EDUCATION | 79 |
| CIVIL RIGHTS METHODS OF ADMINISTRATION | 83 |
| TITLE 1..... | 85 |
| COMPONENT VII: SCHOOL FACILITIES | 87 |
| SPECIAL EDUCATION | 88 |
| CIVIL RIGHTS METHODS OF ADMINISTRATION | 88 |
| COMPONENT VIII: PROGRAM PLAN AND EVALUATION | 90 |
| SPECIAL EDUCATION | 91 |
| CIVIL RIGHTS METHODS OF ADMINISTRATION | 91 |
| TITLE 1..... | 92 |
| SAFE AND DRUG FREE SCHOOLS | 94 |
| COMPONENT IX: RECORD KEEPING | 97 |
| SPECIAL EDUCATION | 98 |
| TITLE 1..... | 99 |
| SAFE AND DRUG FREE SCHOOLS | 101 |
| APPENDIX: | 102 |
| SCHOOL AND DISTRICT PROFILES..... | 103 |

MASSACHUSETTS DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION

COORDINATED PROGRAM REVIEW REPORT

NASHOBA REGIONAL SCHOOL DISTRICT

OVERVIEW OF REVIEW PROCEDURES

As one part of its school and school district accountability system, the Department of Education oversees local compliance with education requirements through the Coordinated Program Review system. All reviews include selected requirements in special education under the federal Individuals with Disabilities Education Act, 20 U.S.C. Section 1400 *et seq.* (IDEA-97) and M.G.L. Chapter 71B (Chapter 766 of the Acts of 1972) and certain federal civil rights requirements under Titles I and II of the Americans with Disabilities Act of 1990, Title VI of the Civil Rights Act of 1964, Title IX of the Education Amendments of 1972, and Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973, together with related state requirements under M.G.L. Chapter 76, Section 5 (Chapter 622 of the Acts of 1971). Additionally, all reviews include certain standards included under the newly adopted Board of Education Physical Restraint Regulations (603 CMR 46.00). Other monitoring activities in the areas of the state's Transitional Bilingual Education law (M.G.L. Chapter 71A), federal requirements under Title I, the Safe and Drug-Free Schools and Communities Act, the Perkins Vocational and Technical Education Act, and Nutrition Programs and Services will be conducted in some districts during these Coordinated Program Reviews. The school districts and charter schools selected for review in 2001-2002 were notified by the Commissioner of Education in April 2001 of the scheduled visits and were encouraged to assess themselves before the arrival of the Department's visiting team.

Coordinated Program Review Elements

- Team: Depending upon the size of a school district and the number of program areas to be reviewed, a team of two to eight members conducts a Coordinated Program Review over two to seven days in a school district or charter school. The team may include Department consultants as well as Department staff members.
- Scope: Approximately sixty school districts and charter schools are scheduled to receive visits in school year 2001-2002. All school districts and charter schools in the Commonwealth are monitored through the Department's Coordinated Program Review system on a six-year cycle with an additional mid-cycle special education follow-up visit.
- Content: The Program Review criteria include certain of the statutory and regulatory requirements for each program area. In the case of special education, the criteria for the FY 2002 reviews contain, at a minimum, those elements required by the federal Office for Special Education Programs (OSEP) and revised requirements under IDEA-97 as described in the Department's Special Education Advisories. Additionally, the 2001-2002 reviews incorporate updated state special education requirements as adopted by the Board of Education, effective December 20, 2000. The Program Review compliance criteria selected in all of the regulated program areas are those that are most closely aligned with the goals of the Massachusetts Education Reform Act of 1993, being intended to promote high standards and achievement for all students.
- Report: The Department's report is based on a review of documentation regarding the operation of the district's programs, together with information gathered through the following Department program review methods:

- Interviews of administrative, instructional and support staff across all grade levels.
- Interviews of parent advisory council (PAC) representatives.
- Other interviews as requested by members of the general public.
- Review of student records in the special education, Transitional Bilingual Education, and Perkins vocational programs. Parents of students with disabilities whose files were selected for the record review are sent a survey that solicits information about their experiences with the district's implementation of special education programs, related services and procedural requirements.
- Observation of classrooms and other facilities. A sample of instructional classrooms and other school facilities used in the delivery of programs and services are visited to determine general levels of compliance with program and accessibility requirements.
- Interviews, review of student records, and observations in the case of collaborative programs and services. Where the district is a member of a collaborative approved by the Department of Education and serves as a site for any programs or services operated by the collaborative, interviews with collaborative staff, review of records of collaborative students, and observations of collaborative facilities are conducted.

Response: An executive summary and detailed findings for each program area describe determinations about the implementation status of each requirement (criterion) reviewed. The findings note those criteria the implementation of which the team found to be commendable. Where criteria were found not to be fully implemented, the local district or charter school must propose corrective actions to bring those areas into compliance with the controlling statutes or regulations. Districts are encouraged to incorporate the corrective action into their district and school improvement plans, including their professional development plan.

The Department of Education believes that the Coordinated Program Review process is a positive experience and that the Final Report should be seen as a helpful planning document for the continuing development of programs and services in the school district or charter school.

REPORT INTRODUCTION

A four-member Massachusetts Department of Education team visited Nashoba Regional School District during the week of April 8, 2002 to evaluate the implementation of selected criteria in the program areas of special education, civil rights requirements, Title I and safe and drug free schools. The team appreciated the opportunity to interview staff and parents, to observe classroom facilities and to review the programs underway in the district. The onsite team would like to commend the following areas that were brought to its attention and that it believes have a significant and positive impact on the delivery of educational services for students enrolled in the Nashoba Regional School District. These areas are as follows:

The district is commended for the very high level of special education parental support and participation, which is evidenced and fostered throughout the district.

The district facilities are clean and conducive to learning.

The district is commended for the establishment of a safe and drug-free schools advisory committee, which includes very broad representation, participation and collaboration among parents, the district and community agencies.

All students in the district are held to high expectations and standards. The curriculum, for all students has been aligned with the Massachusetts Curriculum Frameworks.

Some of the commendations noted above are repeated within the body of the Department's report under the appropriate compliance criteria.

The Department is submitting the following Coordinated Program Review Report containing findings made pursuant to this onsite visit. In preparing this report, the team reviewed extensive written documentation regarding the operation of the district's programs, together with information gathered by means of following Department program review methods:

- Interviews of 16 administrative staff.
- Interviews of 34 teaching and support services staff across all levels.
- Interview of one (1) parent advisory council (PAC) representative, one (1) school committee chairperson and other interviews as requested by persons from the general public.
- Interviews of seven (7) parents and five (5) students.
- Student record reviews: A sample of twenty-nine (29) special education student records was selected by the Department. Student records were first examined by local staff, whose findings were then verified by the onsite team using standard Department of Education student record review procedures to make determinations regarding the implementation of procedural and programmatic requirements.
- Parent surveys: Thirty (30) parents of students with disabilities were sent surveys that solicited information regarding their experiences with the district's implementation of special education programs, related services and procedural requirements. Eleven (11) of these parent surveys were returned to the Department of Education for review by the onsite team.
- Observation of classrooms and other facilities. A sample of nine (9) buildings and sixteen (16) instructional classrooms and other school facilities [Robert F. Kennedy School, Lancaster, MA [Title I Program only] used in the delivery of programs and services was visited to determine general levels of compliance with program requirements.

The report includes findings in the program areas reviewed organized under nine components . These components are listed in the executive summary on the following pages. The findings in each program

area explain the “ratings, ”determinations by the team about the implementation status of the criteria reviewed. The ratings indicate those criteria that were found by the team to be substantially “Implemented” or implemented in a “Commendable” manner. (Refer to the “Definition of Terms” section of the report.) Where criteria were found to be either "Partially Implemented" or "Not Implemented," the district or charter school must propose to the Department corrective actions to bring those areas into compliance with the controlling statute or regulation. In some instances the team may have rated a requirement as “Implemented” but made a specific comment on the district’s implementation methods that also may require response from the district or charter school.

Districts are expected to incorporate the corrective action into their district and school improvement plans, including their professional development plan.

COORDINATED PROGRAM REVIEW REPORT

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

NASHOBA REGIONAL SCHOOL DISTRICT

The following summary synthesizes the findings for criteria included in the Coordinated Program Review as they respond to essential questions which the Department has formulated for each of the components of the report. Note that a more detailed discussion of the onsite team's findings, together with the specific legal standards for each program area included in this review, follows this summary.

Component I: Assessment of Student Progress

Has the district implemented an assessment system that uses appropriate instruments, is conducted according to the specified timelines, and covers the appropriate content areas to determine instructional needs of students?

The District has a broad range of evaluative instruments with which to assess students; however, the specific requirements and timelines for determination of eligibility by an appropriately composed Team were often incomplete and/or overdue. There were concerns that the district is not consistently placing students in the least restrictive environment.

Title I students are appropriately assessed, and student testing results are analyzed in order to identify program needs. State and local assessments are conducted.

Title I students and students with disabilities participate in MCAS. The district does not provide special education assessments in languages other than English.

Component II: Student Identification and Program Placement

Has the district followed procedures for student identification and placement into the program according to the criteria specified in regulations?

The district has established procedures for outreach and screening to assist in the identification of students who may be eligible for special education services. There were instances where Individualized Education Programs [IEPs] were inappropriately completed, often outside of the required timelines.

There is a very high number of special education students who are receiving services out-of-district. There is serious concern that these students may not all be receiving services in the least restrictive environment.

The district collaborates with early intervention programs to ensure that special education services begin prior to age three.

Title I program staff utilize multiple, educationally related criteria to identify and place students. Staff should, however, ensure that parents are involved in development of student selection criteria.

Component III: Parental Involvement

Has the district ensured that parents are notified in the appropriate language and are involved in decisions regarding their children's programs and services? Where appropriate, does the district involve community representatives in shaping programs?

The district involves parents in their children's special education program; however, does not provide publications or other communication in languages other than English.

Title I parents are well informed about the program goals; however, they have not received appropriate training and are not involved in the writing of policies and procedures, program planning, review and evaluation.

The district is commended for the establishment of its safe and drug-free schools advisory committee, which includes broad representation, participation and collaboration among parents, the district and community agencies. SDFSCA participants and parents are aware of the goals and objectives of the program. The district is commended for this very effective collaboration between schools in order to meet goals and objectives of the SDFSCA program

Component IV: Curriculum and Instruction

Does the district hold all students to high expectations and standards? Are programs designed to maximize student performance and students' participation in the general curriculum? Is curriculum throughout the districts' programs aligned with the Massachusetts Curriculum Frameworks? Has the district provided for coordination across program areas?

All students in the district are held to high expectations and standards. The curriculum for all students has been aligned with the Massachusetts Curriculum Frameworks. There are instructional groups which exceed the 48 month age span, without appropriate state waiver(s).

Consideration of and appropriate planning for program / service options for students with behavioral issues is needed at all levels. The district must also develop specific contracts and document that they are monitoring the delivery of services to all students placed out-of-district.

The Title I program is appropriately designed and coordinated with special education and regular education. However, there was no evidence that the SDFSCA program has been appropriately integrated with other federal programs in the district.

Component V: Student Support Services

Has the district ensured that all students have equal access to programs and services? Does the district provide support to students who need it?

The district ensures that all students have equal access to academic, non-academic and extracurricular activities. The use of a systemic home language survey would ensure that English language proficiency, accompanied by any required assistance, is not a barrier for any student or family in the district.

The district's handbooks need to be reviewed to ensure that all non-discrimination statements, codes of conduct, grievance procedures, drop-out letters and other procedural elements are current and accurate. The district must conduct a Functional Behavioral Assessment and develop a Behavioral Intervention Plan for students with interfering behaviors, and must provide psychological counseling whenever an IEP indicates this need.

The district is aware of the staff training required under the new Massachusetts physical restraint regulations.

Component VI: Faculty, Staff and Administration

Does the district maintain certified staff in the specific program areas, provide supervision of aides and tutors, and provide ongoing professional development? Are program leadership and oversight effective? Are the district's personnel procedures non-discriminatory and does it seek to recruit employees from all groups?

In the recent past, there has been extensive staffing and administrative policy change in the Nashoba Regional School District. The administration is aware of the requirement to develop a District Curriculum Accommodation Plan [DCAP], however, substantive action is pending.

The staff does reflect professionals from diverse racial backgrounds. Not all special education teachers are appropriately certified. Additionally, not all staff have had annual civil rights and special education training required under this criterion.

Title I teachers are appropriately certified and receive professional development training which is consistent with their duties.

Component VII: School Facilities

Does the district maintain accessible facilities that are conducive to learning, facilitate integration, and provide equal opportunity for students to achieve?

The district's facilities are clean and conducive to learning. Special education students at the High School and Hale Middle School are served in classrooms that do not maximize student inclusion into the life of the school.

Component VIII: Program Plan and Evaluation

Does the District have written program plans where required that are evaluated according to specific regulatory requirements? Does it use the results of its evaluations to improve programs? Do parents have opportunities for input on needs, program implementation, evaluation, and improvement?

The districts needs to improve their SDFSCA program evaluation to include process, outcome and impact evaluation, to meet the Principles of Effectiveness. The district has established goals, measurable objectives and activities that are based on a thorough assessment of objective data about the drug and violence problems among youth.

Across all areas reviewed [Special Education, Title I, Civil Rights and Safe and Drug Free Schools and Communities Act], the district must develop appropriate evaluative plans and practices which are in compliance with regulatory requirements.

Component IX: Record keeping

Does the District maintain required records and documentation for each specific program area? Are federal entitlement grants appropriately designed, amended, and monitored?

Special Education records and documentation are appropriately maintained.

The Title I grant requires a budget amendment to reflect staffing [and any other] changes.

The Safe and Drug Free Schools and Communities Act program has filed approved and current budget pages. Amendments and a request for funds are on file with the Department of Education. The district does not maintain time distribution logs for individuals employed with SDFSCA funds.

DEFINITION OF TERMS
FOR THE RATING OF EACH COMPLIANCE CRITERION

| | |
|-----------------------------------|---|
| Commendable | Any requirement or aspect of a requirement implemented in an exemplary manner significantly beyond the requirements of law or regulation. |
| Implemented | The requirement is substantially met. |
| Implementation in Progress | In reference to compliance criterion MOA 17A, new Board of Education requirements became effective on April 2, 2001 regarding the use of physical restraint in publicly funded education programs. The district is currently engaged in staff training and is beginning implementation practices for these new requirements which the Department's onsite team anticipates will result in substantial compliance by the end of the 2001-2002 school year. |
| Partially Implemented | The requirement, in one or several important aspects, is not entirely met. |
| Not Implemented | The requirement is totally or substantially not met. |
| Not Applicable | The requirement does not apply to the school district or charter school. |

COMPONENT I: ASSESSMENT OF STUDENT PROGRESS

The criteria in this component examine whether the District has implemented an assessment system that uses appropriate instruments, conducted according to the specified timelines and covering the appropriate content areas to determine instructional needs of students for the program areas listed below:

- Special Education (Report Issues # SE 1- SE 14)
 - Title I (Report Issues # TI 1-4)

| CRITERION NUMBER | SPECIAL EDUCATION I. ASSESSMENT OF STUDENT PROGRESS |
|-------------------------|--|
| | Legal Standard |
| SE 1 | <p>Assessments are appropriately selected and interpreted for students referred for evaluation</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Tests and other evaluation materials are: <ol style="list-style-type: none"> a. validated b. administered and interpreted by trained individuals c. tailored to assess specific areas of educational need d. selected and administered to reflect aptitude and achievement levels e. as free as possible from cultural and linguistic bias f. provided in the student's native language or other mode of communication where feasible g. not the sole criterion for determining an appropriate educational program h. not only those designed to provide a single general intelligence quotient i. are selected and administered to ensure that when a test is administered to a student with impaired sensory, manual, or speaking skills, the test results accurately reflect the student's aptitude or achievement level or the other factors the test purports to measure j. technically sound instruments that may assess the relative contribution of cognitive and behavioral factors, in addition to physical or developmental factors 2. In interpreting evaluation data and making decisions, the district: <ol style="list-style-type: none"> a. uses information from a variety of sources to gather relevant functional and developmental information, including information provided by the parent b. ensures that information obtained from these sources is considered c. ensures that the placement decision conforms with placement in the least restrictive environment d. includes information related to enabling the student to be involved in and progress in the general curriculum <p>State Regulations 28.04</p> <p style="text-align: right;">Federal Requirements 300.532, 300.535</p> |
| | <p>Rating: Partially Implemented District Response Required: Yes</p> |

Department of Education Findings:

Records and interviews indicated that the district does not provide assessments in languages other than English. Students are not always placed in the least restrictive environment.

