



PALMER PUBLIC SCHOOLS

**COORDINATED PROGRAM REVIEW
REPORT OF FINDINGS**

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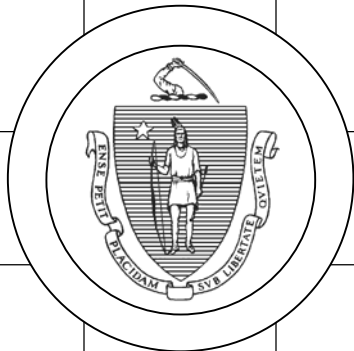
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MASSACHUSETTS DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION
COORDINATED PROGRAM REVIEW

PALMER PUBLIC SCHOOLS

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MASSACHUSETTS DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION

COORDINATED PROGRAM REVIEW REPORT

PALMER PUBLIC SCHOOLS

OVERVIEW OF REVIEW PROCEDURES

As one part of its Accountability System, the Department of Education oversees local compliance with education requirements through the Coordinated Program Review System (CPR). All reviews include the following selected requirements:

- special education under the federal Individuals with Disabilities Education Act (IDEA-97), and M.G.L. Chapter 71B (Chapter 766 of the Acts of 1972);
- federal civil rights requirements under Title VI of the Civil Rights Act of 1964, the Equal Educational Opportunities Act of 1974, Title IX of the Education Amendments of 1972, and Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973, and Title II of the Americans with Disabilities Act of 1990, together with related state requirements under M.G.L. Chapter 76, Section 5 (Chapter 622 of the Acts of 1971) and other Massachusetts General Laws;
- targeted standards from the Board of Education's Physical Restraint regulations (603 CMR 46.00);
- targeted standards from the federal McKinney-Vento Homeless Education Assistance Improvements Act of 2001 (included in the No Child Left Behind Act of 2001); and
- provisions of M.G.L. c. 71A, the state law that governs the provision of education to limited English proficient students. (Note that due to the voters' approval in 2002 of an initiative petition entitled "Question 2," M.G.L. c. 71A has been significantly amended. Under the amended Chapter 71A, limited English proficient students, now referred to as "English learners," must be provided instruction in sheltered English immersion or 2-way bilingual programs unless they have received a waiver. As a result of this change in the law, the Department's Coordinated Program Review standards under Chapter 71A are significantly revised for the 2003-2004 school year. All districts reviewed by the Department during the 2003-2004 Coordinated Program Review cycle and that enroll limited English proficient students have been implementing self-assessment activities using these updated standards. Six school districts throughout the state are participating in pilot monitoring activities to validate their self-assessment results as part of their scheduled Coordinated Program Review.)

Additional program areas reviewed during the Coordinated Program Review visits in selected districts may also include:

- Title I of the Elementary and Secondary Education Act of 1965, including related "No Child Left Behind" requirements in Title IIA;
- Safe and Drug-Free Schools and Communities Act;
- Career and Technical Education requirements under the federal Perkins Vocational and Technical Education Act and state M.G.L. c. 74; and
- Nutrition Programs and Services

The selected school districts for 2003-2004 were notified by the Commissioner of Education in June 2003 of scheduled visits and of requirements to implement self-assessment activities prior to the arrival of the Department's visiting team.

The Department's 2003-2004 schedule of Coordinated Program Reviews is posted on the Department's web site at <<http://www.doe.mass.edu/pqa/review/cpr/schedule.html>>. The statewide six-year Program

Review cycle together with the Department's Mid-cycle Special Education follow-up monitoring schedule are posted at <http://www.doe.mass.edu/pqa/review/cpr/6yrcycle_ad.html>.

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 Department staff members together with any necessary outside consultants conducts a Coordinated Program Review over two to ten days in a school district or charter school.

Scope: Fifty-four school districts and charter schools are scheduled to receive visits in school year 2003-2004. 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 encompass the required elements for the specific program areas. In the case of special education, the elements selected for the 2003-2004 reviews contain, at a minimum, those required by the federal Office for Special Education Programs (OSEP) and revised requirements included under IDEA-97 as described in the Department's Special Education Advisories. Additionally, the 2003-2004 reviews incorporate updated state special education requirements as adopted by the Board of Education and effective on 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, and intended to promote high standards and achievement for all students.

Report: The Department's report is based on a review of written documentation and data 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 and other interviews as requested by persons from the general public.
- Student record reviews in the program areas of special education, English learner education (c. 71A), Career and Technical Education programs, and Section 504 (student accommodation plans). A representative sample of student records is selected by the Department. Student records are examined by the Onsite Team using standard Department student record review procedures to make determinations regarding the implementation of procedural and programmatic requirements. Parents of students with disabilities whose files are selected for the record review are sent a survey that solicits information regarding their experiences with the district's implementation of special education programs, related services and procedural requirements.
- Classroom and facilities observation. 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 requirements.
- Collaborative Programs and Services. Where the district is a member of a collaborative approved by the Department of Education and is a site for programs or services operated

by the collaborative, a sample of interviews, student record reviews and classroom and facility observations are conducted.

An Executive Summary and detailed findings for each program area describe determinations of the Department about the implementation status of each requirement (criterion) reviewed.

Response: The findings included in the Final Report note those criteria the implementation of which the Team found to be commendable or substantially implemented. Where compliance criteria are found to be not fully implemented, the local district, charter school, or educational collaborative must propose corrective actions to bring those areas into compliance with the respective statutes or regulations.

All recently issued Department of Education Coordinated Program Review Reports are posted on the agency's website at <http://www.doe.mass.edu/pqa/review/cpr/reports/> .

The Department believes that the Coordinated Program Review process is a positive experience and that the Final Report is a helpful planning document for the continued development and improvement of programs and services in each school district, charter school and educational collaborative.

REPORT INTRODUCTION

A five-member Massachusetts Department of Education team visited the Palmer Public Schools during the week of January 26, 2004 to evaluate the implementation of selected criteria in the program areas of Special Education, Civil Rights (MOA), Title I, Safe and Drug Free Schools, and Nutrition. 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 has a significant and positive impact on the delivery of educational services for students enrolled in the Palmer Public Schools. These areas are as follows:

The existence and vigorous on-going activities of the Safe Schools Subcommittee that brings together high level town public safety and school personnel for emergency planning and preparation are exemplary and must be commended. For the Title I program, a healthy mix of experienced and relatively new Title I teachers comprise a staff of knowledgeable, committed, and professional educators. The program's leadership is aware of its strengths and is open to areas needing development and improvement. In addition, frequent communication between program leadership and the district's business office ensures appropriate allocation and oversight of fund spending.

These 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 20 administrative staff.
- Interviews of 38 teaching and support services staff across all levels.
- Interviews of two parent advisory council (PAC) representatives.
- Interviews of three persons from the general public.
- Student record reviews: A sample of 30 student records were 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: 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. Nine 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 eight instructional classrooms and other school facilities 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 plans.

COORDINATED PROGRAM REVIEW REPORT

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

PALMER PUBLIC SCHOOLS

The following summary synthesizes the findings for criteria included in the Coordinated Program Review as they respond to essential questions that 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 Students

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 uses a variety of testing instruments when conducting special education evaluations. However, the onsite team found that the district was not consistently conducting assessments involving teachers with current knowledge regarding a student's specific abilities in relation to the learning standards set forth by the mandated Massachusetts Curriculum Frameworks, the district's curriculum, the student's attention skills, his or her participation behaviors, communication skills, memory, and social relations with groups, peers and adults. Furthermore, the district does not routinely conduct an observation of the child's interactions in the child's natural environment or early intervention program along with current assessments from the early intervention program to determine eligibility for services at age three. The district also does not consistently use the mandated special education requirements for the determination of specific learning disabilities (SLD), and when the district does initiate the mandated requirements for the determination of SLD, they were not utilized in appropriate cases. Most important, the onsite team established that summaries of the assessments conducted are not routinely completed prior to the discussion by the Team and that the summaries are not available to parents when requested at least two days in advance of the Team meeting. Next, the onsite team found that the district does not consistently conduct annual review Team meetings on or before the anniversary date of the implementation of the IEP, and the re-evaluations are either not done or are done very late.

On the other hand, the district does fulfill all parental requests for independent education evaluations, and the end of the school year evaluations are consistently done in a timely fashion. 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. Although the district does provide the mandated progress reports for special education students, the progress reports do not routinely contain information on the student's progress toward reaching the goals set in the IEP, and the written information sent to the parents of the students does not relay information on the student's progress toward the annual goals in the IEP, which includes information on the extent to which such progress is sufficient to enable the student to achieve the goals by the end of the year. Lastly, the district does not consistently meet the 45-day timeline for determining the eligibility of a student for special education or related services.

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 needs to implement more of a consistent process for IEP development of special needs students. The district's IEP Team meetings do not consistently have a representative present that can commit district resources to a particular situation. Furthermore, the Team composition of these Team meetings also does not routinely include a regular education teacher for those students that are also involved in the regular education program. Next, the onsite team found that parents of special needs students do not routinely receive their children's Individualized Education Programs (IEP) in a timely manner along with the notice that accompanies the proposed IEP and the suggested placement. The onsite team further determined that students are removed from the general education classroom when curriculum modifications might have been sufficient, because of the lack of supports and resources for regular education teachers. In addition, the onsite team found that the district does not document the removal of a student from the general education classroom, why the student's removal is critical to his/her program, and the basis of the Team's conclusion that the least restrictive environment (LRE) has been selected. Above all, the district does not ensure that the LRE is consistently selected. The district also had some instances where it exceeded the eight-week timeline for extended evaluations, and it did not write a partial IEP, when it was necessary. Moreover, the district does not consistently initiate services at the age of three and Early Intervention transition services. Lastly, the district does not routinely inform each teacher and service provider described in the IEP of his or her specific responsibilities related to the implementation of the student's IEP, and the district has delayed some services outlined in a student's IEP, due to the large caseloads of some service providers.

While it is true that the district has appropriate procedures and assessments in place to identify students who are limited English proficient, the district does not consistently provide support services to these limited English proficient students. Specifically, the district only provides tutoring services for limited English proficient students as support. Furthermore, the district does not document its methods for providing full access to all programs and services in the general education program for all categories of students. The district seems to have some patterns of placement in its special education programs that directly have an impact on racial minority students; specifically, the fact that the district has twenty-eight African American students enrolled and ten of them are receiving special education services. However, the district does immediately enroll homeless students, and makes transportation provisions for the homeless students to and from their school of origin. Lastly, the district does not have a policy in place to address the potential need for the in-school programs for pregnant students. For Title I, multiple, age-appropriate criteria are used to identify student eligibility for support. One item that appears on all grade-level selection criteria lists, however, is not an objective criterion and should not have a weighted value attached to it.

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 does obtain written parental consent before conducting an initial evaluation or making an initial placement of a student in a special education program. Also, 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. The district obtains consent before initiating extended evaluation services and before providing the

proposed services outlined in a student's IEP. However, the onsite team found that the district does not consistently send written notice to parents within five school days of the receipt of the referral. Most important, 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. Furthermore, the district regularly informs parents of their rights when it comes to making decisions about their child's education. The district has established a parent advisory council on special education that is open to all parents of children with disabilities and other interested parties. Moreover, the district does not regularly provide parents with a copy of the proposed IEP within the mandated 3 to 5 day timeframe, and it does not consistently provide parents with a completed N1 or N2 form when their child has been determined not to be eligible for special education services or programs. Lastly, the district does not regularly translate general announcements, notices of extracurricular activities, and other opportunities in the primary language of the home.