| CRITERION NUMBER | |
|------------------|---|
| | Legal Standard |
| SE 2 | <p>Required and optional assessments</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. <u>Required assessments</u>: The following assessments are completed by appropriately credentialed and trained specialists for each referred student: <ol style="list-style-type: none"> a. Assessment(s) in all areas related to the suspected disability (ies) including consideration of any needed assistive technology devices and services and/or instruction in braille. b. Educational assessment by a representative of the school district, including a history of the student’s educational progress in the general curriculum. c. Assessment by a teacher(s) with current knowledge regarding the student’s specific abilities in relation to learning standards of the Massachusetts Curriculum Frameworks and the district curriculum, as well as an assessment of the student’s attention skills, participation behaviors, communication skills, memory, and social relations with groups, peers, and adults. d. For a child being assessed to determine eligibility for services at age three (3), an observation of the child’s interactions in the child’s natural environment or early intervention program is strongly encouraged together with the use of current assessments from early intervention Teams to avoid duplicate testing. 2. <u>Optional assessments</u>: The Administrator of Special Education may recommend or the parent may request one or more of the following: <ol style="list-style-type: none"> a. A comprehensive health assessment by a physician that identifies medical problems or constraints that may affect the student's education. The school nurse may add additional relevant health information from the student’s school health records. b. A psychological assessment by a certified school psychologist, licensed psychologist, or licensed educational psychologist, including an individual psychological examination. c. A home assessment that may be conducted by a nurse, psychologist, social worker, guidance or adjustment counselor, or teacher and includes information on pertinent family history and home situation and may include a home visit, with the agreement of the parent 3. At the re-evaluation of a student, if <u>the Team decides</u> that no additional assessments are needed to determine whether the student continues to be eligible for special education, the school district recommends to the student’s parents the following: <ol style="list-style-type: none"> a. that no further assessments are needed and the reasons for this; and b. the right of such parents to request an assessment. |

| | | | |
|---|--|---|---|
| CRITERION NUMBER | | | |
| | Legal Standard | | |
| | <table style="width: 100%; border: none;"> <tr> <td style="width: 50%; vertical-align: top;"> State Regulations 28.04 (1) and (2) </td> <td style="width: 50%; vertical-align: top;"> Federal Requirements 300.532; 300.346.(a)(2)(v) </td> </tr> </table> | State Regulations 28.04 (1) and (2) | Federal Requirements 300.532; 300.346.(a)(2)(v) |
| State Regulations 28.04 (1) and (2) | Federal Requirements 300.532; 300.346.(a)(2)(v) | | |
| | <table style="width: 100%; border: none;"> <tr> <td style="width: 50%;">Rating: Partially Implemented</td> <td style="width: 50%;">District Response Required: Yes</td> </tr> </table> | Rating: Partially Implemented | District Response Required: Yes |
| Rating: Partially Implemented | District Response Required: Yes | | |

Department of Education Findings:

A review of student records indicated that the district does not always complete the Educational Status Assessment (Parts A & B) when assessing a student.

| | |
|-------------------------|---|
| CRITERION NUMBER | |
| | Legal Standard |
| SE 3 | <p>Special requirements for determination of specific learning disabilities When the district proposes to evaluate a child suspected of having a specific learning disability, the following requirements are implemented:</p> <p><u>Team membership:</u> The district ensures the Team includes at a minimum the parent, the child’s regular classroom teacher appropriate to the age of the child and at least one person qualified to conduct individual diagnostic examinations of children.</p> <p><u>Criteria for determining the existence of a specific learning disability:</u></p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. the achievement is determined not to be commensurate with the age and ability of the child; 2. a severe discrepancy exists in one or more areas between achievement and intellectual ability in oral expression, listening comprehension, written expression, basic reading skill and reading comprehension, mathematics calculation and reasoning; 3. the severe discrepancy between ability and achievement is not resulting from visual, hearing or motor impairment, mental retardation, emotional disturbance or environmental, cultural or economic disadvantage. <p><u>Required observation of the child:</u></p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. at least one Team member <u>other than</u> the child’s regular teacher observes the child’s academic performance in the regular classroom setting; 2. if the child is less than school age, the observation is conducted in an environment appropriate for a child of that age. <p><u>Written documentation of the Team’s determination of eligibility due to the presence of a specific learning disability includes the following:</u></p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. statement whether the child has a specific learning disability; 2. the basis for making the determination; 3. the relevant behavior noted during the observation of the child; 4. the relationship of that behavior to the child’s academic functioning; 5. the educationally relevant medical findings, if any; 6. statement whether there is a severe discrepancy between achievement and ability |

| | |
|-------------------------|--|
| CRITERION NUMBER | |
| | Legal Standard |
| SE 5 | <p>Participation in general State and district-wide assessment programs</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. All students with disabilities whose placements are funded by the district are included in the Massachusetts Comprehensive Assessment System (MCAS) and other district-wide assessment programs. 2. The district's IEP Teams designate how each student will participate and, if necessary, provide an alternate assessment. <p>State Regulations Federal Requirements 300.138; 300.139</p> |
| | Rating: Implemented with Comment District Response Required: Yes |

Department of Education Findings:

A review of student records indicated that the assessment page is not always completed in each Individualized Education Program [IEP].

| | |
|-------------------------|---|
| CRITERION NUMBER | |
| | Legal Standard |
| SE 6 | <p>Determination of transition services</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. For a student who is 14 years of age, the Team considers the student's course of study in relation to the student's future goals and document this in the IEP. 2. For a student who is 16 years of age, or younger if appropriate, the Team includes in the IEP services that promote movement of the student from school to post-school activities, including post-secondary education, vocational training, integrated employment (including supported employment), continuing and adult education, adult services, independent living, or community participation. 3. The transition services are based upon the student's needs, taking into account the student's preferences and interests and includes specially designed instruction, community experiences, the development of employment or other post-school adult living objectives, and, if appropriate, the acquisition of daily living skills and functional vocational evaluation. 4. For any student approaching graduation or the age of twenty-two, the Team determines whether the student is likely to require continuing services from adult human service agencies. In such circumstances, the Administrator of Special Education makes a referral to the Bureau of Transitional Planning in the Executive Office of Health and Human Services in accordance with the |

| | |
|-------------------------|--|
| CRITERION NUMBER | |
| | Legal Standard |
| | <p>requirements of M.G.L. c.71, §12A-§12C (known as Chapter 688).</p> <p>5. In cases where the IEP included needed transition services and a participating agency other than the school district fails to provide these services, the Team reconvenes to identify alternative strategies to meet the transition objectives.</p> <p>6. The district ensures that students age 14, or younger if appropriate, are invited to and attend Team meetings at which transition services are discussed or proposed</p> <p>State Regulations M.G.L. Ch.71B, Sections 12A-C 603 CMR 28.05(4)(c)</p> <p style="text-align: right;">Federal Requirements 300.344(b), 300.347</p> |
| | <p>Rating: Implemented District Response Required: No</p> |

| | |
|-------------------------|--|
| CRITERION NUMBER | |
| | Legal Standard |
| SE 7 | <p>Transfer of parental rights at age of majority and student participation and consent at the age of majority</p> <p>1. One year prior to the student reaching age eighteen, the district informs the student of his or her right at age 18 to make all decisions in relation to special education programs and services.</p> <p>2. Upon reaching the age of eighteen, the school district implements procedures to obtain consent from the student to continue the student’s special education program.</p> <p>3. The district continues to send the parent written notices and information but will no longer have decision-making authority, except as provided below.</p> <p style="padding-left: 20px;">(a) If the parent has sought and received guardianship from a court of competent jurisdiction, then the parent retains full decision-making authority. The parent does not have authority to override any decision or lack of decision made by the student who has reached the age of majority unless the parent has sought or received guardianship or other legal authority from a court of competent jurisdiction</p> <p style="padding-left: 20px;">(b) The student, upon reaching the age of majority and in the absence of any court actions to the contrary, may choose to share decision-making with his or her parent (or other willing adult), including allowing the parent to co-sign the IEP. Such choice is made in the presence of the Team and is documented in written form. The</p> |

| | |
|-------------------------|--|
| CRITERION NUMBER | |
| | Legal Standard |
| | <p>student's choice prevails at any time that a disagreement occurs between the adult student and the parent or other adult with whom the student has shared decision-making</p> <p>(c) The student, upon reaching the age of majority and in the absence of any court actions to the contrary, may choose to delegate continued decision-making to his or her parent, or other willing adult. Such choice is made in the presence of at least one representative of the school district and one other witness and is documented in written form and maintained in the student record.</p> <p>State Regulations M.G.L. Ch. 231, Sec 3A 603 CMR 28.08(5),</p> <p>Federal Requirements 300.347(c), 300.517</p> |
| | Rating: Implemented District Response Required: No |

| | |
|-------------------------|--|
| CRITERION NUMBER | |
| | Legal Standard |
| SE 8 | <p><u>Evaluation Team composition</u> The following persons are members of the evaluation Team:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. The child's parents 2. A representative of the school district who acts as Chairperson and who is (1) qualified to supervise or provide special education; (2) is knowledgeable about the general curriculum; and (3) is knowledgeable about the availability of resources of the district. 3. A representative of the school district who has the authority to commit the resources of the district (and who may act as the Chairperson) 4. A teacher who has recently had or currently has the student in a classroom or other teaching situation. If the student is involved or may be involved in a regular education program, a regular education teacher must be included as a Team member. 5. The student, age fourteen and older, if he/she chooses 6. Other individuals at the request of the student's parents 7. At least one teacher or specialist trained in the area of the student's suspected special needs 8. Individuals who are qualified to interpret the instructional implications of evaluation results 9. Other individuals who may be necessary to write an IEP for the child, as determined by the Administrator of Special Education 10. When one purpose of the Team meeting is to discuss transition services, the |

| | |
|-------------------------|--|
| CRITERION NUMBER | |
| | Legal Standard |
| 11. | <p>student age sixteen or older (or younger, if appropriate) is a part of Team process. If the student does not attend the Team meeting, the school district ensures that the Team is informed of the student's interests and preferences. When one purpose of the Team meeting is to discuss transition services, a representative of any public agency who may be responsible for providing or paying for transition services is invited to the Team meeting. If the representative(s) does not attend the meeting, the school district takes other steps to obtain the participation of these agencies.</p> |
| | <p>State Regulations 28.02(22)</p> <p style="text-align: right;">Federal Requirements 300.344; 300.552</p> |
| | <p>Rating: Partially Implemented District Response Required: Yes</p> |

Department of Education Findings:

A review of student records and interviews indicated that there is not always a general education teacher represented at secondary level Team meetings.

| | |
|-------------------------|--|
| CRITERION NUMBER | |
| | Legal Standard |
| SE 9 | <p>Eligibility determination: Timelines for evaluation, provision of IEP and/or identification of other needed instructional programs</p> <p>1. Within forty-five school working days after receipt of the parent's written consent to an initial evaluation, unscheduled evaluation, or re-evaluation, the school district:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> a. provides an evaluation b. convenes a Team meeting c. determines whether the student has one or more disabilities d. determines if the student is making effective progress in school e. determines if any lack of progress is a result of the student's disability f. determines if the student requires special education and/or related services and/or accommodations in order to make effective progress or that the student requires related services in order to access the general curriculum g. develops an IEP where the student is found to need special education h. provides the parent with the proposed IEP, or a written explanation of the finding of no eligibility i. determines that a student is ineligible to receive special education and/or the student's lack of progress is due to a lack of instruction in |

| | |
|-------------------------|--|
| CRITERION NUMBER | |
| | Legal Standard |
| | <p>reading or math or limited English proficiency or social maladjustment, the student is referred to a more appropriate instructional program or support service</p> <p>j. determines at the time of re-evaluation if the student would continue to make progress in school without the provision of special education services.</p> <p>2. If a Team determines that a student is not eligible for special education but may be eligible for accommodation(s) for disability(ies) under Section 504, the student is referred for consideration by the district for eligibility under that regular education program.</p> <p>3. When the development of a student's IEP does not indicate a need for direct services, the Team makes a finding of no eligibility and appropriate services are provided through the district's general education program.</p> <p>State Regulations 28.05(1) and (2)</p> <p>Federal Requirements 300.534</p> |
| | Rating: Partially Implemented District Response Required: Yes |

Department of Education Findings:

A review of student records and interviews indicated that IEPs are not consistently written and issued within the required timelines.

| | |
|-------------------------|--|
| CRITERION NUMBER | |
| | Legal Standard |
| SE 10 | <p>End of school year evaluations If consent is received within thirty (30) to forty-five (45) school working days before the end of the school year, the school district ensures that a Team meeting is scheduled so as to allow for the provision of a proposed IEP or written notice of the finding that the student is not eligible no later than fourteen (14) days after the end of the school year..</p> <p>State Regulations 28.05(1)</p> <p>Federal Requirements 300.342</p> |
| | Rating: Partially Implemented District Response Required: Yes |

Department of Education Findings:

Review of student records and interviews indicated that end of the year evaluations are sometimes carried over to the next year.

| CRITERION NUMBER | |
|-------------------------|---|
| | Legal Standard |
| SE 11 | <p>School district response to parental request for independent educational evaluation</p> <p>If a parent disagrees with an initial evaluation or re-evaluation completed by the school district, and the parent requests an independent educational evaluation, the district implements the following requirements:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. All independent educational evaluations funded by the district are conducted by qualified persons who are registered, certified, licensed or otherwise approved and who abide by the rates set by the state agency responsible for setting such rates. Unique circumstances of the child are justified when an individual assessment rate is higher than that normally allowed. 2. The school district has procedures to offer parents the option of participating in an income eligibility program for free or reduced cost independent educational evaluations that are equivalent to the types of assessments done by the school district. 3. The district extends the right to a publicly funded independent educational evaluation (only if cost shared or funded for state wards or for students receiving free or reduced cost lunch) for sixteen (16) months from the date of the evaluation with which the parent disagrees. 4. If the parent is requesting an evaluation in an area not assessed by the school district, or if the student does not meet or the parent does not choose to share the financial documentation regarding the income eligibility standards for free or reduced cost independent educational evaluation, then the school district responds in accordance with the requirements of federal law by paying for the independent educational evaluation or, within five school days, proceeding to Special Education Appeals to show that its evaluation was comprehensive and appropriate. Where the Department’s Special Education Appeals finds that the school district’s evaluation was comprehensive and appropriate, the school district does not pay for the independent educational evaluation requested by the parent. 5. Whenever possible, the independent educational evaluation is completed and a written report sent no later than thirty (30) days after the date the parent requests the independent educational evaluation. If publicly funded, the report is sent to the parents and to the school district. The independent evaluator’s report summarizes, in writing, procedures, assessments, results, and diagnostic impressions as well as educationally relevant recommendations for meeting identified needs of the student. The independent evaluator recommends appropriate types of placements but not specific classrooms or schools. 6. Within ten (10) school days from the time the school district receives the report of the independent educational evaluation, the Team reconvenes and considers the independent educational evaluation (which may be publicly or privately funded) and whether a new or amended IEP is appropriate. <p>State Regulations 28.04(5)</p> <p>Federal Requirements 300.503(a)(3)(i)</p> |
| | <p>Rating: Implemented District Response Required: No</p> |

| | |
|-------------------------|--|
| CRITERION NUMBER | |
| | Legal Standard |
| SE 12 | <p>Frequency of re-evaluation</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Every three years, or sooner if necessary, the school district, with parental consent, conducts a full three-year re-evaluation consistent with the requirements of federal law. 2. The district implements re-evaluation procedures in all cases where it is suspected that a student is no longer eligible for special education. <p>State Regulations 28.04(3)</p> <p>Federal Requirements 300.536</p> |
| | Rating: Implemented District Response Required: No |

| | |
|-------------------------|---|
| CRITERION NUMBER | |
| | Legal Standard |
| SE 13 | <p>Progress Reports and content</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Parents receive reports on the student's progress toward reaching the goals set in the IEP at least as often as parents are informed of the progress of non-disabled students. 2. Progress report information sent to parents includes written information on the student's progress toward the annual goals in the IEP, including information on the extent to which such progress is sufficient to enable the child to achieve the goals by the end of the year. <p>State Regulations 28.07(3)</p> <p>Federal Requirements 20 U.S.C. Chapter 33, Section 1414(d)(1)(A)(viii) 300.347</p> |
| | Rating: Implemented District Response Required: No |

| | |
|-------------------------|--|
| CRITERION NUMBER | |
| | Legal Standard |
| SE 14 | <p>Annual review Team meeting At least annually, on or before the anniversary date of the implementation of the IEP, a Team meeting (including the major service providers and the parent) is held to consider the student's progress and to review, revise, or develop a new IEP or refer the student for a re-evaluation, as appropriate.</p> <p>State Regulations 28.04(3)</p> <p>Federal Requirements 300.343(c)</p> |
| | Rating: Implemented District Response Required: No |

| | |
|-------------------------|--|
| CRITERION NUMBER | TITLE 1 I. ASSESSMENT OF STUDENT PROGRESS |
| | Legal Standard |
| TI 1 | <p>MCAS testing has been used to measure the progress of schools and the school district, and the proficiency of students in the academic subjects, adopted by Massachusetts, which reflects challenging content and student performance standards.</p> <p>1111(b)(3)(D)</p> |
| | Rating: Implemented District Response Required: No |

| | |
|-------------------------|---|
| CRITERION NUMBER | |
| | Legal Standard |
| TI 2 | In a Schoolwide Program all students are assessed in the selected grades during grade spans 3-5, 6-9, 10-12. 1114 (c)(1)(B)(I) ESEA, IASA |
| | Rating: Not Applicable District Response Required: No |

Department of Education Findings:

There are no Schoolwide Programs in the district.

| | |
|-------------------------|---|
| CRITERION NUMBER | |
| | Legal Standard |
| TI 3 | In Targeted Assistance Schools (schools with less than 50% poverty) either: 1. all Title I identified students who are being served, or 2. all students are assessed in at least one grade of each of the spans (3-5, 6-9, and 10-12.) 1115 (c)(1)(A) ESEA, IASA |
| | Rating: Implemented District Response Required: No |

| | |
|-------------------------|---|
| CRITERION NUMBER | |
| | Legal Standard |
| TI 4 | MCAS and other local assessment results are analyzed in at least mathematics and reading/language arts and are used a) to determine program needs of students most at risk, b) to inform Title I program design and services, and c) to evaluate the impact on student achievement. 1111 (b)(3) ESEA, IASA |
| | Rating: Implemented District Response Required: No |

COMPONENT II: STUDENT IDENTIFICATION AND PLACEMENT

The criteria in this component examine whether the district has followed procedures for student identification and placement into the program according to the criteria in regulations for the program areas listed below:

- Special Education (Report Issues # SE 15-23)
- Civil Rights Methods of Administration (MOA)
(Report Issues # MOA 1-6)
 - Title I (Report Issues # TI 5-9)

| | | | |
|---|---|---|---------------------------------------|
| CRITERION NUMBER | | | |
| | Legal Standard | | |
| | <table style="width: 100%; border: none;"> <tr> <td style="width: 50%; border: none;">State Regulations 28.03(1)(d) Chapter 71, section 57</td> <td style="width: 50%; border: none; text-align: right;">Federal Requirements</td> </tr> </table> | State Regulations 28.03(1)(d) Chapter 71, section 57 | Federal Requirements |
| State Regulations 28.03(1)(d) Chapter 71, section 57 | Federal Requirements | | |
| | <table style="width: 100%; border: none;"> <tr> <td style="width: 50%; border: none;">Rating: Implemented</td> <td style="width: 50%; border: none; text-align: right;">District Response Required: No</td> </tr> </table> | Rating: Implemented | District Response Required: No |
| Rating: Implemented | District Response Required: No | | |

| | | | |
|---|---|---|---|
| CRITERION NUMBER | | | |
| | Legal Standard | | |
| SE 17 | <p>Initiation of services at age three and Early Intervention transition procedures</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. The school district encourages referrals from the Department of Public Health, other agencies, and individuals for young children when or before the child turns two-and-one-half years old in order to ensure continuity of services and to ensure the development and implementation of an IEP for eligible children by the date of the child's third birthday in accordance with federal requirements. 2. The district implements procedures to ensure the effective transition of young children with disabilities from Early Intervention Programs through participation in transition planning conferences arranged by such programs. <table style="width: 100%; border: none; margin-top: 10px;"> <tr> <td style="width: 50%; border: none;">State Regulations 28.06(7)(b)</td> <td style="width: 50%; border: none; text-align: right;">Federal Requirements 300.24(b)(3); 300.121(c); 300.132; 300.342(c)</td> </tr> </table> | State Regulations 28.06(7)(b) | Federal Requirements 300.24(b)(3); 300.121(c); 300.132; 300.342(c) |
| State Regulations 28.06(7)(b) | Federal Requirements 300.24(b)(3); 300.121(c); 300.132; 300.342(c) | | |
| | <table style="width: 100%; border: none;"> <tr> <td style="width: 50%; border: none;">Rating: Implemented</td> <td style="width: 50%; border: none; text-align: right;">District Response Required: No</td> </tr> </table> | Rating: Implemented | District Response Required: No |
| Rating: Implemented | District Response Required: No | | |

| CRITERION NUMBER | | | |
|---|--|---|---|
| | Legal Standard | | |
| SE 18A | <p>IEP development and content</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Upon determining that the student is eligible for special education, the Team, including the parent(s), develops an IEP at the Team meeting using the evaluation data to guide development of measurable, annual goals and objectives/benchmarks for the student. If the district chooses to draft any element(s) of the IEP for discussion, the Team Chairperson ensures that those elements are genuinely considered prior to adoption at the Team meeting. All ideas and needs of the child as expressed by all Team members, especially the parents, are genuinely considered by the district prior to proposing the IEP. 2. The IEP includes specially designed instruction to meet the needs of the individual student and related services that are necessary to allow the student to benefit from the specially designed instruction, or consists solely of related services that are necessary to allow the student to access the general curriculum, consistent with federal and state requirements. 3. In developing the IEP, the Team proposes specially designed instruction and related services according to the needs of the child <u>and not</u> according to the availability of such instruction or related services. 4. The IEP is completed addressing all elements of the most current IEP format provided by the Department of Education. Where applicable, the district includes in the IEP, or other notice to the parent, information regarding the implementation of any necessary restraint procedures for students as required under 603 CMR 46.00. 5. If the Team members are unable to agree on the IEP, the Team chairperson states the elements of the IEP proposed by the school district. 6. The school district ensures that each IEP Team has at least one person with authority to commit the resources of the district and that whatever services are set out in the IEP will actually be provided and that the IEP will not be changed at a higher administrative level within the district. 7. The IEP is written in generally understandable language. <table style="width: 100%; border: none;"> <tr> <td style="width: 50%; vertical-align: top;"> <p>State Regulations 28.05(3), (4), (6) and (7) 28.06(2)</p> </td> <td style="width: 50%; vertical-align: top;"> <p>Federal Requirements 300.340-300.350; 300.343(a) 34 CFR Part 300, Appendix A, Question #22.</p> </td> </tr> </table> | <p>State Regulations 28.05(3), (4), (6) and (7) 28.06(2)</p> | <p>Federal Requirements 300.340-300.350; 300.343(a) 34 CFR Part 300, Appendix A, Question #22.</p> |
| <p>State Regulations 28.05(3), (4), (6) and (7) 28.06(2)</p> | <p>Federal Requirements 300.340-300.350; 300.343(a) 34 CFR Part 300, Appendix A, Question #22.</p> | | |
| | <p>Rating: Partially Implemented District Response Required: Yes</p> | | |

Department of Education Findings:

Review of student records indicated that IEPs are not consistently and appropriately completed. There were instances in which the most current IEP forms were not used. Additionally, there were service grids which did not describe specialized instruction—they simply say “support”.

| | | | |
|--|---|--|--|
| CRITERION NUMBER | | | |
| | Legal Standard | | |
| SE 18B | <p>Determination of placement; provision of IEP to parent</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. At the Team meeting, after the IEP has been fully developed, the Team determines the appropriate placement to deliver the services on the student's IEP. 2. Unless the student's IEP requires some other arrangement, the student is educated in the school that he or she would attend if the student did not require special education. 3. The decision regarding placement is based on the IEP, including the types of related services that are to be provided to the child, the type of settings in which those services are to be provided, the types of service providers, and the location at which the services are to be provided. 4. The placement selected by the Team is the least restrictive environment consistent with the needs of the student. 5. Immediately following the development of the IEP, and within 45 school working days after receipt of the parent's written consent to an initial evaluation or reevaluation, the district provides the parent with two (2) copies of the proposed IEP and proposed placement along with the required notice, except that the proposal of placement may be delayed according to the provisions of 603 CMR 28.06(2)(e) in a limited number of cases. <p style="text-align: center;"> <table border="0" style="width: 100%;"> <tr> <td style="width: 50%;">State Regulations 28.05(6) and (7)</td> <td style="width: 50%;">Federal Requirements 300.346</td> </tr> </table> </p> | State Regulations 28.05(6) and (7) | Federal Requirements 300.346 |
| State Regulations 28.05(6) and (7) | Federal Requirements 300.346 | | |
| | <p>Rating: Partially Implemented District Response Required: Yes</p> | | |

Department of Education Findings:

Review of student records, interviews and parent surveys indicated that there is a disproportionate number of students placed out of district in what may not be the least restrictive environment for services. Additionally, parents are not receiving the IEP within the required timelines.

| | |
|-------------------------|---|
| CRITERION NUMBER | |
| | Legal Standard |
| <p>SE 19</p> | <p>Extended evaluation If the Team finds a student eligible for special education and finds the evaluation information insufficient to develop a full or partial IEP, the Team, with the parents' consent, agrees to an extended evaluation period.</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. The extended evaluation period is not used to deny programs or services determined to be necessary by the Team. If, prior to the extended evaluation, the Team determines that sufficient information is available to determine eligibility and to determine, in part, necessary annual goals and services, the Team writes a partial IEP that, if accepted by the parent, is immediately implemented by the district while the extended evaluation is occurring. 2. The extended evaluation period is not be used to allow additional time to complete the required assessments and does not deny programs and services to the student. 3. If the parent consents to an extended evaluation, the Team documents their findings and determines what evaluation time period is necessary and the types of information needed to determine eligibility and/or develop an IEP, if appropriate. The Team may decide to meet at intervals during the extended evaluation, but in all cases reconvenes promptly to make their eligibility determination and/or develop an IEP when the evaluation is complete. 4. The extended evaluation may extend longer than one week, but does not exceed eight school weeks. 5. The extended evaluation is not considered a placement. <p>State Regulations 28.05(2)(b)</p> <p style="text-align: right;">Federal Requirements</p> |
| | <p>Rating: Partially Implemented District Response Required: Yes</p> |

Department of Education Findings:

Review of student records and interviews indicated the use of extended evaluations to extend timelines when students have not yet been found eligible for special education

| CRITERION NUMBER | |
|------------------|--|
| | Legal Standard |
| SE 20 | <p>Least restrictive program selected</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. The program selected is the least restrictive environment for students, with consideration given to any potential harmful effect on the student or on the quality of services that he or she needs. 2. If the student is removed from the general education classroom at any time, the Team states why the removal is considered critical to the student's program and the basis for its conclusion that education of the student in a less restrictive environment, with the use of supplementary aids and services, could not be achieved satisfactorily. 3. The district does not remove an eligible child from the general education classroom solely because of needed modification in the curriculum. <p>State Regulations 28.06(2)(a)</p> <p style="text-align: right;">Federal Requirements 300.130; 300.550-300.556</p> |
| | <p>Rating: Partially Implemented District Response Required: Yes</p> |

Department of Education Findings:

A disproportionate number of students in out-of-district placements indicated a gap in the continuum of available services for students.

| CRITERION NUMBER | |
|------------------|---|
| | Legal Standard |
| SE 21 | <p>School day and school year requirements</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. The school district ensures that every eligible elementary level student is scheduled to receive a minimum of 900 hours per school year of structured learning time and every secondary school student is scheduled to receive a minimum of 990 hours per school year of structured learning time unless otherwise provided for below. 2. The Team routinely considers the need for an educational program that is less than or more than the regular school day or school year, including extended day, or year, and/or residential services and indicates on the IEP why the shorter or longer program is necessary. 3. The daily duration of the child's program is equal to that of the regular school day unless the Team states that a different duration is necessary to provide a free appropriate public education to the child. 4. Specialized transportation schedules do not impede a student's access to a full school day and program of instruction. |

| | |
|-------------------------|---|
| CRITERION NUMBER | |
| | Legal Standard |
| | <p>5. An extended day or year program is identified if the student has demonstrated or is likely to demonstrate substantial regression in his or her learning skills and/or substantial difficulty in relearning such skills if an extended program is not provided.</p> <p>6. If residential services are required, the IEP clearly specifies the reasons for such determination and how such services will be coordinated with the day education services provided to the student. Additionally, the annual goals and services on the student's IEP reflects the comprehensive nature of the educational program required.</p> <p>7. Camping or recreation programs provided solely for recreational purposes and with no corresponding IEP goals or specially designed instruction are not to be considered for extended year programs.</p> <p>State Regulations 28.05(4) Chapter 69, section 1G</p> <p style="text-align: right;">Federal Requirements 300.309(b)</p> |
| | Rating: Implemented District Response Required: No |

| | |
|-------------------------|--|
| CRITERION NUMBER | |
| | Legal Standard |
| SE 22 | <p>IEP implementation and availability</p> <p>1. Where the IEP of the student in need of special education has been accepted in whole or in part by that student's parent, the school district provides the mutually agreed upon services without delay.</p> <p>2. At the beginning of each school year, the district has an IEP in effect for each eligible student within its jurisdiction.</p> <p>3. Each teacher and provider described in the IEP is informed of his or her specific responsibilities related to the implementation of the student's IEP.</p> <p>4. The school district does not delay implementation of the IEP due to lack of classroom space or personnel, provides as many of the services on the accepted IEP as possible and immediately informs parents in writing of any delayed services, reasons for delay, actions that the school district is taking to address the lack of space or personnel and offers alternative methods to meet the goals on the accepted IEP. Upon agreement of the parents, the school district implements alternative methods immediately until the lack of space or personnel issues are resolved.</p> <p>State Regulations 28.05(7)(b); 28.06(2)(b)(2)</p> <p style="text-align: right;">Federal Requirements 300.342</p> |
| | Rating: Implemented District Response Required: No |

| | |
|-------------------------|---|
| CRITERION NUMBER | |
| | Legal Standard |
| SE 23 | <p>Confidentiality of personally identifiable information The district protects the confidentiality of any personally identifiable information that is collected, used or maintained in accordance with federal and state law.</p> <p>State Regulations 603 CMR 23.00 (Student Records Regulations)</p> <p>Federal Requirements 300.560-576; Family Educational Rights and Privacy Act (FERPA)</p> |
| | Rating: Implemented District Response Required: No |

| | |
|-------------------------|---|
| CRITERION NUMBER | CIVIL RIGHTS METHODS OF ADMINISTRATION II. STUDENT IDENTIFICATION AND PLACEMENT |
| | Legal Standard |
| MOA 1 | <p>Identification of limited English proficient students The district uses qualified staff and appropriate procedures and assessments to annually classify and evaluate students who are limited English proficient and who need special language assistance.</p> <p>Title VI; MGL, Ch.76, Section 5</p> |
| | Rating: Implemented District Response Required: No |

| | |
|-------------------------|--|
| CRITERION NUMBER | |
| | Legal Standard |
| MOA 2 | <p>Program modification for limited English proficient students For students requiring special language assistance, the district makes necessary program modifications to effectively serve limited English proficient students.</p> <p>Title VI; MGL, Ch.76, Section 5</p> |
| | Rating: Implemented District Response Required: No |

Note: Also see SE 29 regarding LEP family communications.

| | |
|-------------------------|--|
| CRITERION NUMBER | |
| | Legal Standard |
| MOA 3 | <p>Access to a full range of education programs All students in grades 7-12, including linguistic and/or racial and ethnic minorities, males/females and students with disabilities, have access to the general education program and the full range of any occupational/vocational education programs offered by the district.</p> <p>Title II, Title VI, Title IX, S. 504, MGL, Ch.76, Section 5</p> |
| | Rating: Implemented District Response Required: No |

| | |
|-------------------------|--|
| CRITERION NUMBER | |
| | Legal Standard |
| MOA 4 | <p>Placement of linguistic, racial minority and female/male students Patterns of placement in district programs and services for disabled students, linguistic and racial minority students, and females are consistent with those for non-disabled students, linguistic and racial majority students, and males; enrollment in honors courses, especially math and science honors courses, is inclusive of both females and males and of students from diverse ethnic and cultural groups.</p> <p>Title VI; Title IX; S. 504; MGL, Ch.76, Section 5</p> |
| | Rating: Implemented District Response Required: No |

| | |
|-------------------------|--|
| CRITERION NUMBER | |
| | Legal Standard |
| MOA 5 | <p>Placement of disabled students in occupational/vocational education programs When occupational/ vocational placement needs of disabled students are being considered:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> a. persons knowledgeable about a student’s disabilities are present at 504 or special education TEAM meetings and participate in ongoing communication regarding a student’s progress b. an array of occupational/vocational education programs and services are available to facilitate necessary program modifications and to meet the identified needs of students. <p>Title II, S. 504</p> |
| | Rating: Implemented District Response Required: No |

| | |
|-------------------------|--|
| CRITERION NUMBER | |
| | Legal Standard |
| MOA 6 | <p>Availability of in-school programs for pregnant students Pregnant students are permitted to remain in regular education classes and participate in extracurricular activities with non-pregnant students throughout their pregnancy, and after giving birth are permitted to return to the same academic and extracurricular program as before the leave.</p> <p>Title IX</p> |
| | Rating: Implemented District Response Required: No |

| CRITERION NUMBER | TITLE 1 II. STUDENT IDENTIFICATION AND PLACEMENT |
|------------------|--|
| | Legal Standard |
| TI 5 | Targeted Assistance Schools: a description is available of the multiple, objective, educationally-related criteria used to identify eligible students in grade 3 and above who are failing or most at-risk of failing to meet the high quality student performance and assessment standards required of all students. 1115 (b)(1)(B) ESEA,IASA 200.28 (Federal Register) CFR; 200.63 (c)(3)(i) (Federal Register) CFR. |
| | Rating: Implemented District Response Required: No |

| CRITERION NUMBER | |
|------------------|---|
| | Legal Standard |
| TI 6 | Targeted Assistance Schools: preschool through grade 2 students are selected based on teacher judgment, parental interviews and developmentally appropriate measures. 1115 (b)(1)(B) ESEA,IASA |
| | Rating: Implemented District Response Required: No |

| CRITERION NUMBER | |
|------------------|---|
| | Legal Standard |
| TI 7 | Targeted Assistance Schools: The criteria for the identification of students are developed in consultation with parents, administrators, and pupil services personnel. 1115 ESEA,IASA; 1112 (b)(6) ESEA,IASA |
| | Rating: Partially Implemented District Response Required: Yes |

Department of Education Findings:

Although interviews indicated that criteria for the identification of students are developed in consultation with administrators and staff, parents are not involved with development of these criteria.

| | |
|-------------------------|---|
| CRITERION NUMBER | |
| | Legal Standard |
| TI 8 | <p>There is evidence that students with limited-English proficiency are identified as eligible and selected for Title I services on the same basis as other children selected to receive services.</p> <p>1115(b)(2)(A)(i) ESEA, IASA; 200.63 (c)(3)(ii) (Federal Register) CFR</p> |
| | Rating: Implemented District Response Required: No |

| | |
|-------------------------|--|
| CRITERION NUMBER | |
| | Legal Standard |
| TI 9 | <p>There is evidence that students with special education needs are identified as eligible and selected for Title I services on the same basis as other children selected to receive services.</p> <p>1115(b)(2)(A)(i); 200.63 (c)(3)(ii) (Federal Register) CFR</p> |
| | Rating: Implemented District Response Required: No |

COMPONENT III: PARENTAL INVOLVEMENT

The criteria in this component examine whether the district has ensured that parents are notified, in the appropriate language, and are involved in decisions regarding their children's programs and services for the program areas listed below:

- Special Education (Report Issues # SE 24-32)
- Civil Rights Methods of Administration (MOA) (Report Issue # MOA 7)
 - Title I (Report Issues # TI 10-11B)
- Safe and Drug Free Schools (Report Issues # SDF 1-3)

| CRITERION NUMBER | SPECIAL EDUCATION III. PARENTAL INVOLVEMENT |
|-------------------------|--|
| | Legal Standard |
| SE 24 | <p>Notice to parent regarding proposal or refusal to initiate or change the identification, evaluation, or educational placement of the child or the provision of FAPE</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. A student may be referred for an evaluation by a parent or any person in a caregiving or professional position concerned with the student's development. 2. When a student is referred for an evaluation to determine eligibility for special education, the school district sends written notice to the child's parent(s) within 5 school days of receipt of the referral. 3. Notice is given by the district within a reasonable time for all other actions. 4. The school district provides the student's parent(s) with an opportunity to consult with the Special Education Administrator or his/her designee to discuss the reasons for the referral and the nature of the proposed evaluation 5. The district provides parents with an opportunity to consult with the Administrator of Special Education or his/her designee regarding the evaluators to be used and the proposed content of all required and optional assessments 6. The school district does not limit a parent's right to refer a student for timely special education evaluation because the district has not fully explored and/or attempted some or all of the available instructional support programs or other interventions available in general education that may be described in the district's Curriculum Accommodation Plan, including any pre-referral program. 7. The school district refuses to conduct an initial evaluation only when the circumstances of a student make clear that there is no suspicion of a disability and that there is no concern about the student's development. <p>State Regulations 28.04(1)</p> <p style="text-align: right;">Federal Requirements 300.503(a)</p> |
| | <p>Rating: Implemented District Response Required: No</p> |

| CRITERION NUMBER | | | |
|--------------------------------------|---|--------------------------------------|--|
| | Legal Standard | | |
| SE 25 | <p>Parental consent In accordance with state and federal law, the school district obtains informed parental consent as follows:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. The school district obtains written parental consent before conducting an initial evaluation or making an initial placement of a student in a special education program. Written parental consent is obtained before conducting a reevaluation and before placing a student in a special education placement subsequent to the initial placement in special education. 2. The school district obtains consent before initiating extended evaluation services. 3. The school district obtains consent to the services proposed on a student’s IEP before providing such services. 4. The school district obtains consent prior to placing a student in an initial special education placement and for any subsequent placement. 5. A parent is informed that consent may be revoked at any time. Except for initial evaluation and initial placement, consent may not be required as condition of any benefit to the child. 6. When the participation or consent of the parent is required and the parent fails or refuses to participate, the attempts to secure the consent of the parent are implemented through multiple attempts using a variety of methods which are documented by the district. Such efforts may include letters, written notices sent by certified mail, electronic mail (e-mail), telephone calls, or, if appropriate, TTY communications to the home, and home visits at such time as the parent is likely to be home. Efforts may include seeking assistance from a community service agency to secure parental participation. 7. If, subsequent to initial evaluation and initial placement and after following the procedures required by the regulations, the school district is unable to obtain parental consent to a reevaluation or to placement in a special education program subsequent to the initial placement, or the parent revokes consent to such reevaluation or placement, the school district considers with the parent whether such action will result in the denial of a free appropriate public education to the child. If, after consideration, the school district determines that the parent’s failure or refusal to consent will result in a denial of a free appropriate public education to the student, it seeks resolution of the dispute through Special Education Appeals <p style="text-align: center;"> <table border="0" style="width: 100%;"> <tr> <td style="width: 50%;">State Regulations 28.07(1)</td> <td style="width: 50%;">Federal Requirements 300.500(b)(1)</td> </tr> </table> </p> | State Regulations 28.07(1) | Federal Requirements 300.500(b)(1) |
| State Regulations 28.07(1) | Federal Requirements 300.500(b)(1) | | |
| | <table border="0" style="width: 100%;"> <tr> <td style="width: 50%;">Rating: Implemented</td> <td style="width: 50%;">District Response Required: No</td> </tr> </table> | Rating: Implemented | District Response Required: No |
| Rating: Implemented | District Response Required: No | | |

| | |
|-------------------------|---|
| CRITERION NUMBER | |
| | Legal Standard |
| SE 26 | <p>Parent participation in meetings</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. The district ensures that one or both parents of a child are members of any group that makes decisions on the educational placement of their child. 2. The Administrator of Special Education notifies parent(s) in writing of any Team meeting early enough to ensure that they have an opportunity to attend. 3. The district schedules the meeting at a mutually agreed upon time and place; and documents such efforts. 4. If neither parent can attend, the district uses other methods to ensure parent participation, including individual or conference telephone calls, or video conferencing. 5. In cases where the district, after reasonable efforts, is unable to obtain the parents' participation in Team meeting discussions and decisions, the district conducts the Team meeting and documents its attempts to facilitate the parents' participation. <p>State Regulations 28.02(22)</p> <p style="text-align: right;">Federal Requirements 300.345(d), 300.501</p> |
| | Rating: Commendable District Response Required: No |

Department of Education Findings:

The district is commended for the consistently high level of quality parent participation at all educational levels.

| | |
|-------------------------|--|
| CRITERION NUMBER | |
| | Legal Standard |
| SE 27 | <p>Content of Team meeting notice to parents</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. The parent notice of an evaluation required by 603 CMR 28.04(1)(a) meets all of the content requirements set forth in MGL c.71B, §3, and in federal law and seeks the consent of the parent for any evaluation to occur, and provides the parent with the opportunity to express any concerns or provide information on the student's skills or abilities and to consult regarding the evaluators to be used. 2. The parent notice of any Team meeting states the purpose, time and location of the meeting as well as who will be in attendance. <p>State Regulations 28.04(b)</p> <p style="text-align: right;">Federal Requirements 300.503-504</p> |
| | Rating: Implemented District Response Required: No |

| | |
|-------------------------|---|
| CRITERION NUMBER | |
| | Legal Standard |
| SE 28 | <p>Parent provided the IEP or notice of no eligibility together with notification of procedural safeguards and parents' rights Immediately following the development of the IEP and without undue delay, the district provides the parents with a copy of the proposed IEP or a written explanation of the finding of no eligibility for special education together with the required notice of procedural safeguards and parents' rights.</p> <p>State Regulations 28.05(7)</p> <p>Federal Requirements 300.345(f)</p> |
| | Rating: Implemented District Response Required: No |

| | |
|-------------------------|---|
| CRITERION NUMBER | |
| | Legal Standard |
| SE 29 | <p>Communications are in English and primary language of home</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Communications with parents are in both English and the primary language of the home if such primary language is other than English. Any interpreter used in fulfilling these requirements is fluent in the primary language of the home and familiar with special education procedures, programs and services. If the parents or the student are unable to read in any language or are blind or deaf, communications required by these regulations are made orally in English with the use of a foreign language interpreter, in Braille, in sign language, via TTY, or in writing, whichever is appropriate, and that all such communications are documented. 2. If the district provides notices orally or in some other mode of communication that is not written language, the district keeps written documentation (1) that it has provided such notice in an alternate manner, (2) that the content of the notice and (3) the steps taken to ensure that the parent understands the content of the notice. <p>State Regulations 28.07(g)</p> <p>Federal Requirements 300.345(e)</p> |
| | Rating: Partially Implemented District Response Required: Yes |

Department of Education Findings:

Review of student records and interviews indicated that communications are not consistently provided in the language of the home.

| | |
|-------------------------|--|
| CRITERION NUMBER | |
| | Legal Standard |
| SE 30 | <p>Elements of notice of parents' rights The district's notice of parental rights contains all required elements included in the most current version of the Massachusetts Parent's Rights Brochure.</p> <p>State Regulations MGL c. 71B, Sec. 3</p> <p style="text-align: right;">Federal Requirements 300.503-504</p> |
| | Rating: Not Implemented District Response Required: Yes |

Department of Education Findings:

A review of student records indicated that the most current version of the Parent's Rights Brochure is not consistently being used in the district.

| | |
|-------------------------|---|
| CRITERION NUMBER | |
| | Legal Standard |
| SE 31 | <p>State and district responsibility for educational surrogate parents</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. When a student is without parental representation and requires an educational surrogate parent to be appointed in accordance with federal law and regulations, upon request of the Department, the district responsible for services to the student assists in identifying a person willing to serve as an educational surrogate parent. 2. Upon assignment by the Department, such educational surrogate parent has all the rights and responsibilities of a parent in making decisions regarding eligibility and services for special education for the assigned student. The Department provides notice of appointment to the school district and any state agency with custody of the student. 3. A person identified by the district and willing to serve as an educational surrogate parent has no conflict of interest and is not in the employ of the school district or any state or local agencies involved with the care of the student . 4. A person identified by the district, appointed by the Department, and serving as an educational surrogate parent does not receive financial remuneration from the district except that the school district reimburses the person for reasonable expenses related to the exercise of his or her responsibilities as an educational surrogate parent for a student enrolled in the district. <p>State Regulations 28.07(7)</p> <p style="text-align: right;">Federal Requirements 300.515</p> |
| | Rating: Implemented District Response Required: No |

| CRITERION NUMBER | |
|------------------|---|
| | Legal Standard |
| SE 32 | <p>Parent advisory council for special education</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. The school committee has established a parent advisory council on special education. 2. Membership on the council is offered to all parents of children with disabilities and other interested parties. 3. The parent advisory council duties include but are not limited to: advising the school committee on matters that pertain to the education and safety of students with disabilities; meeting regularly with school officials to participate in the planning, development, and evaluation of the school committee’s special education programs. 4. The parent advisory council has established by-laws regarding officers and operational procedures. 5. The parent advisory council receives assistance from the school committee without charge, upon reasonable notice, and subject to the availability of staff and resources. 6. The school district conducts, in cooperation with the parent advisory council, at least one workshop annually within the district on the rights of students and their parents and guardians under the state and federal special education laws and makes written materials explaining such rights available upon request. <p>State Regulations Chapter 71B, sec. 1C; 28.07(4)</p> <p style="text-align: right;">Federal Requirements</p> |
| | Rating: Partially Implemented District Response Required: Yes |

Department of Education Findings:

District documentation and interviews indicated that the PAC has not developed by-laws.

| CRITERION NUMBER | CIVIL RIGHTS METHODS OF ADMINISTRATION III. PARENTAL INVOLVEMENT |
|------------------|--|
| | Legal Standard |
| MOA 7 | <p>General information and materials in languages other than English When students have parents or guardians with limited English language skills, the following are published in language(s) other than English and disseminated to all relevant recipients: general announcements, counseling materials, notices of extracurricular activities, and information regarding school recruitment and promotional activities.</p> <p>Title VI; MGL, Ch.76, Section 5</p> |

| | |
|-------------------------|---|
| CRITERION NUMBER | CIVIL RIGHTS METHODS OF ADMINISTRATION III. PARENTAL INVOLVEMENT |
| | Legal Standard |
| | Rating: Not Implemented District Response Required: Yes |

Department of Education Findings:

District documentation and interviews indicated that all information is published exclusively in English.

| | |
|-------------------------|---|
| CRITERION NUMBER | TITLE 1 III. PARENTAL INVOLVEMENT |
| | Legal Standard |
| TI 10 | <p>The program demonstrates evidence of having met the following Title I requirements:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • parents are involved in writing, and have agreed upon, both the district’s and school’s written parental involvement policies; • plans/policies are developed which ensure that parents are involved in program planning, implementation and review; • parents are involved in a timely, organized, and ongoing manner in the planning, review, and improvement of programs; • parents are provided the following information in a timely manner: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - school performance profiles and their child’s individual assessment results and interpretation of those results; - a curriculum description and explanation, forms of assessment used, and expected proficiency levels; - opportunities for regular meetings; - and timely responses to parental suggestions • parents are involved in School-Parent Compacts and annual assessment of the effectiveness of parent involvement; and • an annual Title I informational meeting is conducted for parents together with other pertinent meetings of interest to parents. <p>1118 (a)-(e) ESEA,IASA</p> |
| | Rating: Partially Implemented District Response Required: Yes |

Department of Education Findings:

While interviews and a review of documentation revealed that all parents are well informed about the Title I program and their children’s performance, all indications are that parents are not involved in writing and agreeing upon written parent involvement policies, and do not take part in program planning, implementation and review.

| | |
|-------------------------|---|
| CRITERION NUMBER | |
| | Legal Standard |
| TI 11 | All policies and procedures regarding parental involvement are in writing and available and/or distributed to Title I parents in a language and form that they can understand. 1118 (f) ESEA, IASA |
| | Rating: Not Implemented District Response Required: Yes |

Department of Education Findings:

Interviews and a review of documentation revealed that written policies and procedures regarding parent involvement are not available and distributed.

| | |
|-------------------------|---|
| CRITERION NUMBER | |
| | Legal Standard |
| TI 11A | The district provides materials and training to Title I parents to enable them to improve their children’s achievement. (e.g., curriculum descriptions; school performance profiles) 1118(e)(2)(A) and (B) |
| | Rating: Partially Implemented District Response Required: Yes |

Department of Education Findings:

Interviews and document review indicated that some materials are provided to parents of Title I students to enable them to improve their children’s achievement. Training to foster understanding of the materials and their effective use, however, does not accompany its distribution.

| | |
|-------------------------|--|
| CRITERION NUMBER | |
| | Legal Standard |
| TI 11B | Parents of Title I students have equal opportunity to be represented on local School Councils. The Education Reform Act of 1993 |
| | Rating: Implemented District Response Required: No |

| | |
|-------------------------|---|
| CRITERION NUMBER | SAFE AND DRUG FREE SCHOOLS III. PARENTAL INVOLVEMENT |
| | Legal Standard |
| SDF 1 | The local education agency coordinates such agency's programs and projects with community-wide efforts to achieve such agency's goals for drug and violence prevention. [Title IV Sec. 4115 (b) (2) (D)] |
| | Rating: Commendable District Response Required: No |

Department of Education Findings:

Interviews indicated that the community agencies have worked together in the effort of gathering and analyzing information on the prevalence of drugs and violence problems among youth in the community. The district is commended for this very effective collaboration between schools in order to meet goals and objectives of the SDFSCA program.

| | |
|-------------------------|---|
| CRITERION NUMBER | |
| | Legal Standard |
| SDF 2 | The local education agency coordinates such agency's programs and projects with other federal, state, and local programs for drug-abuse and violence prevention, including health programs. [Title IV Sec. 4115 (b) (2) (E)] |
| | Rating: Commendable District Response Required: No |

Department of Education Findings:

Local programs and projects are highly coordinated with the following applicable programs or projects: Health Protection Fund Program, Public Safety Grants or locally funded DARE, Community Substance Abuse or Violence Prevention grants.

| | |
|-------------------------|---|
| CRITERION NUMBER | |
| | Legal Standard |
| SDF 2A | The Safe and Drug Free Schools Advisory Council is representative of community agencies. The Council includes parents, students and representatives from the schools and prevention community. Advisory Council activities are directed toward developing appropriate drug abuse and violence awareness and prevention programs. [Title IV Sec. 4115 (b) (2) (E)] |
| | Rating: Commendable District Response Required: No |

Department of Education Findings:

To the maximum extent possible, the Advisory Council has representation from the following segments of the community: Business, Parents, Students, school staff, tobacco control and ACS, Law enforcement, medical profession, Mass. Prevention Center, local Board of Health, SOS and Nashoba Board of Health.

| | |
|-------------------------|---|
| CRITERION NUMBER | |
| | Legal Standard |
| SDF 2B | There is evidence of an ongoing role for the Advisory Council in program planning and implementation through a comprehensive set of activities. |
| | Rating: Implemented District Response Required: No |

Department of Education Findings:

Documentation review and interviews indicated that district Advisory Council activities include the following activities:

1. *Measurable goals and objectives for local programs.*
2. *Designing of program strategies and activities to meet established goals and objectives.*
3. *Gathering or analysis of data to identify drug and violence problems among youth*
4. *Reviewing evaluation data to advise the LEA on program improvement or modification.*
5. *Designing or selecting programs or strategies to meet the goals and objectives.*

| | |
|-------------------------|--|
| CRITERION NUMBER | |
| | Legal Standard |
| SDF 3 | There are program activities implemented to promote the involvement of parents. [Title IV Sec. 4116 (a)(1)] |
| | Rating: Implemented District Response Required: No |

Department of Education Findings:

Interviews and documentation review indicated that parents are aware of the goals and objectives of the local SDFSCA program. They have participated on survey and group meetings for the purpose of bringing or discussing information on the prevalence of drug use and violence problems among youth the community. Parents are provided periodic status reports and newsletters.