Although there is good communication between Title I teachers and parents, the district and all Title I-served schools have not fully involved parents of Title I students in the development of program plans and policies. Parent training opportunities and sharing of materials have not reached the level and extent required in all Title I schools.

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?

Above all, the district's curriculum throughout the district is aligned with the Massachusetts Curriculum Frameworks. The district provides specialized materials and equipment specified in students' IEPs, and the assistive technology is of good quality and suitable for the role they play in the IEPs. In addition, the district considers every eligible student for assistive technology, and if necessary, the district provides it at no expense to the parent. The onsite team found that the district has procedures in place to monitor the provision of services to and from the programs of individual students placed in approved and unapproved out-of-district placements. On the other hand, the onsite team determined that the district does not regularly have at least one member of all its IEP Teams that is familiar with the general curriculum and is able to discuss an eligible student's appropriate access to the general curriculum. Also, the district does not provide a continuum of services and placements to meet the needs of all students, because it does not provide/offer inclusion classes at the high school level.

Furthermore, the district does not ensure routinely that IEPs are implemented without delay upon parental consent. The onsite team further found that the district has exceeded class size requirements at the middle school and high school with classes of nine students without an aide for students that are out of the general classroom for less than 60% of the day. Further review from the onsite team revealed that the district has also exceeded the allowable number of students in a substantially separate setting that solely serves students with disabilities for more than 60% of the student's school schedule at the middle school with some classes that contain fifteen students at one time during their G-Block period. The district does exceed age span requirements because it has some classes where students in the class differed in age more than forty-eight months: at the high school in its life skills class by fifty-seven months, in another high school special education classroom by sixty months, and eighty-one months in yet another special education classroom at the high school. Lastly, some of the district's pre-kindergarten classrooms have more than the six or seven students with disabilities in classes that also exceed the mandated fifteen allowable total students.

The district provides accessibility to extracurricular activities or clubs sponsored by the school

on a nondiscriminatory basis, meaning that it does not exclude students on the basis of race, sex, color, religion, national origin, sexual orientation, disability, or homelessness. However, the district has not drafted and implemented a process to monitor the hiring and employment practices of prospective employers of students to ensure that they are complying with applicable federal and state laws prohibiting discrimination.

Title I services are targeted at helping at-risk students meet the expectations and standards of the general curriculum. A thoughtful combination of in-class and appropriate pull-out models is employed.

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 has failed to use behavioral interventions/modifications on a consistent basis for those students whose behavior impedes their learning or the learning of others. While the district has an adequate process for suspending students with disabilities, the process is not actually implemented when needed, for example, in the district's Alternative Education Programs. In fact, the onsite team found that the district in some instances prior to initiating disciplinary action has had knowledge that a student may have a disability, but it did not make all the available protections under the law known to the student and/or parents until the student was subsequently determined to be eligible for special education. Lastly, the district does not provide all of the related services outlined and mandated on students' IEPs in all cases.

Personnel and parents in the district are not aware of the of the district's Section 504 coordinator, homeless coordinator, Title IX coordinator, and Title II coordinator. Next, the onsite team revealed that the district's publications and written materials do not contain a notice that it does not discriminate on the basis of race, color, national origin, sex, disability, religion, or sexual orientation. The district did not submit any documentation verifying the availability of information on the general curriculum, occupational/vocational opportunities, and information on counseling for linguistic, racial, and ethnic minorities as well as homeless students and students with disabilities. Most important, the district does not ensure that all counselors communicate effectively with limited English proficient and disabled students and facilitate their access to all programs and services offered by the district. Lastly, the onsite team found that the district's personnel responsible for administering restraints are not appropriately trained in all cases.

Coordination between programs appears to ensure that all students have equal access to the Title I services and support is provided to those students who need it and will benefit most from it. The district has not ensured that all eligible private school children have access to Title I, since not all appropriate private schools' administration have been consulted.

Component VI: Faculty, Staff and Administration

Does the district maintain licensed 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?

Above all, the onsite team found that the district has not completely implemented its curriculum accommodation plan to ensure that all efforts have been made to meet the needs of the diverse learners in the general education program. Furthermore, the district has some personnel who provide direct special education services described in a student's IEP, or who supervise the provision of special education services by other teachers or paraprofessionals

that are not appropriately certified. The onsite team also found that the district has some related service providers that provide services or supports directly to the regular and special education classrooms that do not possess appropriate certifications and credentials. And, the district's paraprofessionals and classroom assistants are allowed to design instruction for students with disabilities. In addition, paraprofessionals and classroom assistants in the district are not routinely provided access to the students' IEPs that they provided support to. Although the district provided the Department with extensive information on training sessions that it has offered and conducted for its personnel, the district submitted no evidence that it offers in-service trainings on the mandated topics annually; therefore, the district's staff are considered not to be adequately trained on these mandated topics.

The district's employment practices in general are free from discrimination on the basis of race, color, national origin, sex, or disability. In fact, the district provides in-service training for all its school personnel at least annually regarding civil rights responsibilities, including the prevention of discrimination and harassment on the basis of a student's race, color, sex, religion, national origin, sexual orientation, and the appropriate methods for responding to it in the school setting.

All Title I staff are not appropriately licensed and have not met "highly qualified" requirements.

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 provides facilities and classrooms for eligible students, which maximize their inclusion into the life of the school, provides accessibility in order to fully implement each child's IEP, and are at least equal in all physical respects to the average standards of general education facilities and classrooms. Furthermore, the district's special education facilities and classrooms are given the same priority as the general education programs for access to and use of instructional and other space in its schools in order to minimize the separation or stigmatization of eligible students. On the other hand, the district does not possess any fire alarm strobe/horn warning devices in the bathrooms for students with visual and hearing impairments. Lastly, the onsite team found that the district's high school alternative education program is not handicap accessible through the rear exit.

Component VIII: Program Plan and Evaluation

Does the district evaluate its programs in accordance with regulatory requirements? Does it use the results of its evaluations to improve programs? Do parents have opportunities for input on program needs, program implementation, and program evaluation and improvement?

The district has not completely developed and implemented a method for determining the effectiveness of programs in assisting students with disabilities to achieve the goals set forth in their Individualized Education Programs, in the least restrictive environment. In addition, the district does not have a process to ensure that instructional and educational materials do not contain simplistic and demeaning generalizations and lack intellectual merit, on the basis of race, color, sex, religion, national origin, and sexual orientation. Lastly, the district does not possess a comprehensive procedure for examining and remedying policies and programs that discriminate or limit educational access on a prohibited basis.

While student needs and Title I student progress are evaluated annually, a more formal, written program evaluation, with input from parents, will assure that the most pressing and widely desired needs and goals continue to be addressed.

Component IX: Record keeping

Does the District maintain required records and documentation for each program area? Are entitlement grants appropriately designed, amended, and monitored? Does the district use federal grant funds in accordance with statutory fund-use rules, including supplement not supplant provisions where applicable? Does the district meet applicable maintenance of effort requirements?

The district maintains an appropriate child count, and its entitlement grant is properly designed, amended, and monitored.

Required records and documentation are maintained for the Title I program. Indications are that Title I funds are used only to supplement other educational services.

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.
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.

Several key areas of compliance with federal special education requirements have been highlighted in **SHADED TEXT** in the Program Review Criteria. These highlighted areas are included in the Massachusetts Continuous Improvement Plan (CIP) that is being used by the U.S. Department of Education, Office of Special Education Programs (OSEP), to track over time this state's compliance in these key areas.

COMPONENT I: ASSESSMENT OF STUDENTS

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)

CRITERION NUMBER	SPECIAL EDUCATION I. ASSESSMENT OF STUDENTS
	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:

Although the district provided a list of assessments, the documentation review and staff interviews indicated that the district does not ensure that LRE is consistently selected.

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%; border: none;">State Regulations 28.04 (1) and (2)</td> <td style="width: 50%; border: none;">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)			
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Rating: Partially Implemented	DISTRICT RESPONSE REQUIRED:	Yes		

Department of Education Findings:

The documentation review and staff interviews indicated that the district was not conducting assessments involving teachers with current knowledge regarding a student’s specific abilities in relation to the learning standards set forth by the mandated Massachusetts Curriculum Frameworks, the district’s curriculum, the student’s attention skills, his or her participation behaviors, communication skills, memory, and social relations with groups, peers, and adults. Documentation and staff interviews also revealed that the district was not conducting an observation of the child’s interactions in the child’s natural environment or early intervention program along with current assessments from the early intervention program to determine eligibility for services at age three (3).

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: <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. <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;

CRITERION NUMBER			
	Legal Standard		
	<p>2. the basis for making the determination;</p> <p>3. the relevant behavior noted during the observation of the child;</p> <p>4. the relationship of that behavior to the child’s academic functioning;</p> <p>5. the educationally relevant medical findings, if any;</p> <p>6. statement whether there is a severe discrepancy between achievement and ability that is not correctable without special education and/or related services; and</p> <p>7. the determination of the Team concerning the effects of environmental, cultural, or economic disadvantage.</p> <p><u>Required written certification of Team members:</u> Each Team member certifies in writing whether the report reflects his or her conclusion. If not, the Team member submits a separate statement presenting his or her conclusions.</p>		
	State Regulations	Federal Requirements 300.540-543	
	Rating: Partially Implemented	DISTRICT RESPONSE REQUIRED:	Yes

Department of Education Findings:

Documentation review indicated that the district was not consistently using the mandated special education requirements for the determination of specific learning disabilities, and when the district did initiate the mandated requirements for the determination of specific learning disabilities, they were not utilized in appropriate cases.

CRITERION NUMBER			
	Legal Standard		
SE 4	<p>Reports of assessment results</p> <p>1. Each person conducting an assessment shall summarize in writing the procedures employed, the results, and the diagnostic impression, and shall define in detail and in educationally relevant and common terms, the student’s needs, offering explicit means of meeting them. Assessors may recommend appropriate types of placements, but shall not recommend specific classrooms or schools.</p> <p>2. Summaries of assessments are completed prior to discussion by the Team and, upon request, are made available to the parent at least two days in advance of the Team discussion.</p>		
	State Regulations 28.04(2)(c)	Federal Requirements 300.532	
	Rating: Partially Implemented	DISTRICT RESPONSE	Yes

CRITERION NUMBER				
	Legal Standard			
	<p>employment or other post-school adult living objectives, and, if appropriate, the acquisition of daily living skills and functional vocational evaluation.</p> <p>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 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>			
	<table style="width: 100%; border: none;"> <tr> <td style="width: 50%; vertical-align: top;"> State Regulations M.G.L. Ch.71B, Sections 12A-C 603 CMR 28.05(4)(c) </td> <td style="width: 50%; vertical-align: top;"> Federal Requirements 300.344(b), 300.347 </td> </tr> </table>	State Regulations M.G.L. Ch.71B, Sections 12A-C 603 CMR 28.05(4)(c)	Federal Requirements 300.344(b), 300.347	
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Rating: Partially Implemented	DISTRICT RESPONSE REQUIRED:	Yes		

Department of Education Findings:

The district did not provide any documentation that it routinely initiated transition services for a student who is 14 years of age, so that the Team could consider the student’s course of study in relation to the student’s future goals and document the transition services in his/her Individualized Education Program (IEP). Documentation review also indicated that the district does not consistently ensure that students age 14, or younger if appropriate, are invited to attend Team meetings at which transition services are discussed or proposed.

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> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 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. 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.