COMPONENT IV: CURRICULUM AND INSTRUCTION

The criteria in this component examine whether the district holds all students to high expectations and standards and ensures that the program areas reviewed are designed to maximize student performance within regular education and are implemented according to specific regulatory requirements with respect to learning time, class size, staffing ratio, and age spans. The criteria also examine if the district has provided for coordination across the following program areas:

- Special Education (Report Issues # SE 33-42)
- Civil Rights Methods of Administration (MOA) (Report Issues MOA 8-9)
 - Title I (Report Issues # TI 12-14F)
- Safe and Drug Free Schools (Report Issue # SDF 4)

| CRITERION NUMBER | SPECIAL EDUCATION IV. CURRICULUM AND INSTRUCTION | |
|------------------|--|---------------------------------------|
| | Legal Standard | |
| SE 33 | <p>Involvement in the general curriculum</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. District personnel reflect a full understanding of the connection between the Massachusetts Curriculum Frameworks and the expectations of the state for student performance as well as the rights of students with disabilities to be full participants in the general curriculum. 2. The district has either aligned its district curriculum with the Frameworks or has taken steps to provide students (including all students with disabilities) with essential learning opportunities that prepare the students to reach the state graduation standards. 3. At least one member of all IEP Teams is familiar with the general curriculum and is able to discuss an eligible student's appropriate access to the general curriculum. 4. In the IEP the district documents the student's participation in the general curriculum. <p>State Regulations 28.05(4)(a) and (b)</p> <p>Federal Requirements 300.347(a)(1)(i); 300.137</p> | |
| | Rating: Implemented | District Response Required: No |

| CRITERION NUMBER | SPECIAL EDUCATION IV. CURRICULUM AND INSTRUCTION | |
|------------------|--|--|
| | Legal Standard | |
| SE 34 | <p>Continuum of alternative services and placements</p> <p>The district provides or arranges for the provision of each of the elements of the IEPs of students in need of special education from the ages of three through twenty-one, ensuring that a continuum of services and alternative placements is available to meet the needs of all students with disabilities, and takes all steps necessary to ensure compliance with all elements of the IEPs, including vocational education.</p> <p>State Regulations</p> <p>Federal Requirements 300.551;300.305; 300.123</p> | |
| | Rating: Partially Implemented | District Response Required: Yes |

Department of Education Findings:

Review of documentation, interviews and parent surveys indicated that the district does not currently provide a full continuum of special education services. A lack of services for students with behavior issues has led to a disproportionate number of students in out-of-district placements.

| | |
|-------------------------|--|
| CRITERION NUMBER | |
| | Legal Standard |
| SE 35 | <p>Specialized materials and assistive technology</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Specialized materials and equipment specified in IEPs are provided, are of good quality and are suitable for the role they play in the IEP. 2. The school district provides evidence that assistive technology is considered for each eligible student and, if necessary, described in the IEP and provided by the district. <p>State Regulations Federal Requirements 34 CFR 300.308, 34 CFR 300.346</p> |
| | Rating: Implemented District Response Required: No |

| | |
|-------------------------|--|
| CRITERION NUMBER | |
| | Legal Standard |
| SE 36 | <p>IEP implementation, accountability and financial responsibility</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. The district ensures that IEPs are implemented without delay upon parent consent. 2. The district oversees in an ongoing manner the full implementation of each in-district and each out-of-district IEP it proposes which has been consented to by a child's parents. 3. The district makes a good faith effort to assist the child to achieve the goals and objectives or benchmarks listed in the IEP. 4. The district provides all programs and services without expense to the child's parents. 5. Each time the school district proposes to access the parent's private insurance proceeds to support the costs of IEP implementation, the school district obtains the parent's consent and informs the parents that their refusal to permit the school district to access their private insurance does not relieve the district of its responsibility to ensure that all required services are provided at no cost to the parents. <p>State Regulations 28.06(3) Federal Requirements 300.142; 300.350</p> |
| | Rating: Implemented District Response Required: No |

| CRITERION NUMBER | |
|------------------|--|
| | Legal Standard |
| SE 37 | <p>Procedures for approved and unapproved out-of-district placements</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. <u>Individual student program oversight</u>: The school district monitors the provision of services to and the programs of individual students placed in public and private out-of-district programs. Documentation of monitoring plans and all actual monitoring are placed in the files of every eligible student who has been placed out-of-district. To the extent that this monitoring requires site visits, such site visits are documented and placed in the students' files for review. The duty to monitor out-of-district placements is not delegated to parents or their agents, to the Department of Education, or to the out-of-district placement. 2. <u>Student right to full procedural protections</u>: The school district retains full responsibility for ensuring that the student is receiving all special education and related services in the student's IEP, as well as all procedural protections of law and regulation. Any Team meetings conducted during the time that a student is enrolled in the out-of-district program are initiated by the school district in coordination with the out-of-district placement. 3. <u>Preference to approved programs</u>: The school district, in all circumstances, first seeks to place a student in a program approved by the Department pursuant to the requirements of 603 CMR 28.09. Preference is also given to approved programs located within the Commonwealth of Massachusetts if the choice of such program is consistent with the needs of the student and the choice of such program complies with LRE requirements. When an approved program is available to provide the services on the IEP, the district makes such placement in the approved program in preference to any program not approved by the Department. 4. <u>Written contracts</u>: At a minimum, the school district enters into written contracts with all public and private out-of-district placements. Such contracts meet the content requirements of 28.06(3)(f)(1-5). 5. <u>Use of unapproved programs</u>: A school district that places a student in a program that has not been approved by the Department according to the requirements under 603 CMR 28.09 ensures that such programs and services are provided in appropriate settings by appropriately credentialed staff able to deliver the services on the student's IEP. Students placed by the school district in such programs are entitled to the full protections of state and federal special education law and regulation. 6. <u>Placement documentation</u>: The following documentation is maintained by the school district pursuant to its placement of children in unapproved out-of-district programs: <ol style="list-style-type: none"> a. <u>Search</u>: The Administrator of Special Education documents the search for and unavailability of a program approved by the Department. The Administrator places such documentation in the student record. b. <u>Evaluation of facility</u>: The Administrator of Special Education or his/her designee thoroughly evaluates the appropriateness of any |

| CRITERION NUMBER | |
|------------------|--|
| | Legal Standard |
| | <p>unapproved facility prior to placement of the student in such program. Such evaluation determines whether the unapproved facility can appropriately implement the student’s IEP in a safe and educationally appropriate environment. Such evaluation additionally determines whether the unapproved facility can and will provide the student with all the rights that are accorded to the student under state and federal special education law. Such evaluation is documented in detail and placed in the student record for review. To the extent that this evaluation requires a site visit, such site visits are documented and placed in the student record for review. The duty to evaluate the appropriateness of any unapproved facility is not delegated to the parents or their agents or the proposed unapproved facility.</p> <p>c. <u>School district approval to operate a private school in Massachusetts</u>: If services in an unapproved program are provided in a school setting, the Administrator of Special Education ensures that such school has received approval from the local school committee under MGL c.76, §1 and a copy of such approval is retained in the student record.</p> <p>d. <u>Pricing</u>: Pursuant to the requirements for Compliance, Reporting and Auditing for Human and Social Services at 808 CMR 1.00, the Administrator obtains pricing forms required to set program prices for programs receiving publicly funded students. Such pricing forms are completed by the proposed placement and document that the price proposed for the student’s tuition is the lowest price charged for similar services to any student in that program.</p> <p>e. <u>Notification of the Department of Education</u>: Prior to placement, if the Team determines that placement in such facility is appropriate, the Administrator notifies the Department of the intent to place the student and the name and location of the proposed placement. In addition, the Administrator forwards the notice of proposed placement and completed pricing forms to the Department along with the information on the proposed terms of the contract that will govern such placement and documentation of a monitoring plan pursuant to 603 CMR 28.06(3)(b). The district maintains any documentation of the Department’s objections to such placement and the steps the district has taken in regard to such objection. The district maintains documentation of the approved price for publicly funded students as set by the state agency responsible for setting program prices.</p> <p>f. <u>Out of state programs</u>: If out-of-district programs are provided in a placement outside of Massachusetts, and such school has not received approval by the Department under 603 CMR 28.09, the Administrator of Special Education ensures that such school has received approval from the host state.</p> |

| | | | |
|---|--|---|---|
| CRITERION NUMBER | | | |
| | Legal Standard | | |
| | <table style="width: 100%; border: none;"> <tr> <td style="width: 50%;">State Regulations 28.02(13), 28.06(3)</td> <td style="width: 50%;">Federal Requirements 300.2(c)</td> </tr> </table> | State Regulations 28.02(13), 28.06(3) | Federal Requirements 300.2(c) |
| State Regulations 28.02(13), 28.06(3) | Federal Requirements 300.2(c) | | |
| | <table style="width: 100%; border: none;"> <tr> <td style="width: 50%;">Rating: Partially Implemented</td> <td style="width: 50%;">District Response Required: Yes</td> </tr> </table> | Rating: Partially Implemented | District Response Required: Yes |
| Rating: Partially Implemented | District Response Required: Yes | | |

Department of Education Findings:

Review of documentation and interviews indicated that there are no contracts or evidence of monitoring of student records for the students placed out of district.

| | | | |
|--------------------------------------|---|--------------------------------------|---------------------------------------|
| CRITERION NUMBER | | | |
| | Legal Standard | | |
| SE 38 | <p>Educational services in institutional settings (ESIS) <u>Department of Education responsibility:</u> In cases where the Department provides certain special education services to eligible students in certain facilities operated by or under contract with the Department of Mental Health, the Department of Youth Services, County Houses of Corrections, or the Department of Public Health, the Department retains the discretion to determine, based upon resources, the type and amount of special education and related services that it provides in such facilities. <u>School district responsibility:</u></p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. The district implements its responsibilities to students in institutional settings by acting on requests for evaluation, issuing proposed IEPs in a timely manner, and providing special education and/or related services in accordance with state and federal law. 2. Where a student's IEP requires a type or amount of service that the facility does not provide, it remains the responsibility of the parent's school district to implement the student's IEP by arranging and paying for the provision of such service(s). 3. The parent's school district coordinates with the state agency to ensure that the student receives an evaluation, an annual review, and special education services as identified at a Team meeting convened by the parent's school district. <table style="width: 100%; border: none;"> <tr> <td style="width: 50%;">State Regulations 28.06(9)</td> <td style="width: 50%;">Federal Requirements</td> </tr> </table> | State Regulations 28.06(9) | Federal Requirements |
| State Regulations 28.06(9) | Federal Requirements | | |
| | <table style="width: 100%; border: none;"> <tr> <td style="width: 50%;">Rating: Implemented</td> <td style="width: 50%;">District Response Required: No</td> </tr> </table> | Rating: Implemented | District Response Required: No |
| Rating: Implemented | District Response Required: No | | |

| | |
|-------------------------|---|
| CRITERION NUMBER | |
| | Legal Standard |
| SE 39 | <p>Procedures used to provide services to eligible students enrolled in private schools at private expense</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. On or before December 1, the district determines the number of eligible private school students in consultation with private school representatives. 2. To the extent that the school district provides and pays for special education services for eligible students enrolled in private schools at private expense, the following requirements and procedures are implemented: <ol style="list-style-type: none"> a. The district provides special education and/or related services designed to meet the needs of eligible children who are attending private schools at private expense and whose parents reside in the jurisdiction of the school district. The school district provides to such children genuine opportunities to participate in the public school special education program consistent with state constitutional limitations. b. The district provides or arranges for the provision of evaluation services and an IEP for any eligible private school child whose parent resides in the jurisdiction of the school district. The evaluation may take place in the public school, the private school, or an appropriate contracted facility, and the school district ensures that a representative of the child's private school is invited to participate as a member of the Team pursuant to §28.05. c. The district provides or arranges for the provision of the special education and/or related services described by the child's IEP and the district ensures that special education services funded with state or local funds are provided in a public school facility or other public or neutral site. When services are provided using only federal funds, services are provided on public or private school grounds. d. The district does not withdraw or withhold services from a child solely because the school district has met the spending requirements of federal law. 3. Special education services and/or related services provided by the district to a private school child are comparable in quality, scope, and opportunity for participation to that provided to public school children with needs of equal importance. 4. The district ensures that programs in which both public and private school children participate do not include classes that are separated on the basis of school enrollment or the religious affiliation of the children. <p>State Regulations 28.03(e)</p> <p>Federal Requirements 300.450-300.462</p> |
| | <p>Rating: Implemented District Response Required: No</p> |

| CRITERION NUMBER | |
|-------------------------|---|
| | Legal Standard |
| SE 40 | <p>Instructional grouping requirements for students aged five and older</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. The size and composition of instructional groupings for eligible students receiving services outside the general education classroom are compatible with the methods and goals stated in each student's IEP. 2. Instructional grouping size requirements are maximum sizes and the school district exercises judgment in determining appropriate group size and supports for smaller instructional groups serving students with complex special needs. 3. When eligible students are assigned to instructional groupings outside of the general education classroom for 60% or less of the students' school schedule, group size does not exceed eight (8) students with a certified special educator, twelve (12) students if the certified special educator is assisted by one aide, and sixteen (16) students if the certified special educator is assisted by two aides. 4. For eligible students served in settings that are substantially separate, serving solely students with disabilities for more than 60% of the students' school schedule, the district provides instructional groupings that do not exceed eight (8) students to one certified special educator or twelve (12) students to a certified special educator and an aide. 5. After the school year has begun, if instructional groups have reached maximum size as delineated in paragraphs 3 and 4 of this criterion, the Administrator of Special Education and the certified special educator(s) providing services in an instructional group may decide to increase the size of an instructional grouping by no more than two additional students if the additional students have compatible instructional needs and then can receive services in their neighborhood school. 6. In such cases, the Administrator provides written notification to the Department and the parents of all group members of the decision to increase the instructional group size and the reasons for such decision. Such increased instructional group sizes are in effect only for the year in which they are initiated. 7. The district takes all steps necessary to reduce the instructional groups to the sizes outlined in paragraph 3 or 4 of this criterion for subsequent years. Such steps are documented by the district. <p>State Regulations 28.06(6)</p> <p style="text-align: right;">Federal Requirements</p> |
| | <p>Rating: Implemented District Response Required: No</p> |

| | |
|-------------------------|--|
| CRITERION NUMBER | |
| | Legal Standard |
| SE 41 | <p>Age span requirements The ages of the youngest and oldest child in any instructional grouping do not differ by more than forty-eight months. A written request for approval of a wider age range is submitted to the Commissioner of Education in cases where the district believes it is justified. Such requests are implemented only after approval of the Department of Education.</p> <p>State Regulations 28.06(6)(f)</p> <p style="text-align: right;">Federal Requirements</p> |
| | Rating: Partially Implemented District Response Required: Yes |

Department of Education Findings:

Observation and a review of documentation indicated that the ages of students at the high school in the sub-separate classroom and the alternative classroom exceed the 48-month limit. The district has not applied for the required waiver.

| | |
|-------------------------|---|
| CRITERION NUMBER | |
| | Legal Standard |
| SE 42 | <p>Programs for young children three and four years of age <u>General requirements:</u></p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. The school district ensures programs are available for eligible children three and four years of age. Such programs shall be developmentally appropriate and specially designed for children ages three and four years. 2. Where at all possible the school district accepts referrals from the Department of Public Health, other agencies, and individuals for young children when or before the child turns two-and-one-half years old in order to ensure continuity of services and to ensure the development and implementation of an IEP for eligible children by the date of the child's third birthday in accordance with federal requirements. 3. Where appropriate, the school district elects, consistent with federal requirements to use the format and services of the Individualized Family Service Plan (IFSP), if appropriate, for an additional year as a means of transitioning eligible children to public school services. 4. Where appropriate the Team allows a child to remain in a program designed for three and four year old children for the duration of the school year in which the child turns five years old (including the summer following the date of the child's fifth birthday). <p><u>Types of Settings:</u></p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 5. Inclusionary programs for young children are located in a setting that includes |

| | | | |
|--------------------------------------|---|--------------------------------------|---|
| CRITERION NUMBER | | | |
| | Legal Standard | | |
| | <p>children with and without disabilities and meet the following standards:</p> <p>a. Services in such programs are provided in the home, the public school, Head Start, or a licensed childcare setting.</p> <p>b. For public school programs that integrate children with and without disabilities, the class size does not exceed twenty (20) with one teacher and one aide and no more than five (5) students with disabilities. If the number of students with disabilities is six (6) or seven (7) then the class size does not exceed fifteen (15) students with one teacher and one aide.</p> <p>6. <u>Substantially separate programs</u> for young children are located in a public school classroom or facility that serves primarily or solely children with disabilities. Substantially separate programs adhere to the following standards:</p> <p>a. Substantially separate programs are programs in which more than 50% of the children have disabilities.</p> <p>b. Substantially separate programs operated by the district limit class sizes to nine (9) students with one teacher and one aide.</p> | | |
| | <table style="width: 100%; border: none;"> <tr> <td style="text-align: left; vertical-align: top;">State Regulations 28.06(7)</td> <td style="text-align: right; vertical-align: top;">Federal Requirements 300.342(c)</td> </tr> </table> | State Regulations 28.06(7) | Federal Requirements 300.342(c) |
| State Regulations 28.06(7) | Federal Requirements 300.342(c) | | |
| | <table style="width: 100%; border: none;"> <tr> <td style="text-align: left;">Rating: Implemented</td> <td style="text-align: right;">District Response Required: No</td> </tr> </table> | Rating: Implemented | District Response Required: No |
| Rating: Implemented | District Response Required: No | | |

| | | | |
|----------------------------|---|----------------------------|---------------------------------------|
| CRITERION NUMBER | CIVIL RIGHTS METHODS OF ADMINISTRATION IV. CURRICULUM AND INSTRUCTION | | |
| | Legal Standard | | |
| MOA 8 | <p>Accessibility of extra curricular activities Extra curricular activities sponsored by the district are non-discriminatory in that:</p> <p>X the school provides equal opportunity for male and female students to participate in intramural and interscholastic sports</p> <p>X extracurricular activities or clubs sponsored by the school do not exclude students on the basis of race, sex, color, religion, national origin, sexual orientation and disability.</p> <p>X Title II; Title IX ; S. 504; MGL, Ch.76, Section 5</p> | | |
| | <table style="width: 100%; border: none;"> <tr> <td style="text-align: left;">Rating: Implemented</td> <td style="text-align: right;">District Response Required: No</td> </tr> </table> | Rating: Implemented | District Response Required: No |
| Rating: Implemented | District Response Required: No | | |

| CRITERION NUMBER | |
|------------------|---|
| | Legal Standard |
| MOA 9 | <p>Promotional, recruitment, and employment practices of prospective employers of students The district ensures that promotional efforts and recruitment and employment practices and materials aimed at students, including career days, work study, cooperative work experience and apprenticeship training programs, are free of bias and discrimination by:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> X depicting students from both sexes and under represented groups in all pictorial representations X making clear in written materials that all options are open to students regardless of race, color, sex, religion, national origin, sexual orientation or disability X requiring employers recruiting at the school to sign a statement that they do not discriminate in hiring or employment practices <p>Title I, Title VI, Title IX, S. 504, MGL, Ch.76, Section 5</p> |
| | Rating: Not Implemented District Response Required: Yes |

Department of Education Findings:
Documentation did not address this criterion

| CRITERION NUMBER | TITLE 1 IV. CURRICULUM AND INSTRUCTION |
|--------------------|--|
| | Legal Standard |
| TI 12 - TAS | <p>Title I services provided to students are designed to assist the students to meet the expectations and standards of the regular education curriculum and of the state curriculum frameworks.</p> <p>1115 (c)(1)(D) (ii) ESEA,IASA; 1001 (a)(1); 1001 (d)(1) ESEA,IASA</p> |
| | Rating: Implemented District Response Required: No |

| | |
|-------------------------|--|
| CRITERION NUMBER | |
| | Legal Standard |
| TI 13 - TAS | <p>There is an established process for coordination and collaboration of Title I services with the instructional and assessment programs provided in regular education, special education, TBE/ESL, vocational education, early childhood (including Even Start and Head Start), and for the Homeless.</p> <p>1112 (b)(4)(A-B); 1115 (c)(1)(E);1120(b)(a)ESEA,IASA</p> |
| | Rating: Implemented District Response Required: No |

| | |
|-------------------------|---|
| CRITERION NUMBER | |
| | Legal Standard |
| TI 14 - TAS | <p>Efforts are being made to minimize removing students from the regular classroom during school hours. Title I inclusion services are provided in a manner to accelerate learning and do not result in in-class pull-out models.</p> <p>1115(c)(1)(D)(iii) ESEA,IASA</p> |
| | Rating: Implemented District Response Required: No |

| | |
|-------------------------|---|
| CRITERION NUMBER | |
| | Legal Standard |
| TI 14A - TAS/SWP | <p>The school district provides opportunities for Title I students to participate in extended day/week/year programs and activities which may be funded through the integration of district resources.</p> <p>1115(c)(1)(D)(i) ESEA, IASA</p> |
| | Rating: Implemented District Response Required: No |

| | |
|-------------------------|--|
| CRITERION NUMBER | |
| | Legal Standard |
| TI 14 - SWP | <p>A comprehensive Schoolwide Programs (SWP) plan has been developed with involvement of community to be served and individuals who will carry out the plan, including:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • teachers, principals and other staff, and where appropriate • pupil services personnel, • parents, and • secondary school students, if applicable. <p>1114(b)(2)(C)(ii) ESEA,IASA; 200.6(e)(2)(ii)(Federal Register)(CFR)</p> |
| | Rating: Not Applicable District Response Required: No |

| | |
|-------------------------|--|
| CRITERION NUMBER | |
| | Legal Standard |
| TI 14A - SWP | <p>The comprehensive SWP plan is in effect for the duration of the school's participation and reviewed and revised, as necessary, by the school.</p> <p>1114(b)(2)(C)(iii) ESEA,IASA; 200.6(e)(3) and (4)(Federal Register)(CFR)</p> |
| | Rating: Not Applicable District Response Required: No |

| | |
|-------------------------|---|
| CRITERION NUMBER | |
| | Legal Standard |
| TI 14B - SWP | <p>The SWP plan includes a comprehensive needs assessment of the entire school that is based on information on the performance of children in relation to the State content standards and the State student performance standards.</p> <p>1114(b)(1)(A) ESEA, IASA; 200.6(d)(1)(i)(Federal Register)(CFR)</p> |
| | Rating: Not Applicable District Response Required: No |

| | |
|-------------------------|---|
| CRITERION NUMBER | |
| | Legal Standard |
| TI 14C - SWP | The SWP plan includes reform strategies that provide opportunities for all children to meet the State’s proficient and advanced levels of student performance. 1114(b)(1)(B)(i) ESEA, IASA; 200.6(d)(2)(i) (Federal Register (CFR) |
| | Rating: Not Applicable District Response Required: No |

| | |
|-------------------------|---|
| CRITERION NUMBER | |
| | Legal Standard |
| TI 14D - SWP | The district acts to fully implement its assurance that it provides technical assistance and support to schoolwide programs and works in consultation with these programs as they develop and implement such plans. 1112(c)(1)(B) and (C) ESEA, IASA |
| | Rating: Not Applicable District Response Required: No |

| | |
|-------------------------|---|
| CRITERION NUMBER | |
| | Legal Standard |
| TI 14E - SWP | In providing technical assistance and support to schoolwide programs, the district ensures that the programs and plans contain all required schoolwide components and plan requirements. 1112(c)(1)(B); 1114(b)(1) and (2) (Federal Register)(CFR) |
| | Rating: Not Applicable District Response Required: No |

| | |
|-------------------------|---|
| CRITERION NUMBER | |
| | Legal Standard |
| T1 14F - SWP | <p>The schoolwide plan is made available to school district staff, parents, and the public, and the information contained in such plan is translated, to the extent feasible, into any languages that a significant percentage of parents of participating children in the school speak as their primary language.</p> <p>1114(b)(2)(C)(iv) ESEA, IASA; 200.6(e)(2)(iii) and (iv) (Federal Register)(CFR)</p> |
| | Rating: Not Applicable District Response Required: No |

| | | |
|-------------------------|---|--|
| CRITERION NUMBER | SAFE AND DRUG FREE SCHOOLS IV. CURRICULUM AND INSTRUCTION | |
| | Legal Standard | |
| SDF 4 | <p>Local SDFSCA activities (where applicable) are integrated with the following federal programs under IASA and Goals 2000 and the ESEA:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Title I (helping disadvantaged children meet high standards); • Title II (professional development); • Subpart 1 of Part A of Title VII (bilingual education); • Subpart 4 of Part A of Title IX (Indian education); • Title VI (innovative education program strategies); • Part C of Title VII (emergency immigrant education); and • IDEA-97 (special education) <p>[Title IV Sec. 4115 (c) (2) (B) (iii)]</p> | |
| | Rating: Not Implemented | District Response Required: Yes |

Department of Education Findings:

Documentation review and interviews indicated that local SDFSCA activities are not integrated with any of the listed federal programs.

COMPONENT V: STUDENT SUPPORT SERVICES

The criteria in this component examine whether the district has ensured that all students have equal opportunity and access to programs or services in the program areas listed below:

- Special Education (Report Issues # SE 43-49A)
- Civil Rights Methods of Administration (MOA)
(Report Issues MOA 10 –17A)
 - Title I (Report Issues # TI 15-18)

| | |
|-------------------------|--|
| CRITERION NUMBER | |
| | Legal Standard |
| SE 45 | <p>Procedures for suspension up to 10 days and after 10 days: General requirements</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. All students, including eligible students with disabilities, receive prior written notice regarding the school's Code of Conduct. 2. The school's Code of Conduct includes required procedural safeguards such as opportunity for a hearing (per Goss v. Lopez). 3. Any eligible student may be suspended up to 10 days in any school year without implementation of procedures described in criterion SE 46 below. 4. After a student with special needs has been suspended for 10 days in any school year, during any subsequent removal the public school provides sufficient services for the student to continue to receive a free and appropriate public education. 5. The school provides additional procedural safeguards for students with disabilities prior to any suspension beyond 10 consecutive days or more than 10 cumulative days (if there is a pattern of suspension) in any school year. <p>State Regulation MGL c. 76, sec. 16-18 Chapter 71, section 37 H</p> <p style="text-align: right;">Federal Requirements 300.519-300.529</p> |
| | Rating: Partially Implemented District Response Required: Yes |

Department of Education Findings:

Review of district documentation indicated that not all handbooks contain the explanation of due process procedures afforded to students who are enrolled in special education.

| | |
|-------------------------|---|
| CRITERION NUMBER | |
| | Legal Standard |
| SE 46 | <p>Procedures for suspension of students with disabilities when suspensions exceed 10 consecutive school days or a pattern has developed for suspensions exceeding 10 cumulative days; responsibilities of the Team; responsibilities of the district</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. A suspension of longer than 10 consecutive days or a series of suspensions that are shorter than 10 consecutive days but constitute a pattern are considered to represent a change in placement. 2. Prior to a suspension that constitutes a change in placement of a student with disabilities, the Team convenes <ol style="list-style-type: none"> a. to develop or review a functional behavioral assessment of the student's behavior to modify a behavior intervention plan or develop an assessment plan; |

| | | | | | |
|----------------------------|---|----------------------------|---------------------------------------|----------|----------------------|
| CRITERION NUMBER | | | | | |
| | Legal Standard | | | | |
| | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 4. counseling services 5. health services 6. transportation 7. recess and physical education, including adapted physical education 8. athletics and recreational activities 9. school-sponsored groups or clubs 10. meals | | | | |
| | <table style="width: 100%; border: none;"> <tr> <td style="width: 50%;">State Regulations</td> <td style="width: 50%;">Federal Requirements</td> </tr> <tr> <td>28.06(5)</td> <td>300.121; 300.300-313</td> </tr> </table> | State Regulations | Federal Requirements | 28.06(5) | 300.121; 300.300-313 |
| State Regulations | Federal Requirements | | | | |
| 28.06(5) | 300.121; 300.300-313 | | | | |
| | <table style="width: 100%; border: none;"> <tr> <td style="width: 50%;">Rating: Implemented</td> <td style="width: 50%;">District Response Required: No</td> </tr> </table> | Rating: Implemented | District Response Required: No | | |
| Rating: Implemented | District Response Required: No | | | | |

| | | | | | |
|--------------------------------------|---|--------------------------------------|--|-----------|--------|
| CRITERION NUMBER | | | | | |
| | Legal Standard | | | | |
| SE 49 | <p>Related services For each student with special education needs found to require related services, the school district provides or arranges for the provision of transportation and such developmental, corrective, and other supportive services as are required to assist a student to benefit from special education or to access the general curriculum, and includes:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 1. speech-language pathology and audiology services 2. psychological services 3. physical therapy 4. occupational therapy 5. recreation, including therapeutic recreation 6. early identification and assessment of disabilities in children 7. counseling services, including rehabilitation counseling 8. orientation and mobility services (peripatology) 9. medical services for diagnostic or evaluation purposes 10. school health services 11. social work services in schools, and 12. parent counseling and training. | | | | |
| | <table style="width: 100%; border: none;"> <tr> <td style="width: 50%;">State Regulations</td> <td style="width: 50%;">Federal Requirements</td> </tr> <tr> <td>28.02(19)</td> <td>300.24</td> </tr> </table> | State Regulations | Federal Requirements | 28.02(19) | 300.24 |
| State Regulations | Federal Requirements | | | | |
| 28.02(19) | 300.24 | | | | |
| | <table style="width: 100%; border: none;"> <tr> <td style="width: 50%;">Rating: Partially Implemented</td> <td style="width: 50%;">District Response Required: Yes</td> </tr> </table> | Rating: Partially Implemented | District Response Required: Yes | | |
| Rating: Partially Implemented | District Response Required: Yes | | | | |

Department of Education Findings:

A review of student records indicated that psychological counseling is not always considered and provided to students who need the service in order to access the general curriculum.

| CRITERION NUMBER | |
|-------------------------|--|
| | Legal Standard |
| SE 49A | <p>Special Transportation</p> <p>If the IEP specifies that the student’s disability requires transportation or specialized transportation arrangements in order to benefit from special education, the district implements these provisions of the student’s IEP.</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. The Team determines necessary modifications, special equipment, assistance, need for qualified attendants on vehicles, and any particular precautions required by the student and documents such determinations in the student’s IEP. If specialized arrangements can be provided on regular transportation vehicles, the school district makes such arrangements. 2. The district arranges to have eligible students who use wheelchairs transported in vehicles that do not require such children to be removed from their wheelchairs in order to enter or leave the vehicles; provided, however, that this requirement is not applicable where a Team or the student’s physician recommends that the student regularly transfer in and out of conventional vehicles to or from a wheelchair for therapeutic or for independence training reasons. 3. The Team specifies whether the student requires assistance in or out of the home, on or off of the vehicle, and in or out of the school. If such assistance is specified, the district ensures that it is provided. 4. The Team specifies if the student has a particular need or problem that may cause difficulties during transportation, such as seizures, a tendency for motion sickness, behavioral concerns, or communication disabilities. 5. The school district does not allow transportation considerations to influence, modify, or determine the educational program, including the length of the school day, required by any student. <p>State Regulations 28.05(5)(b)</p> <p style="text-align: right;">Federal Requirements</p> |
| | <p>Rating: Implemented District Response Required: No</p> |

| CRITERION NUMBER | CIVIL RIGHTS METHODS OF ADMINISTRATION V. STUDENT SUPPORT SERVICES |
|------------------|---|
| | Legal Standard |
| MOA 10 | <p>Notification of school district staff and the general public At the beginning of each school year, students, parents, employees, and the general public are:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> X notified that all programs, activities and employment opportunities are offered without regard to race, color, sex, religion, national origin, sexual orientation and disability X given the name(s), address(es) and telephone number(s) of Title VI, Title IX and Section 504 coordinator(s) <p>Title VI; Title IX; S. 504; MGL, Ch.76, Section 5</p> |
| | <p>Rating: Implemented District Response Required: No</p> |

| CRITERION NUMBER | |
|------------------|---|
| | Legal Standard |
| MOA 11 | <p>Publication of notices of non-discrimination All publications for students, parents and employees, including written materials and other media used to publicize a school, specifically affirm that the school does not discriminate on the basis of race, color, sex, religion, national origin, sexual orientation or disability.</p> <p>Title VI; Title IX; Section 504; MGL, Ch.76, Section 5</p> |
| | <p>Rating: Partially Implemented District Response Required: Yes</p> |

Department of Education Findings:

District documents and publications containing the notices of non-discrimination do not always include all seven protected categories.

| | |
|-------------------------|--|
| CRITERION NUMBER | |
| | Legal Standard |
| MOA 12 | <p>Grievance procedures Written grievance procedures for students and for employees covering Title VI (race, national origin), Title IX (sex equity), and Section 504 (disability) have been adopted and published, and a grievance process is in place that provides prompt and equitable resolution.</p> <p>Title II, Title VI, Title IX, S. 504</p> |
| | Rating: Partially Implemented District Response Required: Yes |

Department of Education Findings:

The district has well developed grievance policies and procedures, but they are only for sexual harassment.

| | |
|-------------------------|--|
| CRITERION NUMBER | |
| | Legal Standard |
| MOA 13 | <p>Availability of information to prospective occupational/vocational students All students in grades 7-9, including those in special education and English as a second language programs, receive counseling and information on the full range of general curricular and any occupational/vocational opportunities available to them.</p> <p>Title VI, Title IX, S. 504</p> |
| | Rating: Implemented District Response Required: No |

| | |
|-------------------------|---|
| CRITERION NUMBER | |
| | Legal Standard |
| MOA 14 | <p>Counseling materials and activities free from bias and stereotypes To ensure that materials and activities are free from bias and stereotypes on the basis of race, color, sex, religion, national origin, sexual orientation or disability, all counselors:</p> |

| | |
|-------------------------|---|
| CRITERION NUMBER | |
| | Legal Standard |
| | X encourage students to consider programs of study, courses, extracurricular activities, and occupational opportunities on the basis of individual interests, abilities, and skills X examine testing materials for bias and counteract any found bias when administering and interpreting test results X communicate effectively with limited English-proficient and disabled students and facilitate their access to all programs and services offered by the district X support students in non-traditional educational and occupational pursuits for their gender Title II, Title VI; Title IX; S. 504; MGL, Ch.76, Section 5 |
| | Rating: Implemented with Comment District Response Required: No |

Department of Education Findings:

District must ensure that this criterion is implemented for limited English proficient students and families [Also see SE 29].

| | |
|-------------------------|--|
| CRITERION NUMBER | |
| | Legal Standard |
| MOA 15 | Non-discriminatory administration of scholarships, prizes and athletic awards Scholarships, prizes and athletic awards sponsored or administered by the district are free of restrictions based upon race, color, sex, religion, national origin, sexual orientation or disability with the following exceptions: X when making athletic awards to members of single sex teams, awards are in proportion to the number of students of each gender participating in interscholastic competition X when accepting outside assistance (i.e. wills, trusts) for awards that would discriminate, the district provides an alternative source of funding to erase the discriminatory effect Title VI; Title IX; S. 504; MGL, Ch.76, Section 5 |
| | Rating: Implemented District Response Required: No |

| | |
|-------------------------|--|
| CRITERION NUMBER | |
| | Legal Standard |
| MOA 16 | <p>Notice to students who have left or are about to leave school without a high school diploma</p> <p>The district provides timely notice in writing (in English and the student’s native language with a copy to parents) to students age 16-21 who have left or are about to leave school without obtaining a high school diploma or its equivalent and which includes the following information:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> a. their attendance is voluntary; b. their right to meet with a school representative to discuss the reasons for withdrawal; c. their rights to return to school; and d. all program options available to them. <p>MGL, Ch. 76, S.18</p> |
| | Rating: Not Implemented District Response Required: Yes |

Department of Education Findings:

Documentation submitted by the district did not address elements c. & d. of this criterion.

| | |
|-------------------------|---|
| CRITERION NUMBER | |
| | Legal Standard |
| MOA 17 | <p>Codes of conduct and student handbooks</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. All school and district codes of conduct and student handbooks contain a nondiscrimination policy based on race, color, sex, religion, national origin, sexual orientation and disability. 2. The district has complaint resolution procedures that include the disciplinary measures that may be imposed upon students who harass or discriminate. 3. The principal of each school ensures that the district and school codes of conduct are distributed annually to students, parents and school personnel. <p>Title VI, Title IX, Section 504, MGL, Ch.76, Section 5</p> |
| | Rating: Partially Implemented District Response Required: Yes |

Department of Education Findings:

Documentation contains an incomplete statement of non-discrimination.

| CRITERION NUMBER | |
|------------------|---|
| | Legal Standard |
| MOA 17A | <p>Use of physical restraint on any student enrolled in a publicly funded education program</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. The district has developed and implemented staff training at least annually on the use of restraint consistent with regulatory requirements. 2. The district administers physical restraint on students only when needed to protect a student and/or a member of the school community from imminent, serious, physical harm. The district implements restraint procedures consistent with Department of Education regulations in order to prevent or minimize any harm to the student as a result of the use of physical restraint. 3. The district has developed written procedures regarding appropriate responses to student behavior that may require immediate intervention. Such procedures are annually reviewed and provided to school staff and made available to parents of enrolled students. 4. The district has developed and implemented reporting requirements and procedures for administrators, parents and the Department of Education consistent with the regulations. 5. The district has developed and implemented any applicable individual waiver procedures consistent with the regulations. <p>603 CMR 46.00</p> |
| | <p>Rating: Partially Implemented District Response Required: Yes</p> |

Department of Education Findings:

Interviews and documentation indicated that the district is aware of its responsibility under this criterion; however, there is not an appropriately trained lead person in each building.

| CRITERION NUMBER | TITLE 1 V. STUDENT SUPPORT SERVICES |
|------------------|---|
| | Legal Standard |
| TI 15 | <p>The program design serves to supplement, not supplant:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • regular education • special education • transitional bilingual education • services for low incidence limited-English proficient students. <p>200.63 (Federal Register) CFR; 1115 (b)(2)(ii) ESEA,IASA</p> |
| | <p>Rating: Implemented District Response Required: No</p> |

| | |
|-------------------------|--|
| CRITERION NUMBER | |
| | Legal Standard |
| TI 16 | <p>Representatives from non-public school and/or Neglected or Delinquent (N or D) facilities are consulted and informed about the availability of Title I services and the priority needs of their schools.</p> <p>200.10 (a) (Federal Register) CFR</p> |
| | Rating: Implemented District Response Required: No |

| | |
|-------------------------|---|
| CRITERION NUMBER | |
| | Legal Standard |
| TI 17 | <p>The Title I services provided in non-public schools and N or D facilities are equivalent to those provided in public schools and minimize the use of pullout program models.</p> <p>1120(a), 200.10 (a) (Federal Register) CFR; 200.11(b) (Federal Register) CFR</p> |
| | Rating: Implemented District Response Required: No |

| | |
|-------------------------|---|
| CRITERION NUMBER | |
| | Legal Standard |
| TI 18 | <p>Additional assistance is provided through teacher-parent conferences for any students not meeting the standards to discuss:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • what the school will do to help the student meet the standards; • what the family can do to help the student improve performance; and • additional assistance for the student at the school or elsewhere in the community. <p>1114(b)(1)(H)(iii)</p> |
| | Rating: Implemented District Response Required: No |

COMPONENT VI: FACULTY, STAFF AND ADMINISTRATION

The criteria in this component examine whether the district has certified staff, provides supervision of aides and tutors, and provides ongoing professional development in the program areas listed below. Additionally, the component examines whether the district implements an effective system of program leadership and oversight which fosters high standards and performance expectations for all students and staff consistent with the goals of applicable federal and state requirements and Education Reform Act of 1993.