CRITERION NUMBER			
	Legal Standard		
	<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>(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>(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 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 603 CMR 28.08(5)</p>	<p>Federal Requirements 300.347(c), 300.517</p>	
	<p>Rating: Partially Implemented</p>	<p>DISTRICT RESPONSE REQUIRED:</p>	<p>Yes</p>

Department of Education Findings:

While the district has provided the letter for such notice, record reviews indicated that the district fails to document the use of the letter on a consistent basis in the records examined.

CRITERION NUMBER			
	Legal Standard		
<p>SE 8</p>	<p><u>Evaluation Team composition</u> The following persons are members of the evaluation Team: 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</p>		

CRITERION NUMBER			
	Legal Standard		
SE 9	<p>Eligibility determination: Timelines for evaluation, provision of IEP and/or identification of other needed instructional programs</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 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: <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 reading or math or limited English proficiency or social maladjustment, the student is referred to a more appropriate instructional program or support service 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. 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. 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>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:

Record reviews and staff interviews indicated that the district does not consistently meet the 45-day timeline for determining eligibility.

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>
	<p>Rating: Implemented</p> <p style="text-align: right;">DISTRICT RESPONSE REQUIRED: No</p>

CRITERION NUMBER	
	Legal Standard

CRITERION NUMBER	
	Legal Standard
<p style="text-align: center;">SE 11</p>	<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 does not recommend 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 style="text-align: right;">Federal Requirements 300.502(a)(3)(i)</p>

CRITERION NUMBER				
	Legal Standard			
	<table style="width: 100%; border: none;"> <tr> <td style="width: 50%;">Rating: Implemented</td> <td style="width: 30%;">DISTRICT RESPONSE REQUIRED:</td> <td style="width: 20%; text-align: right;">No</td> </tr> </table>	Rating: Implemented	DISTRICT RESPONSE REQUIRED:	No
Rating: Implemented	DISTRICT RESPONSE REQUIRED:	No		

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. <table style="width: 100%; border: none;"> <tr> <td style="width: 50%;">State Regulations 28.04(3)</td> <td style="width: 30%;">Federal Requirements 300.536</td> <td style="width: 20%;"></td> </tr> </table>	State Regulations 28.04(3)	Federal Requirements 300.536	
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Rating: Partially Implemented	DISTRICT RESPONSE REQUIRED:	Yes		

Department of Education Findings:

Documentation and record review revealed that re-evaluations are either not done or are done very late.

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. <table style="width: 100%; border: none;"> <tr> <td style="width: 50%;">State Regulations 28.07(3)</td> <td style="width: 30%;">Federal Requirements 20 U.S.C. Chapter 33, Section 1414(d)(1)(A)(viii)</td> <td style="width: 20%;"></td> </tr> </table>	State Regulations 28.07(3)	Federal Requirements 20 U.S.C. Chapter 33, Section 1414(d)(1)(A)(viii)	
State Regulations 28.07(3)	Federal Requirements 20 U.S.C. Chapter 33, Section 1414(d)(1)(A)(viii)			

CRITERION NUMBER	
	Legal Standard
	300.347
	Rating: Partially Implemented DISTRICT RESPONSE REQUIRED: Yes

Department of Education Findings:

Documentation and record review indicated that the district's progress reports did not contain information on the student's progress toward reaching the goals set in the IEP, and the written information sent to the parents of students did not relay information on the student's progress toward the annual goals in the IEP, which includes information on the extent to which such progress is sufficient to enable the student to achieve the goals by the end of the year.

CRITERION NUMBER			
	Legal Standard		
SE 14	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. <table style="width: 100%; border: none;"> <tr> <td style="width: 50%; border: none;">State Regulations 28.04(3)</td> <td style="width: 50%; border: none;">Federal Requirements 300.343(c)</td> </tr> </table>	State Regulations 28.04(3)	Federal Requirements 300.343(c)
State Regulations 28.04(3)	Federal Requirements 300.343(c)		
	Rating: Partially Implemented DISTRICT RESPONSE REQUIRED: Yes		

Department of Education Findings:

Record review and documentation indicated the district does not conduct on a consistent basis the annual review Team meeting on or before the anniversary date of the implementation of the IEP.

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 19-20)

CRITERION NUMBER	SPECIAL EDUCATION II. STUDENT IDENTIFICATION AND PLACEMENT	
	Legal Standard	
SE 15	<p>Outreach by the School District (Child Find) The district has annual or more frequent outreach and continuous liaison with those groups below from which promotion or transfer of students in need of special education may be expected, or which would include students in need of special education:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. professionals in community 2. private nursery schools 3. day care facilities 4. group homes 5. parent organizations 6. clinical /health care agencies 7. early intervention programs 8. other public/private/parochial schools 9. other agencies/organizations 10. the school itself, including charter schools 11. agencies serving migrant and/or homeless persons pursuant to the McKinney-Vento Education Act for Homeless Children 	
	State Regulations	Federal Requirements 300.125; 300.312
	Rating: Partially Implemented	District Response Required: Yes

Department of Education Findings:

While the district has previously conducted an outreach within the community, the district did not provide documentation to support the fact that an outreach has transpired in the last 2 years.

CRITERION NUMBER		
	Legal Standard	
SE 16	<p>Screening</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. The school district conducts screening for three and four year olds and for all children who are of age to enter kindergarten. Such screening is designed to review a child’s development and to assist in identification of those children who should be referred for an evaluation to determine eligibility for special education services. 2. Participation in the screening program for three and four year olds is optional on the part of the parents. 3. Provision is made for ongoing and periodic screening of all students as required by the Department of Public Health (vision, hearing, and posture). 	
	State Regulations	Federal Requirements

CRITERION NUMBER				
	Legal Standard			
	28.03(1)(d) Chapter 71, section 57			
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Rating: Implemented	DISTRICT RESPONSE REQUIRED:	No		

	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;"> <tr> <td style="width: 50%;">State Regulations 28.06(7)(b)</td> <td style="width: 50%;">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)	
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Rating: Partially Implemented	DISTRICT RESPONSE REQUIRED:	Yes		

Department of Education Findings:

Student records and staff interviews revealed that the district does not consistently initiate services at the age of three and Early Intervention transition services.

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

CRITERION NUMBER				
	Legal Standard			
	<p>proposing the IEP.</p> <p>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.</p> <p>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.</p> <p>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.</p> <p>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.</p> <p>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.</p> <p>7. The IEP is written in generally understandable language.</p> <p>8.</p> <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>			
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Rating: Partially Implemented	DISTRICT RESPONSE REQUIRED:	Yes		

Department of Education Findings:

Record reviews and staff interviews indicated that the district does not consistently ensure that each IEP Team has at least one person present with the authority to commit district resources, and if the Team members are unable to agree on the proposed IEP, the Team chairperson does not state the elements of the IEP put forth by the district.

CRITERION NUMBER	
	Legal Standard
SE 18B	<p>Determination of placement; provision of IEP to parent</p> <p>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</p>

CRITERION NUMBER	
	Legal Standard
	<p>IEP.</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 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;"> State Regulations 28.05(6) and (7) </p> <p style="text-align: center;"> Federal Requirements 300.346 </p>

Rating: Partially implemented

RESPONSE REQUIRED: YES

Department of Education Findings:

Record review and documentation revealed that the parents do not consistently receive their children's Individualized Education Plans in a timely manner, and they do not routinely receive the notice that accompanies the proposed IEP and the suggested placement.

CRITERION NUMBER	
	Legal Standard
SE 19	<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, 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 used to allow additional time to complete

CRITERION NUMBER	
	Legal Standard
	<p>the required assessments.</p> <p>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 develop an IEP. The Team may decide to meet at intervals during the extended evaluation, but in all cases reconvenes promptly to develop an IEP when the evaluation is complete.</p> <p>4. The extended evaluation may extend longer than one week, but does not exceed eight school weeks.</p> <p>5. The extended evaluation is not considered a placement.</p> <p>State Regulations 28.05(2)(b)</p> <p style="text-align: right;">Federal Requirements</p>
	<p>Rating: Partially Implemented</p> <p style="text-align: center;">DISTRICT RESPONSE REQUIRED:</p> <p style="text-align: right;">Yes</p>

Department of Education Findings:

Record review and staff interviews indicated that the district exceeded the eight week timeline for extended evaluations, and the documentation review revealed that in no case was a partial IEP written when necessary.

CRITERION NUMBER	
	Legal Standard
SE 20	<p>Least restrictive program selected</p> <p>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.</p> <p>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.</p> <p>3. The district does not remove an eligible child from the general education classroom solely because of needed modification in the curriculum.</p> <p>4. If a student's IEP necessitates special education services in a day or residential facility or an out-of-district educational collaborative program, the IEP Team considers whether the student requires special education services and support to promote the student's transition to placement in a less restrictive program.</p> <p>State Regulations</p> <p style="text-align: right;">Federal Requirements</p>

CRITERION NUMBER				
	Legal Standard			
	<table style="width: 100%; border: none;"> <tr> <td style="width: 50%; vertical-align: top;"> State Regulations 28.05(4) Chapter 69, section 1G </td> <td style="width: 50%; vertical-align: top;"> Federal Requirements 300.309(b) </td> </tr> </table>	State Regulations 28.05(4) Chapter 69, section 1G	Federal Requirements 300.309(b)	
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Rating: Implemented	DISTRICT RESPONSE REQUIRED:	No		

CRITERION NUMBER				
	Legal Standard			
SE 22	<p>IEP implementation and availability</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 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. 2. At the beginning of each school year, the district has an IEP in effect for each eligible student within its jurisdiction. 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. 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. <table style="width: 100%; border: none; margin-top: 10px;"> <tr> <td style="width: 50%; vertical-align: top;"> State Regulations 28.05(7)(b); 28.06(2)(b)(2) </td> <td style="width: 50%; vertical-align: top;"> Federal Requirements 300.342 </td> </tr> </table>	State Regulations 28.05(7)(b); 28.06(2)(b)(2)	Federal Requirements 300.342	
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Rating: Partially Implemented	DISTRICT RESPONSE REQUIRED:	Yes		

Department of Education Findings:

Staff interviews indicated that the district does not routinely inform each teacher and service provider described in the IEP of his or her specific responsibilities related to the implementation of the student's IEP. The staff interviews also revealed that the district does delay some services as outlined in a student's IEP due to the large caseloads of service providers.

CRITERION NUMBER	
	Legal Standard
	<p>modifications and services to gain English language proficiency.</p> <p>Title VI: 42 U.S.C. 2000d; 34 CFR 100.3(a),(b); EEOA: 20 U.S.C. 1703(f); M.G.L. c. 71, s. 38Q1/2; 603 CMR 28.03(3)(a); M.G.L. c. 71A, ss. 2(e), 4; 603 CMR 14.04; M.G.L. c. 76, s. 5; 603 CMR 26.03</p>
	<p>Rating: Partially implemented DISTRICT RESPONSE REQUIRED: Yes</p>

Department of Education Findings:

Documentation review and staff interviews revealed that the district does not consistently provide support services to limited English proficient students. Specifically, the district only provides tutoring services for limited English proficient students as support.

CRITERION NUMBER	
	Legal Standard
MOA 3	<p>Access to a full range of education programs Students from linguistic, racial, and ethnic minorities; males; females; homeless students; and students with disabilities all have access equal to that of other students to the general education program and the full range of any occupational/vocational education programs offered by the district.</p> <p>Title VI: 42 U.S.C. 2000d; 34 CFR 100.3(a),(b); EEOA: 20 U.S.C. 1703(f); Title IX: 20 U.S.C. 1681; 34 CFR 106.31, 106.34, 106.35; Section 504: 29 U.S.C. 794; 34 CFR 104.4; Title II: 42 U.S.C. 12132; 28 CFR 35.130; IDEA: 34 CFR 300.305; NCLB: Title III, Part A, Sec. 3121(c)(1)(C); Title X, Part C, Secs. 721, 722(g)(4); Mass. Const. amend. art. 114; M.G.L. c. 71A, s. 7; c. 76, s. 5; 603 CMR 26.03</p>
	<p>Rating: Partially Implemented DISTRICT RESPONSE: Yes</p>

Department of Education Findings:

The district did not provide a specific description of its methods for providing full access to all programs and services in the general education program for all categories of students, specifically, how the Palmer Public Schools provides services in the general education setting for all its students.

CRITERION NUMBER	
	Legal Standard
MOA 4	Placement of disabled, linguistic and racial minority, homeless, and female/male

CRITERION NUMBER				
	Legal Standard			
	<p>students Patterns of placement in district programs and services for disabled students, linguistic and racial minority students, homeless students, and females are consistent with patterns of placement for non-disabled students, linguistic and racial majority students, non-homeless students, and males. If these patterns of placement are not consistent, the district is able to demonstrate that placements have been made for valid educational reasons.</p> <p>Title VI: 42 U.S.C. 2000d; 34 CFR 100.3(a),(b); EEOA: 20 U.S.C. 1703(f); Title IX: 20 U.S.C. 1681; 34 CFR 106.31, 106.34, 106.35, 106.36; Section 504: 29 U.S.C. 794; 34 CFR 104.4; Title II: 42 U.S.C. 12132; 28 CFR 35.130; NCLB: Title III, Part A, Sec. 3121(c)(1)(C); Title X, Part C, Secs. 721, 722(g)(4); Mass. Const. amend. art. 114; M.G.L. c. 71A, s. 7; c. 71B, s. 6; c. 76, s. 5; 603 CMR 26.03</p>			
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Rating: Partially Implemented	DISTRICT RESPONSE REQUIRED:	Yes		

Department of Education Findings:

Documentation review indicated that the district has some patterns of placement in its special education programs that directly have an impact on racial minority students, specifically the fact that the district has twenty-eight African American students enrolled and ten of them are receiving special education services.

CRITERION NUMBER				
	Legal Standard			
MOA 5A	<p>Placement of homeless students According to the best interest of the homeless student, the district either</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. continues the student’s education in the student’s school of origin for the duration of homelessness and, if the student becomes permanently housed during an academic year, for the remainder of that academic year; or 2. enrolls the student in any public school that non-homeless students who live in the attendance area where the student is actually living are eligible to attend. <p>If the district sends the student to a school other than the school of origin or a school requested by the student’s parent or guardian, it provides the parent or guardian with a written explanation, including a statement of the right to appeal the placement. If the student is unaccompanied, notice of the right to appeal is provided to the student.</p> <p>NCLB: Title X, Part C, Sec. 722(g)(3)(A), (B)</p>			
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Rating: Implemented	DISTRICT RESPONSE REQUIRED:	No		

CRITERION NUMBER	
	Legal Standard
MOA 5B	<p>Immediate enrollment of homeless students The school where a homeless student is placed immediately enrolls the student even if he or she is unable to produce records normally required for enrollment, such as previous academic records, medical records, or proof of residency.</p> <p>NCLB: Title X, Part C, Sec. 722(g)(3)(C)(i)</p>
	<p>Rating: Implemented DISTRICT RESPONSE REQUIRED: No</p>

CRITERION NUMBER	
	Legal Standard
MOA 5C	<p>Transportation of homeless students to and from the school of origin If a homeless student is continuing to attend his or her school of origin but lives in another district than that in which the school of origin is located, the two districts agree on a method to apportion responsibility and costs for transportation to and from the school of origin. If they cannot agree on a method, the responsibility and costs are shared equally.</p> <p>NCLB: Title X, Part C, Sec. 722(g)(1)(J)(iii)</p>
	<p>Rating: Implemented DISTRICT RESPONSE REQUIRED: No</p>

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: 20 U.S.C. 1681; 34 CFR 106.40(b)</p>

CRITERION NUMBER	
	Legal Standard
	Rating: Not Implemented DISTRICT RESPONSE REQUIRED: Yes

Department of Education Findings:

Documentation review indicated that the district does not have a policy for pregnant students. Every district is required to have such a policy, even if it does not presently have any pregnant students enrolled in any of its schools.

CRITERION NUMBER	TITLE 1 II. STUDENT IDENTIFICATION AND PLACEMENT
	Legal Standard
TI 19	(For Targeted Assistance Schools) A description is available of the multiple, objective, educationally-related criteria used to identify eligible students in grade 3 and higher who are failing or most at-risk of failing to meet the high student academic performance and assessment standards required of all students. 1115 (b)(1)(B) NCLB
	Rating: Partially Implemented District Response Required: Yes

Department of Education Findings:

Although criteria have been developed for each grade and subject served, the criterion that assigns points for previous participation in a Title I program is not an objective criterion upon which to judge current status of a student's performance.

CRITERION NUMBER	
	Legal Standard
TI 20	There is evidence that limited English proficient students are identified as eligible and selected for Title I services on the same basis as other students selected to receive services. 1115(b)(2)(A) NCLB
	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 21-23)
- 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 care-giving 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>Federal Requirements 300.503(a)</p>	
	Rating: Partially Implemented	District Response Required: Yes

Department of Education Findings:

Documentation review and staff interviews revealed that the district does limit a parent's right to refer a student for a 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 that are documented and are available in the general education setting described in the district's Curriculum Accommodation Plan, including building-based support Teams in each school in the district. Staff interviews also indicated that the district does not routinely send written notice to parents within 5 school days of receipt of the referral.

CRITERION NUMBER		
	Legal Standard	
SE 25	Parental consent	

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>Federal Requirements 300.345(d), 300.501</p>		
	Rating: Implemented	DISTRICT RESPONSE REQUIRED:	No

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>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>		
	State Regulations 28.05(7)	Federal Requirements 300.345(f)	
	Rating: Partially Implemented	DISTRICT RESPONSE REQUIRED:	Yes

Department of Education Findings:

Record review and staff interviews revealed that the district does not provide the parents with a copy of the proposed IEP within the mandated 3 to 5 day timeframe. Record reviews also indicated that the district does not provide a completed N1 or N2 form on a consistent basis when a student is determined not to be eligible for special education services or programs.

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. 		
	State Regulations 28.07(g)	Federal Requirements 300.345(e)	
	Rating: Partially Implemented	DISTRICT RESPONSE	Yes

Department of Education Findings:

Documentation and record reviews revealed that if the district provides notices orally or in some other mode of communication that is not written language, the district does not keep written documentation that it has provided such notice in an alternate manner, the content of the notice, and the steps it has taken to ensure that parents understand the content of the notice.

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>
	<p>Rating: Implemented</p> <p style="text-align: right;">DISTRICT RESPONSE REQUIRED: No</p>

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</p> <p style="text-align: right;">Federal Requirements</p>

CRITERION NUMBER	
	Legal Standard
	28.07(7) 300.515
	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 style="text-align: center;">STATE REGULATIONS FEDERAL REQUIREMENTS</p> <p>Chapter 71B, sec. 3; 28.07(4)</p>
	Rating: Implemented DISTRICT RESPONSE REQUIRED: No

CRITERION NUMBER	CIVIL RIGHTS METHODS OF ADMINISTRATION III. PARENTAL INVOLVEMENT
	Legal Standard

CRITERION NUMBER	CIVIL RIGHTS METHODS OF ADMINISTRATION III. PARENTAL INVOLVEMENT
	Legal Standard
MOA 7	<p>Information to be translated into languages other than English When students have parents or guardians with limited English language skills, general announcements and notices of extracurricular activities and other opportunities are distributed to them in the primary language of the home. When persons with limited English language skills reside in the community, school recruitment and promotional materials are disseminated to them in their primary language(s).</p> <p>Title VI; EEOA: 20 U.S.C. 1703(f); M.G.L. c. 76, s. 5; 603 CMR 26.02(2)</p>
	<p>Rating: Not Implemented District Response Required: Yes</p>

Department of Education Findings:

The district did not provide any documentation that indicated that it does translate general announcements, notices of extracurricular activities, and other opportunities in the primary language of the home.

CRITERION NUMBER	TITLE 1 III. PARENTAL AND COMMUNITY INVOLVEMENT
	Legal Standard
TI 21	<p><u>School District Requirements:</u></p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Title I programs, activities, and procedures are planned and implemented providing meaningful consultation with parents of participating children. 1118(a)(1) 2. The district’s written parental involvement policy is developed and annually reevaluated with, agreed upon, and distributed to parents of participating children. 1118(a)(2) 3. The district provides coordination, technical assistance, and other resources to assist schools in planning and implementing effective parental involvement activities to improve student achievement and school performance. 1118(e)(2) NCLB 4. The district builds schools’ and parents’ capacity for strong parental involvement. 5. Title I parental involvement services are integrated with other programs’ parental involvement strategies at the school and district level. 6. The district conducts, with involvement of parents, annual evaluation of the content and effectiveness of the parental involvement policy in improving student achievement and parental involvement and uses the evaluation results. 1118(a)(2)(A) – (G) 7. The district has a system for schools to provide parents with “right to know”

CRITERION NUMBER	TITLE 1 III. PARENTAL AND COMMUNITY INVOLVEMENT
	Legal Standard
	information: <ol style="list-style-type: none"> a. Status of school identified for school improvement b. Notice of teacher qualifications and right of parent to inquire c. Notice, if applicable, that students are taught by non- highly qualified teachers for more than four weeks. 1118(d)(3)(B)
	Rating: Partially Implemented District Response Required: Yes

Department of Education Findings:

Interviews and review of documentation indicated that parents are given the opportunity to be well informed about the Title I program, kept updated on their children’s performance, and apprised of their rights to know certain information. Review of parent activities indicate, however, that parents are not involved in development of program planning and program implementation (TI 21.1), and all Title I schools are not provided with assistance in planning effective parent involvement activities that build parents’ capacity for strong parental involvement (TI 21.3 and TI 21.4.)

CRITERION NUMBER	Legal Standard
TI 22	The district and schools provide materials and training to Title I parents to enable them to improve their children’s achievement (e.g., literacy training, using technology to foster parental involvement, frequent meetings with teachers, etc.). 1118(e)(2) NCLB
	Rating: Partially Implemented DISTRICT RESPONSE REQUIRED: Yes

Department of Education Findings:

While both Title I-served schools provide numerous opportunities for parents to meet and communicate with teachers, the Middle School does not provide an adequate amount of subject related materials and training for parents.