:

- Special Education (Report Issues # SE 50-54)
- Civil Rights Methods of Administration (MOA) (Report Issues MOA 18-21)
 - Title I (Report Issues # TI 19-23)

| CRITERION NUMBER | <p style="text-align: center;">SPECIAL EDUCATION VI. FACULTY, STAFF AND ADMINISTRATION</p> |
|---|---|
| | <p style="text-align: center;">Legal Standard</p> |
| <p style="text-align: center;">SE 50</p> | <p>Responsibilities of the School Principal and Administrator of Special Education Principal:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. <u>Instructional support.</u> The principal in each of the district’s schools promotes instructional practices responsive to student needs and ensures that adequate instructional support is available for students and teachers. Instructional support includes remedial instruction for students, consultative services for teachers, availability of reading instruction at the elementary level, appropriate services for linguistic minority students, and other services consistent with effective educational practices and the requirements of MGL c. 71B, §2. The principal consults with the Administrator of Special Education regarding accommodations and interventions for students. Such efforts and their results are documented and placed in the student record. Additionally, when an individual student is referred for an evaluation to determine eligibility for special education, the principal ensures that documentation on the use of instructional support services for the student is provided as part of the evaluation information reviewed by the Team when determining eligibility. 2. <u>Curriculum Accommodation Plan.</u> The principal implements a curriculum accommodation plan adopted by the district to ensure that all efforts have been made to meet the needs of diverse learners in the general education program. The plan assists the regular classroom teacher in analyzing and accommodating diverse learning styles of all children in the regular classroom and in providing appropriate services and support within the regular education program including, but not limited to, direct and systemic instruction in reading and provision of services to address the needs of children whose behavior may interfere with learning. The Plan includes teacher training in (1) analyzing and accommodating diverse learning styles of all students in order to achieve an objective of inclusion in the regular classroom of students with diverse learning styles; (2) methods of collaboration among teachers, paraprofessionals and teacher assistants to accommodate such styles; and (3) training in the provision of pre-referral services within regular education, teacher mentoring and collaboration and parental involvement. 3. <u>Coordination with special education.</u> The principal with the assistance of the Administrator of Special Education coordinates the delivery and supervision of special education services within each school building. 4. <u>Educational services in home or hospital.</u> Upon receipt of a physician’s written order verifying that any student enrolled in a public school or placed by the public school in a private setting must remain at home or in a hospital on a day or overnight basis, or any combination of both, for medical reasons and for a period of not less than fourteen school days in any school year, the principal arranges for provision of educational services in the home or hospital. Such services are provided with sufficient frequency to allow the student to continue his or her educational program, as long as such services |

| CRITERION NUMBER | SPECIAL EDUCATION VI. FACULTY, STAFF AND ADMINISTRATION |
|------------------|---|
| | Legal Standard |
| | <p>do not interfere with the medical needs of the student. The principal coordinates such services with the Administrator for Special Education for eligible students. Such educational services are not be considered special education unless the student has been determined eligible for such services, and the services include services on the student's IEP.</p> <p><u>Administrator of Special Education:</u></p> <p>5. The school district has an appointed person to be its Administrator of Special Education. The Administrator supervises all special education for the school district and ensures compliance with all federal and state special education laws. As appropriate, and in accordance with the requirements of MGL c.71B, §3A, the Administrator may designate other school district personnel to carry out some of the duties of the Administrator.</p> <p>State Regulations 28.03(3) Chapter 71, sec. 38Q and 38Q ½ as amended by FY '01 State Budget Out Side Sections 146 and 147</p> <p style="text-align: right;">Federal Requirements</p> |
| | <p>Rating: Partially Implemented District Response Required: Yes</p> |

Department of Education Findings:

Interviews indicated that the district has not developed a District Curriculum Accommodation Plan [DCAP]

| CRITERION NUMBER | |
|------------------|---|
| | Legal Standard |
| SE 51 | <p>Appropriate special education teacher certification Individuals who design and/or provide direct special education services described in IEPs, or who supervise the provision of special education services by other teachers or paraprofessionals, are appropriately certified.</p> <p>State Regulations 28.02(3) 603 CMR 7.00</p> <p style="text-align: right;">Federal Requirements 300.23; 300.36</p> |
| | <p>Rating: Partially Implemented District Response Required: Yes</p> |

Department of Education Findings:

Documentation and interviews indicated that not all special education staff are appropriately certified or have a DOE waiver to teach special education.

| | |
|-------------------------|--|
| CRITERION NUMBER | |
| | Legal Standard |
| SE 52 | <p>Appropriate certifications or other credentials -- related services Any person, including non-educational personnel, who provides related services described under federal special education law, who supervises paraprofessionals in the provision of related services, or who provides support services directly to the regular or special classroom teacher is appropriately certified, licensed, board-registered or otherwise approved to provide such services by the relevant professional standards board or agency for the profession.</p> <p>State Regulations 28.02(3)</p> <p>Federal Requirements 300.23; 300.24; 300.136</p> |
| | Rating: Implemented District Response Required: No |

| | |
|-------------------------|--|
| CRITERION NUMBER | |
| | Legal Standard |
| SE 53 | <p>Use of paraprofessionals</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Paraprofessionals and assistants (e.g., teacher aides, tutors and student teachers) are appropriately trained to assist in providing special education or related services. 2. Persons employed as paraprofessionals and assistants do not design instruction for students with disabilities but are expected to implement instruction under the supervision of an appropriately certified or licensed professional who is proximate and readily available to provide such supervision. <p>State Regulations</p> <p>Federal Requirements 300.136(f)</p> |
| | Rating: Implemented District Response Required: No |

| CRITERION NUMBER | |
|-------------------------|---|
| | Legal Standard |
| SE 54 | <p>Professional development regarding special education</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1) The district considers the needs of all staff in developing training opportunities for professional and paraprofessional staff and provides a variety of offerings which at a minimum include the following training topics offered on an annual basis: 2) state and federal special education requirements and related local special education policies and procedures; 3) confidentiality of student records; 4) training in analyzing and accommodating diverse learning styles of all students in order to achieve an objective of inclusion in the regular classroom of students with diverse learning styles; 5) methods of collaboration among teachers, paraprofessionals and teacher assistants to accommodate diverse learning needs of all students in the regular classroom; 6) training in the provision of pre-referral services within regular education, teacher mentoring and collaboration and parental involvement; 7) training for all locally hired <u>and</u> contracted transportation providers on the unique needs of all students being transported in regular and special transportation vehicles; and 8) in cooperation with the special education parent advisory council, at least one workshop annually within the district on the rights of students and their parents and guardians under the state and federal special education laws and makes written materials explaining such rights available upon request. <p>State Regulations Chapter 71, sec. 38g 28.03(1)(a) Chapter 71, sec. 38Q and 38Q ½ as amended by FY '01 State Budget Out Side Sections 146 and 147</p> <p style="text-align: right;">Federal Requirements 300.382</p> |
| | <p>Rating: Partially Implemented District Response Required: Yes</p> |

Department of Education Findings:

Interviews indicated that not all staff, particularly regular education teachers, have received the training in all aspects of special education, which will enable them to work with special education students in inclusion classes.

| CRITERION NUMBER | CIVIL RIGHTS METHODS OF ADMINISTRATION VI. FACULTY, STAFF AND ADMINISTRATION |
|------------------|---|
| | Legal Standard |
| MOA 18 | <p>School district employee recruitment activities The district's employee recruitment activities are aimed at reaching all groups, including bilingual/bicultural persons, females/males in nontraditional roles and persons with disabilities. When certain categories of employment show a disproportionate number of females/males, racial and ethnic group members or disabled persons, the district makes efforts to recruit for such positions members of the under represented groups.</p> <p>Title I, Title VI, Title IX, S. 504</p> |
| | Rating: Implemented District Response Required: No |

| CRITERION NUMBER | |
|------------------|--|
| | Legal Standard |
| MOA 19 | <p>Employment application and interview procedures Job application forms and interview questions do not include inquiries regarding a candidate's race, ethnicity, age, marital and parental status, national origin, physical attributes, religious background, health, health history and physical or mental condition.</p> <p>Title I, Title VI, Title IX, S. 504</p> |
| | Rating: Implemented District Response Required: No |

| | |
|-------------------------|---|
| CRITERION NUMBER | |
| | Legal Standard |
| MOA 20 | <p>Non-discriminatory personnel policies and procedures District personnel policies and procedures are free of discrimination and bias in the following areas:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> X employee hiring, upgrading, award of tenure, demotion, return from layoff and retirement are the same for both sexes X employee pay schedules and rates of other compensation for all job categories provide equal pay for equal work X fringe benefits for all job categories such as medical, dental, insurance, leave (sick, personal, professional, parental, dependent care, bereavement) etc. are the same for all employees. <p>Title I, Title VI, Title IX, S. 504</p> |
| | Rating: Implemented District Response Required: No |

| | |
|-------------------------|--|
| CRITERION NUMBER | |
| | Legal Standard |
| MOA 21 | <p>Staff training regarding civil rights responsibilities The district provides in-service training for all school personnel at least annually regarding civil rights responsibilities, including the prevention of discrimination and harassment on the basis of disability, race, color, sex, religion, national origin and sexual orientation and the appropriate methods for responding to it in the school setting.</p> <p>Title VI, Title IX, S. 504, MGL, Ch. 76, Section 5</p> |
| | Rating: Partially Implemented District Response Required: Yes |

Department of Education Findings:

Interviews indicated inconsistent responses throughout the district. Annual in-service training is required under this criterion.

| CRITERION NUMBER | TITLE 1 VI. FACULTY, STAFF AND ADMINISTRATION |
|------------------|--|
| | Legal Standard |
| TI 19 | All professional staff providing Title I services are appropriately certified or hold current waivers for their job title and function. Chapter 71, 38G |
| | Rating: Implemented District Response Required: No |

| CRITERION NUMBER | |
|------------------|---|
| | Legal Standard |
| TI 20 | Teacher aides work under the direct supervision and in close proximity of certified teachers who are employed in that capacity. 1119 (I)(1)(c) ESEA,IASA |
| | Rating: Not Applicable District Response Required: No |

Department of Education Findings:

There are no Title I teacher aides employed in the District.

| CRITERION NUMBER | |
|------------------|---|
| | Legal Standard |
| TI 21 | Professional development activities: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • support instructional practices that are conducive to the high achievement and challenging content expectations of the state's education reform efforts (e.g., Curriculum Frameworks); and • are provided to all of the district's instructional staff who serve Title I eligible students. 1119 (b)(1)(A) ESEA,IASA |
| | Rating: Implemented District Response Required: No |

| | |
|-------------------------|---|
| CRITERION NUMBER | |
| | Legal Standard |
| TI 22 | Title I professional development activities are designed by principals, teachers, and other school staff to ensure that Title I students' needs are addressed. The district devotes sufficient resources to effectively carry out its responsibilities for professional development. 1119 (a)(2) ESEA, IASA; 1114(b)(1)(H)(i). |
| | Rating: Implemented District Response Required: No |

| | |
|-------------------------|---|
| CRITERION NUMBER | |
| | Legal Standard |
| TI 23 | Each school identified to be in need of improvement, as part of its school improvement plan, improves the skills of its staff by providing effective professional development activities and by devoting to such activities, over a period of 2 consecutive years, an amount equivalent to 10% of the Part A funds received by the school during 1 fiscal year (or otherwise document how the school is effectively carrying out professional development activities. Decisions about the use of these funds are made by teachers, principals, and other school staff in that school. 1116(c)(3)(A)(i), (ii), and (C) ESEA, IASA |
| | Rating: Not Applicable District Response Required: No |

COMPONENT VII: SCHOOL FACILITIES

The criteria in this component examine whether the district maintains facilities that are conducive to learning, facilitate integration, and provide equal access and opportunity for students to achieve in the program areas listed below:

- Special Education (Report Issues # SE 55)
- Civil Rights Methods of Administration (MOA) (Report Issues MOA 22-23)

| CRITERION NUMBER | SPECIAL EDUCATION VII. SCHOOL FACILITIES |
|------------------|--|
| | Legal Standard |
| SE 55 | <p>Special education facilities and classrooms</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. The school district provides facilities and classrooms for eligible students which maximize the inclusion of such students into the life of the school; 2. provide accessibility in order to implement fully each child's IEP; 3. are at least equal in all physical respects to the average standards of general education facilities and classrooms; and 4. are given the same priority as general education programs for access to and use of instructional and other space in public schools in order to minimize the separation or stigmatization of eligible students. <p>State Regulations 28.03(b)</p> <p>Federal Requirements Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973</p> |
| | <p>Rating: Partially Implemented District Response Required: Yes</p> |

Department of Education Findings:

Observations indicated that the Special Education Suite at the high school and the Hale Middle School have special education classrooms in locations which do not maximize inclusion in school life.

| CRITERION NUMBER | CIVIL RIGHTS METHODS OF ADMINISTRATION VII. SCHOOL FACILITIES |
|------------------|--|
| | Legal Standard |
| MOA 22 | <p>Accessibility of district programs and services for students with limited physical mobility</p> <p>In at least one facility within the district, the district makes available and entirely accessible to students with disabilities all educational programs and services offered at each level (preschool, elementary and secondary).</p> <p>Title II of the Americans with Disabilities Act; S. 504; MGL, Ch. 71B; Individuals with Disability Act (IDEA-97)</p> |
| | <p>Rating: Implemented District Response Required: No</p> |

| CRITERION NUMBER | |
|-------------------------|---|
| | Legal Standard |
| MOA 23 | <p>Comparability of facilities and programs Where the district provides separate facilities or programs for members of a specific group, facilities and programs are comparable to those offered other students in the district, including:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> X separate classes and facilities for disabled, limited English-proficient or pregnant students that are comparable to the facilities, programs, equipment and services offered other students in the district; X changing rooms, showers and other facilities for students of one gender that are comparable in size, number and location to those provided students of the other gender. <p>Title II, Title VI, Title IX, S. 504, MGL, Ch. 76, Section 5</p> |
| | <p>Rating: Implemented District Response Required: No</p> |

COMPONENT VIII: PROGRAM PLAN AND EVALUATION

The criteria in this component examine whether the district has written programs plans that are evaluated according to specific regulatory requirements and whether parents have opportunities for input on needs, program implementation, evaluation, and improvement in the program areas listed below:

- Special Education (Report Issue # SE 56)
- Civil Rights Methods of Administration (MOA) (Report Issues MOA 24-25)
 - Title I (Report Issues # TI 24-26)
- Safe and Drug Free Schools (Report Issue # SDF 5-8)

| CRITERION NUMBER | SPECIAL EDUCATION VIII. PROGRAM PLAN AND EVALUATION |
|------------------|--|
| | Legal Standard |
| SE 56 | <p>Special education programs and services are evaluated</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Special education programs, services and administrative areas are regularly evaluated. 2. The district develops methods for determining the effectiveness of programs in assisting students with disabilities to achieve the goals set forth in their IEPs in the least restrictive environment. 3. The district uses information it gathers from annual IEP reviews to measure the effectiveness of special education programs, and identifies programs, services and administrative areas that need improvement or must be developed. 4. As part of these evaluation procedures, the district measures the success of programs based on students' local and statewide assessment results, drop out rates and graduation rates for special education students. <p>State Regulations Chapter 71B Chapter 71, sec. 59C</p> <p style="text-align: right;">Federal Requirements 300.137</p> |
| | <p>Rating: Partially Implemented District Response Required: Yes</p> |

Department of Education Findings:

Documents, interviews and parent surveys indicated that very limited aspects of the district's special education program have been evaluated.