CRITERION NUMBER	Legal Standard
TI 23	<u>School Requirements:</u>

CRITERION NUMBER			
	Legal Standard		
	<p>1. The school has a written parent involvement policy that is developed jointly with, agreed upon, and distributed to parents of participating children. 1118(b)(1) NCLB</p> <p>2. Parents are notified of the school’s Title I parent involvement policy in an understandable format. To the extent practicable, this information is provided in the language of the home. 1118(b)(1) NCLB</p> <p>3. The school implements the following parent requirements:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> a. Convenes an annual informational meeting at a time convenient for parents; b. Provides parents with opportunities for regular meetings regarding the education of their children; and offers a flexible number of meetings (e.g., in the early morning or in the evening, etc.); c. Involves parents in an organized, ongoing, timely way in the planning, review, and improvement of school parental involvement policy and school-wide programs; d. Provides parents with timely information about Title I programs, descriptions, and an explanation of the Title I curriculum and assessment procedures; and e. Provides parents with materials and training to improve their children’s achievement. 1118 (c)(1)-(4); 1118 (e)(2) NCLB <p>4. Each school develops jointly with parents a School-Parent Compact that outlines shared responsibilities for improving student achievement and achieving the state’s high standards. 1118(d) NCLB</p>		
	Rating: Partially Implemented	DISTRICT RESPONSE REQUIRED:	Yes

Department of Education Findings:

As noted in TI 22 above, not all schools provide parents with adequate materials and training to improve their children’s achievement.

CRITERION NUMBER	SAFE AND DRUG FREE SCHOOLS III. PARENTAL INVOLVEMENT		
	Legal Standard		
SDF 1	The Safe and Drug Free Schools program develops its application through timely and meaningful consultation with community agencies, parents, students and representatives from the schools and prevention community.		

CRITERION NUMBER	SAFE AND DRUG FREE SCHOOLS III. PARENTAL INVOLVEMENT		
	Legal Standard		
	[Title IV Sec. 4115 (b) (2) (E)]		
	Rating: Partially Implemented	District Response Required:	Yes

Department of Education Findings: *There is ample evidence of extensive consultation between school staff and town public safety personnel with respect to emergency planning and preparation. There is little documentation however of the required “meaningful consultation” specifically focusing on programs to prevent student violence and substance abuse. Please document the required consultation.*

CRITERION NUMBER			
	Legal Standard		
SDF 2	The local education agency coordinates such agency’s programs and projects with community-wide efforts to achieve the SEA’s goals for drug and violence prevention. [NCLB Title IV Sec. 4114 (c) (1) (B)]		
	Rating: Partially Implemented	DISTRICT RESPONSE REQUIRED:	Yes

Department of Education Findings: *While the school system receives programs and services from community agencies, especially the public safety agencies, there seems to be little system-wide coordination of such efforts. Please document the manner in which the school system insures coordination between in school efforts to prevent and reduce violence and substance abuse among students and the efforts of the other community agencies.*

CRITERION NUMBER			
	Legal Standard		
SDF 2A	The local education agency coordinates such agency’s programs and projects with other federal, state and local programs for drug-abuse and violence prevention. [Title IV Sec. 4114 (c) (1) (B)]		
	Rating: Partially Implemented	DISTRICT RESPONSE REQUIRED:	Yes

Department of Education Findings: *While there are programs addressing substance abuse and*

violence prevention in the Palmer Public Schools beyond those which are supported with Safe & Drug-Free Schools grant funds, interviews and documentation provided do not reveal a concerted effort to coordinate such programs with each other. Please document the manner in which the school system insures coordination between NCLB grant-funded and other federal, state and local programs for drug-abuse and violence prevention.

CRITERION NUMBER	
	Legal Standard
SDF 3	There are program activities implemented to promote the involvement of parents. [Title IV Sec. 4116 (a)(1)]
	Rating: Partially Implemented DISTRICT RESPONSE REQUIRED: Yes

Department of Education Findings: *Documentation and interviews reveal no programs at this time specifically oriented toward promoting parent involvement in prevention programs for substance abuse and violence. Please provide such documentation.*

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 24-28)
- 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: Partially Implemented	DISTRICT RESPONSE REQUIRED:	Yes

Department of Education Findings:

Documentation and record review revealed that the district does not have at least one member of all its IEP Teams that is familiar with the general curriculum and is able to discuss an eligible student's appropriate access to the general curriculum.

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:

Record review and staff interviews revealed that the district does not provide a continuum of services and placements to meet the needs of all students, because the district does not provide/offer inclusion classes at the high school level.

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>
	<p>Rating: Implemented DISTRICT RESPONSE REQUIRED: No</p>

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 Federal Requirements</p>

CRITERION NUMBER	
	Legal Standard
	28.06(3) 300.142; 300.350
	Rating: Partially Implemented DISTRICT RESPONSE REQUIRED: Yes

Department of Education Findings:

Staff interviews and record review revealed that the district does not consistently ensure that IEPs are implemented without delay upon parental consent.

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

CRITERION NUMBER	
	Legal Standard
	<p>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.</p> <p>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:</p> <ul 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 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. 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. 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. 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

CRITERION NUMBER				
	Legal Standard			
	<p>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>			
	<table style="width: 100%; border: none;"> <tr> <td style="width: 50%; border: none;">State Regulations 28.02(13), 28.06(3)</td> <td style="width: 50%; border: none;">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%; border: none;">Rating: Implemented</td> <td style="width: 25%; border: none;">DISTRICT RESPONSE REQUIRED:</td> <td style="width: 25%; border: none;">No</td> </tr> </table>	Rating: Implemented	DISTRICT RESPONSE REQUIRED:	No
Rating: Implemented	DISTRICT RESPONSE REQUIRED:	No		

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%; border: none;">State Regulations 28.06(9)</td> <td style="width: 50%; border: none;">Federal Requirements</td> </tr> </table>	State Regulations 28.06(9)	Federal Requirements
State Regulations 28.06(9)	Federal Requirements		

CRITERION NUMBER	
	Legal Standard
	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

CRITERION NUMBER					
	Legal Standard				
	<p>children participate do not include classes that are separated on the basis of school enrollment or the religious affiliation of the children.</p> <p>5. An expedited special education evaluation, which is limited to a child's physician statement unless there is a clear indication of the need or unless the parents request additional evaluation, is conducted and service provided to eligible students by the district within 15 calendar days of the school district's receipt of the child's physician statement.</p>				
	<table style="width: 100%; border: none;"> <tr> <td style="width: 50%;">State Regulations</td> <td style="width: 50%;">Federal Requirements</td> </tr> <tr> <td>28.03(1)(e); Chapter 71B, section 2</td> <td>34 CFR 300.450-300.462</td> </tr> </table>	State Regulations	Federal Requirements	28.03(1)(e); Chapter 71B, section 2	34 CFR 300.450-300.462
State Regulations	Federal Requirements				
28.03(1)(e); Chapter 71B, section 2	34 CFR 300.450-300.462				
	<table style="width: 100%; border: none;"> <tr> <td style="width: 50%;">Rating: Not Implemented</td> <td style="width: 25%;">DISTRICT RESPONSE REQUIRED:</td> <td style="width: 25%; text-align: right;">Yes</td> </tr> </table>	Rating: Not Implemented	DISTRICT RESPONSE REQUIRED:	Yes	
Rating: Not Implemented	DISTRICT RESPONSE REQUIRED:	Yes			

Department of Education Findings:

Documentation review revealed that the district has not developed a process to provide services to eligible students in private schools at a private expense.

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

CRITERION NUMBER	
	Legal Standard
	<p>compatible instructional needs and then can receive services in their neighborhood school.</p> <p>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.</p> <p>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>
	<p>State Regulations 28.06(6)</p> <p style="text-align: right;">Federal Requirements</p>
	<p>Rating: Partially Implemented</p> <p style="text-align: right;">DISTRICT RESPONSE REQUIRED: Yes</p>

Department of Education Findings:

Record review and staff interviews indicated that the district exceeded class size requirements at the middle and high school with classes of nine students without an aide for students that are out of the general education classroom for less than 60% of the day. Documentation review also revealed that the district exceeded the allowable number of students in a substantially separate setting that solely serves students with disabilities for more than 60% of the student's school schedule at the middle school with some classes that contain fifteen students at one time during their G-Block period.

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>
	<p>Rating: Partially Implemented</p> <p style="text-align: right;">DISTRICT RESPONSE REQUIRED: Yes</p>

Department of Education Findings:

Documentation review revealed that the district exceeds age span requirements because the district had some classes where the students in the class differed in age more than forty-eight months at the

high school in its life skills class by 57 months, the high school in another special education classroom by 60 months, and another special education classroom at the high school by 81 months.

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"> 6. <u>Inclusionary programs</u> for young children are located in a setting that includes children with and without disabilities and meet the following standards: <ol style="list-style-type: none"> a. Services in such programs are provided in the home, the public school, Head Start, or a licensed childcare setting. 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. 7. <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: <ol style="list-style-type: none"> a. Substantially separate programs are programs in which more than 50% of the children have disabilities. b. Substantially separate programs operated by the district limit class sizes to nine (9) students with one teacher and one aide. 		
	<p>State Regulations 28.06(7)</p>	<p>Federal Requirements 300.342(c)</p>	
	<p>Rating: Partially Implemented</p>		<p>DISTRICT RESPONSE Yes</p>

CRITERION NUMBER	
	Legal Standard
	REQUIRED:

Department of Education Findings:

Documentation review revealed that some of the district's pre-kindergarten classrooms have more than 6 or 7 students with disabilities in classes that also exceed the mandated 15 allowable total students.

CRITERION NUMBER	CIVIL RIGHTS METHODS OF ADMINISTRATION IV. CURRICULUM AND INSTRUCTION
	Legal Standard
MOA 8	<p>Accessibility of extracurricular activities Extracurricular activities sponsored by the district are nondiscriminatory in that:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. The school provides equal opportunity for all students to participate in intramural and interscholastic sports; 2. Extracurricular activities or clubs sponsored by the school do not exclude students on the basis of race, sex, color, religion, national origin, sexual orientation, disability, or homelessness. <p>Title VI: 42 U.S.C. 2000d; 34 CFR 100.3(a), (b); Title IX: 20 U.S.C. 1681; 34 CFR 106.31, 106.41; Section 504: 29 U.S.C. 794; 34 CFR 104.4, 104.37(a), (c); Title II: 42 U.S.C. 12132; 28 CFR 35.130; NCLB: Title X, Part C, Sec. 721; Mass. Const. amend. art 114; M.G.L. c. 76, s. 5; 603 CMR 26.06</p>
	Rating: Implemented District Response Required: No

CRITERION NUMBER	
	Legal Standard
MOA 9	<p>Hiring and employment practices of prospective employers of students</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. The district requires employers recruiting at the school to sign a statement that the employer complies with applicable federal and state laws prohibiting discrimination in hiring or employment practices. 2. Prospective employers to whom this criterion applies include those participating in career days and work-study and apprenticeship training programs, as well as those offering cooperative work experience. <p>Title VI: 42 U.S.C. 2000d; 34 CFR 100.3(b)(1),(2); Title IX: 20 U.S.C. 1681; 34 CFR 106.38; Section 504: 29 U.S.C. 794; 34 CFR 104.4(b)(1)(v), 104.37(a); Title II:</p>

CRITERION NUMBER	
	Legal Standard
	42 U.S.C. 12132; 28 CFR 35.130(b)(1)(v); M.G.L. c. 76, s. 5; 603 CMR 26.07(5)
	Rating: Not implemented DISTRICT RESPONSE REQUIRED: Yes

Department of Education Findings:

The district did not provide any documentation for this criterion; therefore the Department interprets the lack of documentation to mean that the district has not drafted and implemented a process to address the hiring and employment practices of prospective employers of students.