| CRITERION NUMBER | CIVIL RIGHTS METHODS OF ADMINISTRATION VIII. PROGRAM PLAN AND EVALUATION |
|------------------|--|
| | Legal Standard |
| MOA 24 | <p>Curriculum review process</p> <p>The district has a process to ensure that teachers in the district regularly review all instructional and educational materials for simplistic and demeaning generalizations, lacking intellectual merit on the basis of disability, race, color, sex, religion, national origin and sexual orientation.</p> <p>MGL, Ch.76, Section 5; 603 CMR 26.05(2)</p> |
| | <p>Rating: Implemented District Response Required: No</p> |

| | |
|-------------------------|---|
| CRITERION NUMBER | |
| | Legal Standard |
| MOA 25 | <p>Institutional self-evaluation The district has in place a comprehensive evaluation process to examine and remedy policies and programs that discriminate or limit educational access due to race, color, sex, religion, national origin, sexual orientation, or disability.</p> <p>Title VI; Title IX; S. 504; MGL, Ch.76, Section 5</p> |
| | Rating: Implemented District Response Required: No |

| | |
|-------------------------|---|
| CRITERION NUMBER | TITLE 1 VIII. PROGRAM PLAN AND EVALUATION |
| | Legal Standard |
| TI 24 | <p>A needs assessment and data analysis is conducted annually in each school to determine the types of programs and services to be provided to Title I students. Such assessment is conducted in consultation with school staff and parents.</p> <p>1115 (c)(2)(B); IASA 1114 (b)(1)(A) ESEA,IASA</p> |
| | Rating: Partially Implemented District Response Required: Yes |

Department of Education Findings:

Interviews and review of documentation indicated that the district annually surveys staff and parents and reviews student assessments. A written needs assessment and data analysis, however, is not conducted in each school in consultation with school staff and parents.

| | |
|-------------------------|--|
| CRITERION NUMBER | |
| | Legal Standard |
| TI 24A | The effectiveness of the Title I program/services at each school is evaluated on at least an annual basis, and Title I program changes are implemented which reflect the recommendations of this evaluation. The Title I Schoolwide Plan is integrated into the school's Improvement Plan. 1115 (c)(2)(B)ESEA, IASA |
| | Rating: Partially Implemented District Response Required: Yes |

Department of Education Findings:

Interviews and review of documentation indicated that program changes have been made in response to staff input. There is no indication, however, that an annual evaluation of the program is performed.

| | |
|-------------------------|---|
| CRITERION NUMBER | |
| | Legal Standard |
| TI 25 | Each Title I school identified in need of improvement develops an improvement plan in consultation with parents, the district, and the school support team, or revises its school plan in a manner that demonstrates the greatest likelihood of improving the performance of participating children. 1116(c)(2)(C)(i) ESEA, IASA |
| | Rating: Not Applicable District Response Required: No |

| | |
|-------------------------|--|
| CRITERION NUMBER | |
| | Legal Standard |
| TI 26 | For districts with one or more Title I schools identified as in need of improvement, the district: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • provides technical or other assistance as the school develops and implements or revises its school improvement plan. (Such technical assistance may be provided directly or by other entities with experience in helping schools improve achievement.); |

| | |
|-------------------------|---|
| CRITERION NUMBER | |
| | Legal Standard |
| | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • (for the 2002-2003 school year) implements corrective action in the identified school during the third year following identification, if the school continues to fail to make adequate yearly progress (e.g., withhold funds, revoke authority to operate a schoolwide program, reconstitution of school staff, etc.); and • provides as many students as possible in an identified school with the opportunity to transfer to another school in the district not in need of improvement. <p>1116(c)(4) and (5) ESEA, IASA 2763A-32 of P.L. 106-554 (Education Appropriations Act, 2001)</p> |
| | Rating: Not Applicable District Response Required: No |

| | |
|-------------------------|---|
| CRITERION NUMBER | SAFE AND DRUG FREE SCHOOLS VIII. PROGRAM PLAN AND EVALUATION |
| | Legal Standard |
| SDF 5 | <p>Each recipient bases its programs on a thorough assessment of objective data about the drug and violence problems in the schools and communities served. Each SDFSCA grant recipient conducts a thorough assessment of the nature and extent of youth drug use and violence problems.</p> <p>[Title IV Sections 4111 – 4116, 20 U.S.C. 7111 – 7116]</p> |
| | Rating: Implemented District Response Required: No |

Department of Education Findings:

The district collects informative data on the current use and level of substance abuse and violence in the community from students, local law enforcement records and disciplinary records. Although disciplinary records are analyzed and used to inform program objectives, there was no evidence of other community agency involvement.

| | |
|-------------------------|---|
| CRITERION NUMBER | |
| | Legal Standard |
| SDF 6 | Each recipient, with the assistance of a local or regional advisory council, establishes a set of measurable goals and objectives and designs its programs to meet those goals and objectives. [Title IV Sections 4111 – 4116, 20 U.S.C. 7111 – 7116] |
| | Rating: Implemented District Response Required: No |

Department of Education Findings:

The district has established goals, measurable objectives and activities that are based on a thorough assessment of objective data about the drug and violence problems among youth.

| | |
|-------------------------|---|
| CRITERION NUMBER | |
| | Legal Standard |
| SDF 7 | Each recipient designs and implements its programs for youth based on research or evaluation that provides evidence that programs used actually prevent or reduce drug use, violence or disruptive behavior among youth. [Title IV Sections 4111 – 4116, 20 U.S.C. 7111 – 7116] |
| | Rating: Implemented District Response Required: No |

Department of Education Findings:

There is documented evidence that the curriculum is used consistently across grade level and responds to the identified needs of students.

| | |
|-------------------------|---|
| CRITERION NUMBER | |
| | Legal Standard |
| SDF 8 | Each recipient evaluates its programs periodically to assess its progress toward achieving its goals and objectives, and uses its evaluation results to refine, improve and strengthen its programs, and to refine its goals and objectives as appropriate. |
| | Rating: Partially Implemented District Response Required: Yes |

Department of Education Findings:

The district conducts evaluations that are used to assess the district’s progress toward achieving its stated goals and objectives; however, the district needs to refine the process to ensure that the process, outcome and impact meet the Principals of Effectiveness.

COMPONENT IX: RECORD KEEPING

The criteria in this component examine whether the district maintains required records and documentation for the program areas listed below:

- Special Education (Report Issues # SE 57-58)
 - Title I (Report Issues # TI 27-29A)
- Safe and Drug Free Schools (Report Issue # SDF 9)

| CRITERION NUMBER | SPECIAL EDUCATION IX. RECORD KEEPING | |
|-------------------------|---|---------------------------------------|
| | Legal Standard | |
| SE 57 | <p>Special education child count</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. A child count is maintained representing students with current, accepted IEPs who are provided, at a minimum, direct special education and/or related services to each student. The count is filed as part of annual school report by December 1 of each school year and provides an unduplicated listing of the number of students with IEPs in each program and does not reveal the identity of individual students or their parents. 2. The child count also includes students with disabilities determined eligible for special education who are attending private schools at private expense and are receiving publicly funded services according to IEPs developed by the district. 3. The district does not include as part of its special education child count students who are determined by the Department to be erroneously classified as eligible to be counted under federal or state special education requirements or who are no longer receiving special education and/or related services. <p>State Regulations 603 CMR 23.00</p> <p>Federal Requirements 300.750-754; 300.145; 300.560-300.577; Family Educational Rights and Privacy Act (FERPA); 300.133</p> | |
| | Rating: Implemented | District Response Required: No |

| CRITERION NUMBER | | |
|-------------------------|---|--|
| | Legal Standard | |
| SE 58 | <p>Federal Special Education Entitlement Grant</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. The district's Special Education entitlement grant is designed by appropriate local administrators who are responsible for the implementation of the local special education programs and services. 2. Where necessary, appropriate local administrators amend the programmatic and budgetary sections of the grant according to procedures and timelines required by the Department of Education. 3. Appropriate local administrators monitor the entitlement grant in an ongoing manner to ensure its full implementation as the Department of Education has approved it. 4. The district has secured the approval of the Department of Education for all | |

| | |
|-------------------------|--|
| CRITERION NUMBER | |
| | Legal Standard |
| | <p>amendments prior to their implementation.</p> <p>5. The district spends at least a proportionate share of its federal special education funds on services for children enrolled in private schools at private expense.</p> <p>State Regulations 28.03(1)(e)</p> <p style="text-align: right;">Federal Requirements 300.230; 300.340-300.500</p> |
| | Rating: Implemented District Response Required: No |

| | |
|-------------------------|--|
| CRITERION NUMBER | TITLE 1 IX. RECORD KEEPING |
| | Legal Standard |
| TI 27 | <p>For each split-funded staff member, the district maintains an appropriate log (time and efforts record) verifying the time actually spent on Title I activities.</p> <p>200.63 (Federal Register) CFR</p> |
| | Rating: Implemented District Response Required: No |

| | |
|-------------------------|--|
| CRITERION NUMBER | |
| | Legal Standard |
| TI 28 | <p>Documentation is on file at the local Title I office verifying comparability and the district is in compliance with such comparability.</p> <p>1120 (A)(c)(3)(B) ESEA, IASA</p> |
| | Rating: Implemented District Response Required: No |

| CRITERION NUMBER | |
|------------------|--|
| | Legal Standard |
| TI 29 | <p>The district has submitted all required reports to the Department of Education including the Local Title I Plan/Application and Performance and Achievement Report.</p> <p>The district maintains appropriate Title I records in a central location or at each Title I school and keeps correspondence on file, including documentation for identifying schools eligible for Title I services (Target Area Selection), and the form for determining school allocations.</p> <p>Information is made available to the Department regarding the allocation of Title I funds to schools and the rank order list and student selection criteria determined by the district.</p> <p>ESEA 1116 (d)(1)(A), 1111(b)(2)(A)(ii), 1120A(c)(2)</p> |
| | Rating: Implemented District Response Required: No |

| CRITERION NUMBER | |
|------------------|---|
| | Legal Standard |
| TI 29A | <p>Federal Title I Grant:</p> <p>The district's Title I grant is designed by appropriate local administrators who are responsible for the implementation of the local Title I programs and services.</p> <p>Where necessary, appropriate local administrators amend the programmatic and budgetary sections of the grant according to procedures and timelines required by the Department of Education.</p> <p>Appropriate local administrators monitor the grant in an ongoing manner to ensure its full implementation as the Department of Education has approved it.</p> <p>The district secures the approval of the Department of Education for all amendments prior to their implementation.</p> |
| | Rating: Partially Implemented District Response Required: Yes |

Department of Education Findings:

A review of documentation indicated that while the Title I grant is designed and monitored by appropriate local administrators, an amendment of the budgetary sections of the grant have not been made as staffing decisions and changes have been made.

| CRITERION NUMBER | SAFE AND DRUG FREE SCHOOLS IX. RECORD KEEPING |
|------------------|---|
| | Legal Standard |
| SDF 9 | <p>Appropriate accounting and budget procedures are being implemented to insure that program expenditures are related to the purpose and intent of the Safe and Drug Free Schools and Communities Act.</p> <p>[(EDGAR 76.730 TO 734)]</p> |
| | <p>Rating: Partially Implemented District Response Required: Yes</p> |

Department of Education Findings:

Approved and current budgeted pages, amendments and a request for funds are on file with the Department of Education.

The district does not maintain time distribution logs for individuals employed with SDFSCA funds.

**APPENDIX:
SCHOOL DISTRICT PROFILE INFORMATION**

The information which is provided in this Appendix was drawn from data supplied by the school district. The Department's visiting team carefully reviewed this data as part of its planning for the onsite visit and in preparing this Coordinated Program Review Report. This district-wide information, together with more detailed school building data, is periodically updated by the school district and is available in an evercurrent form on the Department's internet web site at <<http://profiles.doe.mass.edu/>>.

School and District Profiles

Definitions of Terms

Profiles

The Massachusetts Department of Education collects information about schools and districts. Some of the information collected is published in School and District Profiles on DOE web pages. The information provides a snapshot of the educational picture in communities across the state.

Now districts view, add, update and delete their own district and school information over the web to make sure that the information is as up-to-date and accurate as possible. In addition, the general public will be able to view Directory information about each school district in the state. Individuals can retrieve for themselves information such as school personnel, school programs (e.g. School Choice and TBE) and the location of specialized services such as Special Education Collaboratives, and Vocational Training Programs.

The list below provides an explanation of information presented in the Profiles.

Directory Information

DOE Code: The DOE Code, also referred to as the Organization Code, is an eight digit numeric code assigned by the Massachusetts Department of Education to every organization listed in the Directory Profiles, including every district and school in the Commonwealth. For districts and schools, the first four digits represent the District Code and the last four digits represent the School Code. Thus the organization code "02660505" stands for "0266" (Sharon Public Schools) + "0505" (Sharon High). If a form requires the 8-digit DOE school code it is calling for the entire organization code.

Prior to the 2001 school year, organization codes contained six digits (three for the district and three for the school.) With the exception of some special needs schools, the eight digit codes are the same as the six digit codes with one zero added before the district code and another zero added before the school code. Thus, Sharon High's old six digit organizational code was 266505.

Please Note: The Department's Organization Code is not the same as the Institution codes assigned by the College board for SAT and AP results. Nor is it the same as the NCES code assigned to Massachusetts schools by the U.S. Department of Education.

Grades/Schools*: indicates the number and grade range of elementary, middle/junior high and high schools in the district, as well as the total number of schools in the district and the grade range of the school system. An elementary range beginning with "PK" indicates the district has pre-kindergarten. A high school range ending in "13" or "14" indicates the district has a post-graduate program. Kindergarten starting age indicates the age as of a particular date at which children are eligible to begin kindergarten.

Services: Services include:

- **Inter-district Choice:** indicates whether students from other districts may enroll in the district through the state school choice program, which is voluntary and on a space-available basis.
- **Intra-district Choice:** indicates whether the district has a school choice program within the school district for students who live in the district.
- **Vocational Education:** indicates whether the district operates a Chapter 74 approved vocational education program.
- **Transitional Bilingual Education (TBE):** indicates whether the district operates a TBE program. Under Massachusetts law, a district must provide a TBE program in a particular language if there are 20 or more limited English proficient students in that particular language group enrolled in the district. Limited English proficient students are students whose first language is not English and who cannot perform ordinary class work in English.
- **METCO:** indicates whether the district participates in the state METCO program, which promotes voluntary desegregation by enrolling minority students from Boston and Springfield in suburban schools.

Relationships: Relationships include:

- **Member of Regional Districts*:** for local school districts, indicates the name(s) of any academic and/or vocational regional district(s) of which the local school district is a member. For regional school districts, indicates the names of member local school districts. A regional school district provides educational services to more than one town.

* District level data only.

Enrollment

Enrollment by Grade: indicates the enrollment for grades Pre-kindergarten (PK), kindergarten through 12, post-graduate grades 13 and 14, and ungraded (u/g) students for the listed school year.

Race/Ethnicity: indicates the percent of enrollment by race/ethnicity for the listed school year. The reporting categories are those used by the U.S. Bureau of the Census.

Selected Populations: indicates the percent of enrollment represented by students in special education programs*, students who are limited English proficient, and students eligible to receive free or reduced price lunch*. Data are for the listed school year.

Children Attending Public Schools*: indicates the percent of school-age children in a city or town attending public schools, for the listed school years.

* District level data only.

Test Results

Massachusetts Comprehensive Assessment System (MCAS): Click the MCAS link to see MCAS results for the district or school.

For additional information about Massachusetts Comprehensive Assessment System (MCAS), please refer to the Department of Education's MCAS web site at www.doe.mass.edu/mcas.

SAT: The district or school's SAT results are displayed for the listed years.

People

A list of people who work in the organization. Each name is linked to contact information for the person.

Finance

Per Pupil Expenditures*: are calculated by dividing a district's operating costs by its average pupil membership. Operating costs include expenditures for administration, instruction, pupil services, transportation, plant maintenance, and fixed charges. These costs do not include capital outlay and long-term interest on school debt. Average pupil membership includes students who receive services in the district's schools, as well as students receiving home or hospital instruction. Data for regular education, special education, bilingual education and vocational education students are provided in addition to the total for all day programs, for the listed school years.

Teacher Salary*: indicates the minimum and maximum teacher salaries available, for the listed school years.

Foundation Budget Spending Comparison*: The education reform act established a foundation budget for each school district. This budget represents the minimum level of spending needed to provide an adequate education for the district's students. The foundation budget is made up of 19 separate categories. The chart shows the district's actual spending in each category for the listed school year as a percentage of the district's foundation budget. If the percentage exceeds 100%, the district spent more in the category than suggested by the foundation budget. If the percentage is less than 100%, the district spent less. Significant variations between local spending and the foundation budget, or between local spending and the statewide averages, should be reviewed closely. In some cases, the differences may be due to unique circumstances and needs within the district. In other cases, the differences may suggest potential areas for review and improvement.

Click one of the links in the Finance section for more school finance information.

* District level data only.

Other Data

Dropout/Attendance Rates: indicates the percentage of students in grades 9-12 who dropped out of school between July 1 and June 30 prior to the listed year and who did not return to school by October 1. Dropouts are defined as students who leave school prior to graduation for reasons other than transfer to another school.

Attendance Rate: indicates the average percentage of enrolled students present in school for the listed school year.

Student Exclusions: indicates the number of student exclusions that occurred during the listed school year. An exclusion is defined as the removal of a student for disciplinary purposes permanently, indefinitely or for more than ten consecutive school days.

Plans of High School Graduates: indicates the post-graduate intentions of students for the listed school year.

Technology: indicates the number of students for every one computer and the percent of classrooms with Internet access. Data are for the listed school year; "DNR" appears for schools and districts which did not yet report data

The electronic version of this profile information is available at:

<http://profiles.doe.mass.edu/home.asp?mode=ot&view=&ot=5>

SE, MOA, TI, SDFS

File Name: Nashoba Regional School District Coordinated Program Review Final
Report 2002.doc

Last Revised on: 8/7/02

Prepared by: Thunt/GH/