CRITERION NUMBER	TITLE 1 IV. CURRICULUM AND INSTRUCTION
	Legal Standard
TI 24 - TAS	<p>The district implements effective instructional strategies that are based on scientifically-based research that:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> a. give primary consideration to extended learning time; b. help provide an accelerated, high quality curriculum; and c. minimize the removal of students from the classroom during regular hours. <p>1115(c)(1)(C) NCLB</p>
	Rating: Implemented District Response Required: No

CRITERION NUMBER	
	Legal Standard
TI 25 – TAS/SWP	<p>The school district provides opportunities for students receiving Title I services to participate in extended day/week/year programs and activities that the district offers.</p> <p>1114(b)(1)(B)(ii)(II); 1115(c)(1)(C)(i) NCLB</p>
	Rating: Implemented DISTRICT RESPONSE REQUIRED: No

CRITERION NUMBER	
	Legal Standard
TI 26 - SWP	A comprehensive School-wide Program (SWP) plan has been developed with the involvement of the community, those served by the program, and the individuals who will implement the plan, including: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> a. teachers, principals, and other staff, and where appropriate, b. pupil services personnel, c. parents, and d. secondary school students, if applicable. <p>1114(b)(2)(B)(ii) NCLB</p>
	Rating: Not Applicable DISTRICT RESPONSE REQUIRED: No

Department of Education Findings:
The district does not have any Title I school-wide programs.

CRITERION NUMBER	
	Legal Standard
TI 27 - SWP	The SWP plan includes a comprehensive needs assessment of the entire school that is based upon information on the performance of students in relation to the state academic content standards. <p>1114(b)(1)(A) NCLB</p>
	Rating: Not Applicable DISTRICT RESPONSE REQUIRED: No

Department of Education Findings:
The district does not have any Title I school-wide programs.

CRITERION NUMBER	
	Legal Standard
TI 28- SWP	In providing technical assistance and support to school-wide programs, the district ensures that the programs and plans contain all ten required school-wide components, and are designed to ensure that each school will make Adequate Yearly Progress (AYP).

CRITERION NUMBER				
	Legal Standard			
	1112(c)(1)(C); 1114(b)(1) and (2) NCLB			
	<table style="width: 100%; border: none;"> <tr> <td style="width: 50%;">Rating: Not Applicable</td> <td style="width: 30%; text-align: center;">DISTRICT RESPONSE REQUIRED:</td> <td style="width: 20%; text-align: center;">No</td> </tr> </table>	Rating: Not Applicable	DISTRICT RESPONSE REQUIRED:	No
Rating: Not Applicable	DISTRICT RESPONSE REQUIRED:	No		

Department of Education Findings:
The district does not have any Title I school-wide programs.

CRITERION NUMBER	SAFE AND DRUG FREE SCHOOLS IV. CURRICULUM AND INSTRUCTION			
	Legal Standard			
SDF 4	Local SDFSCA activities (where applicable) are integrated with the following federal programs under No Child Left Behind (NCLB): <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Title I (helping disadvantaged children meet high standards); • Title II (professional development); • Title IV B 21st Century Learning Center programs • Title V (innovative education program strategies); [Title IV Sec. 4114 (d) (2) (A)]			
	Rating: Not Implemented	<table style="width: 100%; border: none;"> <tr> <td style="width: 70%; text-align: right;">District Response Required:</td> <td style="width: 30%; text-align: center;">Yes</td> </tr> </table>	District Response Required:	Yes
District Response Required:	Yes			

Department of Education Findings: *While the Safe & Drug-Free Schools grant application was submitted this year as part of the consolidated No Child Left Behind application process, program plans from various titles do not include evidence demonstrating integration. Please provide documentation of collaboration between and among the various programs as required.*

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 29)

CRITERION NUMBER	SPECIAL EDUCATION V. STUDENT SUPPORT SERVICES		
	Legal Standard		
SE 43	<p>Behavioral interventions For a student whose behavior impedes their learning or the learning of others, the Team considers the student’s behavior including positive behavioral interventions, ability to follow school discipline codes, any needed code modifications and the possible need for a functional behavioral assessment.</p>		
	State Regulations	Federal Requirements 300.346	
	Rating: Partially Implemented	District Response Required: Yes	

Department of Education Findings:

Record review and staff interviews indicated that the district has failed to use behavioral interventions/modifications on a consistent basis for those students whose behavior impedes their learning or the learning of others.

CRITERION NUMBER			
	Legal Standard		
SE 44	<p>Procedure for recording suspensions The district has a procedure to record the number and duration of suspensions, including any suspensions from any part of the student’s IEP program (including transportation).</p>		
	State Regulations	Federal Requirements 300.121(d)(2)	
	Rating: Implemented	DISTRICT RESPONSE REQUIRED:	No

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 		

CRITERION NUMBER	
	Legal Standard
	<p>opportunity for a hearing (per Goss v. Lopez).</p> <p>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.</p> <p>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.</p> <p>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> <p>State Regulation MGL c. 76, sec. 16-18 Chapter 71, section 37 H</p> <p>Federal Requirements 300.519-300.529</p>
	<p>Rating: Implemented</p> <p style="text-align: center;">DISTRICT RESPONSE REQUIRED:</p> <p style="text-align: right;">No</p>

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> <p>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.</p> <p>2. Prior to a suspension that constitutes a change in placement of a student with disabilities, the Team convenes</p> <ul 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; b. to identify appropriate alternative educational setting(s); and c. to determine the relationship between the disability and the behavior - “a manifestation decision” (Is IEP appropriate? Is placement appropriate? If there was a behavior plan, was it implemented? Does student understand impact and consequences of his/her behavior? Can student control behavior?). <p>3. If the Team determines that the behavior is <u>NOT</u> a manifestation of the disability, then the district may suspend or expel the student consistent with policies applied to any student without disabilities, except that the district must still offer an appropriate education program to the student with disabilities, which may be in some other setting.</p>

CRITERION NUMBER				
	Legal Standard			
	10. meals			
	<table style="width: 100%; border: none;"> <tr> <td style="width: 50%;">State Regulations 28.06(5)</td> <td style="width: 50%;">Federal Requirements 300.121; 300.300-313</td> </tr> </table>	State Regulations 28.06(5)	Federal Requirements 300.121; 300.300-313	
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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> <ol 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 28.02(19)</td> <td style="width: 50%;">Federal Requirements 300.24</td> </tr> </table>	State Regulations 28.02(19)	Federal Requirements 300.24	
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Rating: Partially Implemented	DISTRICT RESPONSE REQUIRED:	Yes		

Department of Education Findings:

Staff interviews revealed that the district does not consistently provide all of the related services outlined and mandated on students' IEPs in all cases.

CRITERION NUMBER			
	Legal Standard		
SE 49A	<p data-bbox="399 373 699 409">Special Transportation</p> <p data-bbox="399 443 1305 533">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 data-bbox="399 533 1406 1205" style="list-style-type: none"> <li data-bbox="399 533 1406 701">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. <li data-bbox="399 701 1406 905">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. <li data-bbox="399 905 1406 1003">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. <li data-bbox="399 1003 1406 1102">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. <li data-bbox="399 1102 1406 1205">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 data-bbox="399 1234 630 1304">State Regulations 28.05(5)(b)</p> <p data-bbox="878 1234 1166 1270">Federal Requirements</p>		
	Rating: Implemented	DISTRICT RESPONSE REQUIRED:	No

CRITERION NUMBER	CIVIL RIGHTS METHODS OF ADMINISTRATION V. STUDENT SUPPORT SERVICES		
	Legal Standard		
MOA 10A	<p data-bbox="399 1675 821 1711">Handbooks and codes of conduct</p> <ol data-bbox="399 1711 1377 1871" style="list-style-type: none"> <li data-bbox="399 1711 1377 1871">1. The district has a code of conduct for students and one for teachers. The principal of every school containing grades 9-12 prepares, in consultation with the school council, a student handbook containing the student code of conduct and distributes it to each student annually, as well as to parents and school personnel; the school council reviews and revises the student code of conduct 		

CRITERION NUMBER	CIVIL RIGHTS METHODS OF ADMINISTRATION V. STUDENT SUPPORT SERVICES		
	Legal Standard		
	<p>every year. The principal of every school containing other grades distributes the district's student code of conduct to students, parents, and personnel annually. At the request of a parent or student whose primary language is not English, a handbook or student code of conduct is translated into that language.</p> <p>2. Student codes of conduct contain:</p> <p>a) procedures assuring due process in disciplinary proceedings and</p> <p>b) appropriate procedures for the discipline of students with special needs and students with Section 504 Accommodation Plans.</p> <p>3. Handbooks and codes of conduct reference M.G.L. c. 76, s. 5 and contain:</p> <p>a) a nondiscrimination policy that is consistent with M.G.L. c. 76, s. 5, and affirms the school's non-tolerance for harassment or discrimination, including that based on race, color, national origin, sex, religion, or sexual orientation;</p> <p>b) the school's procedure for accepting, investigating and resolving complaints alleging discrimination or harassment; and</p> <p>c) the disciplinary measures that the school may impose if it determines that harassment or discrimination has occurred.</p> <p>Section 504; M.G.L. c. 71, s. 37H; 603 CMR 26.08</p>		
	Rating: Implemented	District Response Required:	No

CRITERION NUMBER			
	Legal Standard		
MOA 11A	<p>Designation of liaison/coordinator(s); grievance procedures</p> <p>1. The district has designated one or more staff persons to serve as liaison for homeless students and to serve as coordinator for compliance with its responsibilities under Title IX, Section 504, and (if it employs 50 or more persons) Title II.</p> <p>2. The district has adopted and published grievance procedures for students and for employees providing for prompt and equitable resolution of complaints alleging discrimination based on sex or disability.</p> <p>Title IX: 20 U.S.C. 1681; 34 CFR 106.8; Section 504: 29 U.S.C. 794; 34 CFR 104.7; Title II: 42 U.S.C. 12132; 28 CFR 35.107; NCLB: Title X, Part C, Sec. 722(g)(1)(J)(ii)</p>		
	Rating: Partially Implemented	DISTRICT RESPONSE REQUIRED:	Yes

Department of Education Findings:

Documentation review and staff interviews revealed that the district has not made its personnel aware of who has been designated by the district to serve as a liaison for homeless students, compliance coordinator for Title IX, Section 504, and Title II. Documentation review also revealed that the

district does not have a district-wide published grievance process for students and for employees, but instead each individual school within the district has its own.

CRITERION NUMBER			
	Legal Standard		
MOA 12A	<p>Annual and continuous notification concerning nondiscrimination and coordinators</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. If the district offers vocational education programs, it advises students, parents, employees and the general public before the beginning of each school year that all vocational opportunities will be offered regardless of race, color, national origin, sex or disability. The notice includes a brief summary of program offerings and admission criteria and the name(s), office address(es), and phone number(s) of the person(s) designated under MOA 11A to coordinate compliance under Title IX and Section 504. 2. In all cases, the district takes continuing steps to notify applicants, students, parents, and employees (including those with impaired vision or hearing), as well as unions or professional organizations holding collective bargaining or professional agreements with the district, that it does not discriminate on the basis of race, color, national origin, sex, or disability. This notice, also, includes the name(s), office address(es), and phone number(s) of the person(s) designated under MOA 11A to coordinate compliance under Title IX and Section 504. 3. Written materials and other media used to publicize a school include a notice that the school does not discriminate on the basis of race, color, national origin, sex, disability, religion, or sexual orientation. <p>Title VI: 42 U.S.C. 2000d; 34 CFR 100.6(d); Title IX: 20 U.S.C. 1681; 34 CFR 106.8(a), 106.9; Section 504: 29 U.S.C. 794; 34 CFR 104.8; M.G.L. c. 76, s. 5; 603 CMR 26.02(2)</p>		
	Rating: Partially Implemented	DISTRICT RESPONSE REQUIRED:	Yes

Department of Education Findings:

Documentation review revealed that the district does not include in its notices the names, office addresses, and phone numbers of the persons designated under MOA 11A to coordinate compliance under Title IX and Section 504. Documentation review further revealed that the district's publications and written materials did not contain a notice that it does not discriminate on the basis of race, color, national origin, sex, disability, religion, or sexual orientation.

CRITERION NUMBER			
	Legal Standard		
MOA 13	Availability of information and counseling on general curricular and		

CRITERION NUMBER				
	Legal Standard			
	<p>occupational/vocational opportunities Students from linguistic, racial, and ethnic minorities; males; females; homeless students; and students with disabilities all receive, in grades 7-12, the same information and counseling as other students on the full range of general curricular and any occupational/vocational opportunities available to them.</p> <p>Title VI: 42 U.S.C. 2000d; 34 CFR 100.3(a), (b); Title IX: 20 U.S.C. 1681; 34 CFR 106.31, 106.36; Section 504: 29 U.S.C. 794; 34 CFR 104.4, 104.37(b); Title II: 42 U.S.C. 12132; 28 CFR 35.130; NCLB: Title III, Part A, Sec. 3121(c)(1)(C); Title X, Part C, Sec. 721; Mass. Const. amend. Art. 114; M.G.L. c. 71A, s. 7; c. 76, s. 5; 603 CMR 26.03</p>			
	<table style="width: 100%; border: none;"> <tr> <td style="width: 50%;">Rating: Not Implemented</td> <td style="width: 25%; text-align: center;">DISTRICT RESPONSE REQUIRED:</td> <td style="width: 25%; text-align: center;">Yes</td> </tr> </table>	Rating: Not Implemented	DISTRICT RESPONSE REQUIRED:	Yes
Rating: Not Implemented	DISTRICT RESPONSE REQUIRED:	Yes		

Department of Education Findings:

The district did not provide any documentation addressing this criterion; therefore the Department interprets this lack of documentation to mean that the district does not have any information available on the general curriculum, occupational/vocational opportunities, and information on counseling for linguistic, racial, and ethnic minorities as well as homeless students and students with disabilities.

CRITERION NUMBER	
	Legal Standard
MOA 14	<p>Counseling and counseling materials free from bias and stereotypes To ensure that counseling and counseling materials are free from bias and stereotypes on the basis of race, color, sex, religion, national origin, sexual orientation, disability, and homelessness, all counselors:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. encourage students to consider programs of study, courses, extracurricular activities, and occupational opportunities on the basis of individual interests, abilities, and skills; 2. examine testing materials for bias and counteract any found bias when administering tests and interpreting test results; 3. communicate effectively with limited-English-proficient and disabled students and facilitate their access to all programs and services offered by the district; 4. provide limited-English-proficient students with the opportunity to receive counseling in their primary language; 5. support students in educational and occupational pursuits that are nontraditional for their gender. <p>Title VI: 42 U.S.C. 2000d; 34 CFR 100.3(a), (b); EEOA: 20 U.S.C. 1703(f); Title IX: 20 U.S.C. 1681; 34 CFR 106.31, 106.36; Section 504: 29 U.S.C. 794; 34 CFR</p>

CRITERION NUMBER				
	Legal Standard			
	104.4, 104.37; Title II: 42 U.S.C. 12132; 28 CFR 35.130, 35.160; NCLB: Title III, Part A, Sec. 3121(c)(1)(C); Title X, Part C, Sec. 721; Mass. Const. amend. art. 114; M.G.L. c. 71A, s. 7; c. 76, s. 5; 603 CMR 26.04, 26.07(8)			
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Rating: Partially Implemented	DISTRICT RESPONSE REQUIRED:	Yes		

Department of Education Findings:

Documentation and record review indicated that the district does not ensure that all counselors communicate effectively with limited English proficient and disabled students and facilitate their access to all programs and services offered by the district. Documentation also revealed that the district does not provide limited English proficient students with the opportunity to receive counseling in their primary language.

CRITERION NUMBER				
	Legal Standard			
MOA 15	<p>Non-discriminatory administration of scholarships, prizes and awards Scholarships, prizes and awards sponsored or administered by the district are free of restrictions based upon race, color, sex, religion, national origin, sexual orientation or disability. Schools may post or print information regarding private restricted scholarships as long as no preferential treatment is given to any particular scholarship offered and as long as the school does not endorse or recommend any such scholarship nor advise or suggest to a particular student that he or she apply for such a scholarship. Title VI: 42 U.S.C. 2000d; 34 CFR 100.3; Title IX: 20 U.S.C. 1681; 34 CFR 106.31, 106.37; Section 504: 29 U.S.C. 794; 34 CFR 104.4(b)(1)(v); Title II: 42 U.S.C. 12132; 28 CFR 35.130(b)(1)(v); Mass. Const. amend. Art. 114; M.G.L. c. 76, s. 5; 603 CMR 26.07(7)</p>			
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Rating: Implemented	DISTRICT RESPONSE REQUIRED:	No		

CRITERION NUMBER	
	Legal Standard
MOA 16	Notice to students 16 or over leaving school without a high school diploma, certificate of attainment, or certificate of completion

CRITERION NUMBER				
	Legal Standard			
	<p>1. Within ten days from a student’s fifteenth consecutive unexcused absence, the school provides written notice to students age 16 or over and their parents or guardians. The notice is in English and the family’s native language and states that the student and the parent or guardian may meet with a representative of the district within ten days from the date the notice was sent. At the request of the parent or guardian, the district may consent to an extension of the time for the meeting of not longer than fourteen days.</p> <p>2. At the meeting the participants discuss the reasons that the student is leaving school and alternative educational or other placements. The student and parent or guardian are told that attendance is voluntary after the student turns 16 but are also informed of the student’s right to return to school.</p> <p>M.G.L. c. 76, ss. 5, 18; St. 1965, c. 741</p>			
	<table style="width: 100%; border: none;"> <tr> <td style="width: 50%;">Rating: Implemented</td> <td style="width: 20%; text-align: center;">DISTRICT RESPONSE REQUIRED:</td> <td style="width: 30%; text-align: right;">No</td> </tr> </table>	Rating: Implemented	DISTRICT RESPONSE REQUIRED:	No
Rating: Implemented	DISTRICT RESPONSE REQUIRED:	No		

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. Such training occurs within the first month of each school year and, for employees hired after the school year begins, within a month of their employment. 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.

CRITERION NUMBER	
	Legal Standard
	M.G.L. c. 71, s. 37G; 603 CMR 46.00
	Rating: Partially Implemented DISTRICT RESPONSE REQUIRED: Yes

Department of Education Findings:

Staff interviews and documentation review revealed that personnel responsible for administering restraints are not appropriately trained in all cases.

CRITERION NUMBER	TITLE 1 V. STUDENT SUPPORT SERVICES
	Legal Standard
TI 29	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Appropriate officials from private schools are informed and consulted about the availability of Title I services. 2. Written affirmation is obtained and signed by officials of each participating private school, confirming that required consultation has occurred. 3. Appropriate officials from Neglected or Delinquent (N or D) facilities are informed and consulted about the availability of Title I services. A contract exists between the district and the N or D facility, if applicable. <p>1120 NCLB</p>
	Rating: Partially Implemented District Response Required: Yes

Department of Education Findings:

Documentation shows that the district informs the private school located within the district regarding availability of Title I services. The district has not communicated, however, with private schools outside of the district that could have eligible students attending them.

COMPONENT VI: FACULTY, STAFF AND ADMINISTRATION

The criteria in this component examine whether the district has licensed 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. Finally, this component examines whether the district's personnel procedures are non-discriminatory and aimed at recruiting employees from all groups.

:

- Special Education (Report Issues # SE 50-54)
- Civil Rights Methods of Administration (MOA) (Report Issues MOA 18A-21)
 - Title I (Report Issues # TI 30-31)

CRITERION NUMBER	SPECIAL EDUCATION VI. FACULTY, STAFF AND ADMINISTRATION
	Legal Standard
SE 50	<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</p>	<p>Federal Requirements</p>	
	Rating: Partially Implemented	District Response Required:	Yes

Department of Education Findings:

Documentation review and staff interviews revealed that the district has not implemented its curriculum accommodation plan to ensure that all efforts have been made to meet the needs of the diverse learners in the general education program.

CRITERION NUMBER			
	Legal Standard		
SE 51	<p>Appropriate special education <u>teacher</u> 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>Federal Requirements 300.23; 300.136</p>	
	Rating: Partially Implemented	DISTRICT RESPONSE REQUIRED:	Yes

Department of Education Findings:

Documentation review indicated that some of the district's personnel, who provide direct special education services described in IEPs, or who supervise the provision of special education services by other teachers or paraprofessionals, are not appropriately certified.

CRITERION NUMBER	
	Legal Standard
SE 52	<p>Appropriate certifications or other credentials -- <u>related service providers</u> 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>
	<p>Rating: Partially Implemented</p> <p style="text-align: center;">DISTRICT RESPONSE REQUIRED:</p> <p style="text-align: right;">Yes</p>

Department of Education Findings:

Documentation review indicated that some of the district’s personnel, who provide related services to the students and/or support services directly to the regular or special education classrooms do not possess appropriate certifications and credentials.

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>
	<p>Rating: Partially Implemented</p> <p style="text-align: center;">DISTRICT RESPONSE REQUIRED:</p> <p style="text-align: right;">Yes</p>

Department of Education Findings:

Staff interviews revealed that the district’s paraprofessionals and assistants do design instruction for students with disabilities. Staff interviews further revealed that the district’s paraprofessionals and

assistants are not routinely provided access to the students' IEPs that they are providing support to.

CRITERION NUMBER			
	Legal Standard		
<p>SE 54</p>	<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</p> <p>Federal Requirements 300.382</p>		
	<p>Rating: Partially Implemented</p>	<p>DISTRICT RESPONSE REQUIRED:</p>	<p>Yes</p>

Department of Education Findings:

The district provided the Department with extensive information on training sessions that it has offered and conducted for its personnel; however, the district submitted no evidence that it offers in-service trainings on the mandated topics annually. And, staff interviews revealed that district personnel are not adequately trained on the mandated topics.

CRITERION NUMBER	CIVIL RIGHTS METHODS OF ADMINISTRATION VI. FACULTY, STAFF AND ADMINISTRATION
	Legal Standard
MOA 18A	<p>School district employment practices District employment practices in general are free from discrimination on the basis of race, color, national origin, sex, or disability. In particular, the district’s faculty salary scales are based on the conditions and responsibilities of employment without regard to race, color, national origin, sex, or disability, and the district’s employee recruitment is aimed at reaching all groups, including members of linguistic, ethnic, and racial minorities, females and males, and persons with disabilities.</p> <p>Title VI: 42 U.S.C. 2000d; 34 CFR 100.3(c); EEOA: 20 U.S.C. 1703(d); Title IX: 20 U.S.C. 1681; 34 CFR 106.51-106.61; Section 504: 29 U.S.C. 794; 34 CFR 104.11-104.14; Title II: 42 U.S.C. 12132; 28 CFR 35.140; Mass. Const. amend. art 114</p>
	Rating: Implemented District Response Required: No

CRITERION NUMBER	
	Legal Standard
MOA 19 Reserved	

CRITERION NUMBER	
	Legal Standard
MOA 20 Reserved	

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 students’ race, color, sex, religion, national origin and sexual orientation and the appropriate methods for responding to it in the school setting.</p>

CRITERION NUMBER				
	Legal Standard			
	Title VI: 42 U.S.C. 2000d; 34 CFR 100.3; EEOA: 20 U.S.C. 1703(f); Title IX: 20 U.S.C. 1681; 34 CFR 106.31-106.42; M.G.L. c. 76, s. 5; 603 CMR 26.00, esp. 26.07(2), (3)			
	<table style="width: 100%; border: none;"> <tr> <td style="width: 50%;">Rating: Implemented</td> <td style="width: 30%; text-align: center;">DISTRICT RESPONSE REQUIRED:</td> <td style="width: 20%; text-align: right;">No</td> </tr> </table>	Rating: Implemented	DISTRICT RESPONSE REQUIRED:	No
Rating: Implemented	DISTRICT RESPONSE REQUIRED:	No		

CRITERION NUMBER	TITLE 1 VI. FACULTY, STAFF AND ADMINISTRATION
	Legal Standard
TI 30	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. All professional staff providing Title I services are appropriately licensed (or hold current licensure waivers) and are highly qualified for their job title and function. 2. Where applicable, the district’s Title IIA grant application describes how it will use these funds to meet the requirements of section 1119. <p><u>Implementation Guidance:</u></p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Title I teachers* who teach the core academic subjects are highly qualified by possessing a valid Massachusetts license (preliminary, initial, or professional) and demonstrating subject matter competency in each of the areas that they teach: <ol style="list-style-type: none"> a. Elementary teachers have demonstrated competence in reading, writing, mathematics, and other areas of the basic elementary school curriculum by either passing the Massachusetts Test for Educator Licensure (MTEL) Elementary Subject Matter Test, or completing an approved Individual Professional Development Plan (IPDP) as outlined in the Massachusetts high objective uniform standard of evaluation. b. Middle and secondary teachers have demonstrated subject matter competence in each of the areas they are teaching through one of the following: passing the Massachusetts Test for Educator Licensure (MTEL) appropriate Subject Matter Test; completion of an appropriate academic major; completion of an appropriate graduate degree; completion of comparable coursework equivalent to an undergraduate academic major; advanced certification or credentialing; or completing an approved Individual Professional Development Plan as outlined in the Massachusetts high objective uniform standard of evaluation. c. The above requirements apply to Title I teachers in targeted assistance programs. In schoolwide programs, the above requirements apply to all teachers in the school.

CRITERION NUMBER	TITLE 1 VI. FACULTY, STAFF AND ADMINISTRATION	
	Legal Standard	
	<p>2. All paraprofessional staff providing Title I services must meet the following:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> a. New Hires (hired on or after January 8, 2002): must have completed at least 2 years at an institution of higher education; or obtained an Associate’s degree or higher, or met rigorous standard of quality (passed the state-endorsed assessment or local assessment, once available, as outlined in the DOE’s policy document); b. Existing paraprofessional staff (hired prior to January 8, 2002): working to satisfy requirements by 2006; and c. All paraprofessional staff: must have earned a secondary high school diploma. d. The above requirements apply to any instructional paraprofessional who is paid for with Title I funds in a targeted assistance program. The above requirements apply to all instructional paraprofessionals in a schoolwide program. e. Exempt from the above requirements are paraprofessionals who serve primarily as translators or work solely on parental involvement activities. <p>*Non-Title I teachers have until the end of the 2005-2006 school year to meet the highly qualified teacher requirements.</p> <p>MGL Chapter 71, 38G 1119(a), (c), (d), and (f) NCLB 2122(b) 10 NCLB</p>	
	Rating: Partially Implemented	District Response Required: Yes

Department of Education Findings:

Review of documentation indicates that not all teachers meet Highly Qualified requirements. A waiver of certification requirements does not serve as meeting full State certification for the purposes of meeting these NCLB requirements.

CRITERION NUMBER		
	Legal Standard	
TI 31	<p>Professional Development</p> <p>1. The school district uses between 5% and 10% of its Title I funds for professional development activities to ensure that teachers who are not highly qualified, become highly qualified.</p>	

CRITERION NUMBER			
	Legal Standard		
	<p>2. Title I teachers are involved in the Title IIA professional development needs assessment.</p> <p>1119(k)(1) NCLB 2122(c)(1)(2) NCLB</p>		
	Rating: Implemented	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>
	Rating: Implemented District Response Required: No

CRITERION NUMBER	CIVIL RIGHTS METHODS OF ADMINISTRATION VII. SCHOOL FACILITIES
	Legal Standard
MOA 22	<p>Accessibility of district programs and services for students with disabilities</p> <p>In at least one facility within the district, the district makes available and entirely accessible to students with disabilities all educational and vocational programs and services offered at each level (preschool, elementary and secondary).</p> <p>Section 504: 29 U.S.C. 794; 34 CFR 104.21,104.22; Title II: 42 U.S.C. 12132; 28 CFR 35.149, 35.150; Mass. Const. amend. Art. 114</p>
	Rating: Partially Implemented District Response Required: Yes

Department of Education Findings:

Documentation review revealed that the district does not possess any fire alarm strobe/horn warning devices in the bathrooms for students with visual and hearing impairments. Documentation review further revealed that the district’s high school alternative education program is not handicap accessible through the rear exit.

CRITERION NUMBER	
	Legal Standard
	Comparability of facilities

CRITERION NUMBER				
	Legal Standard			
MOA 23	<p>Where the district provides separate facilities for members of a specific group, those facilities are comparable to those offered other students in the district, including:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. separate facilities for disabled, limited-English-proficient or pregnant students that are comparable to the facilities for other students in the district; 2. separate toilet, locker room, and shower facilities for students of one gender that are comparable in size, condition, number and location to those provided students of the other gender. <p>Title VI: 42 U.S.C. 2000d; 34 CFR 100.3(b)(2); Title IX: 20 U.S.C. 1681; 34 CFR 106.33, 106.40(b)(3); Section 504: 29 U.S.C. 794; 34 CFR 104.34(c); Mass. Const. amend. art. 114; 603 CMR 28.03(1)(b)</p>			
	<table style="width: 100%; border: none;"> <tr> <td style="width: 50%;">Rating: Implemented</td> <td style="width: 30%; text-align: center;">DISTRICT RESPONSE REQUIRED:</td> <td style="width: 20%; text-align: right;">No</td> </tr> </table>	Rating: Implemented	DISTRICT RESPONSE REQUIRED:	No
Rating: Implemented	DISTRICT RESPONSE REQUIRED:	No		

COMPONENT VIII: PROGRAM PLAN AND EVALUATION

The criteria in this component examine whether the district has written program 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 32-38)
- 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:

Documentation review revealed that the district has not developed a method for determining the effectiveness of programs in assisting students with disabilities to achieve the goals set forth in their Individualized Education Plans in the least restrictive environment.

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 educational materials for simplistic and demeaning generalizations, lacking intellectual merit, on the basis of race, color, sex, religion, national origin and sexual orientation. Appropriate activities, discussions and/or supplementary materials are used to provide balance and context for any such stereotypes depicted in such materials.</p> <p>M.G.L. c. 76, s. 5; 603 CMR 26.05(2)</p>
	<p>Rating: Partially Implemented District Response Required: Yes</p>

Department of Education Findings:

Documentation review and record review revealed that the district does not have a process to ensure that instructional and educational materials do not contain stereotypes and information lacking intellectual merit based upon race, color, sex, religion, national origin and sexual orientation.

Please note that the Department has recently amended this criterion to remove “disability” as there is no authority under M.G.L. c. 76, section 5 for requiring review of curriculum for stereotypes on the basis of disability. The amended criterion also includes the following language, from 603 CMR 26.05 (2): Appropriate activities, discussions and/or supplementary materials are used to provide balance and context for any such stereotypes depicted in such materials.

CRITERION NUMBER	Legal Standard		
MOA 25	<p>Institutional self-evaluation The district evaluates all aspects of its K-12 program annually to ensure that all students, regardless of race, color, sex, religion, national origin, limited English proficiency, sexual orientation, disability, or housing status, have equal access to all programs, including athletics and other extracurricular activities. It makes such changes as are indicated by the evaluation.</p> <p>Title VI: 42 U.S.C. 2000d; 34 CFR 100.3(b)(2); EEOA: 20 U.S.C. 1703(f); Section 504: 29 U.S.C. 794; 34 CFR 104.4(b)(4); Title II: 42 U.S.C. 12132; 28 CFR 35.130(b)(3); NCLB: Title III, Part A, Sec. 3121(c)(1)(C); Title X, Part C, Sec. 722(g)(1)(J)(i), 722(g)(7); Mass. Const. amend. Art. 114; M.G.L. c. 71A, s. 7; c. 76, s. 5; 603 CMR 26.07(1),(4)</p>		
	Rating: Partially Implemented	DISTRICT RESPONSE REQUIRED:	Yes

Department of Education Findings:

Documentation review indicated that the district does not have 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.

Please note based on 603 CMR 26.07 (1), federal disability law, and the reauthorization of the Mckinney-Vento Act, the Department has recently amended this criterion to require that the district evaluate all aspects of its program every year to ensure that all students, regardless of race, color, sex, religion, national origin, limited English proficiency, sexual orientation, disability, or housing status, have equal access to all programs, including athletics and other extracurricular activities, and to require that the district make such change as are indicated by this evaluation.

CRITERION NUMBER	TITLE 1 VIII. PROGRAM PLAN AND EVALUATION		
	Legal Standard		
TI 32	<p>A needs assessment and a data analysis are conducted annually in each Title I school to determine the types of programs and services to be provided to Title I students. The implemented program is evaluated for effectiveness annually and the resulting program changes are described. Meeting notes, analysis of assessment, and all relevant documents are available.</p> <p>1114(b)(1)(A); 1115 (c)(2)(B) NCLB</p>		
	Rating: Partially Implemented	District Response Required:	Yes

Department of Education Findings:

Although the schools do examine test scores, a formal needs assessment has not been conducted. Additionally, while the district evaluates its programs informally, and uses the results for improvement, no recent formal evaluation has been conducted.

CRITERION NUMBER	Legal Standard		
TI 33	<p>The adequate yearly progress (AYP) of each Title I school is evaluated in the aggregate and by subgroup, as available, on an annual basis. Title I program changes are implemented that reflect the results of this evaluation.</p> <p>1114 (b)(2)(B)(iii); 1115 (c)(2)(B); 1116(A)(1)(A) and (B) NCLB</p>		
	Rating: Implemented	DISTRICT RESPONSE REQUIRED:	No

CRITERION NUMBER	Legal Standard		
TI 34	<p>Each Title I school identified as “in need of improvement” revises (not later than 3 months after being identified) a two-year school improvement plan in consultation with parents, staff, other district personnel, and outside experts that meets NCLB requirements.</p> <p>1116(b)(3)(A) NCLB</p>		
	Rating: Not Applicable	DISTRICT RESPONSE REQUIRED:	No

Department of Education Findings:

The district does not have any Title I schools identified as “in need of improvement.”

CRITERION NUMBER	
	Legal Standard
TI 35	For schools that have been identified as “in need of improvement,” school improvement plans must be implemented not later than the beginning of next full school year following this identification. 1116(b)(3)(D)
	Rating: Not Applicable DISTRICT RESPONSE REQUIRED: No

Department of Education Findings:

The district does not have any Title I schools identified as “in need of improvement.”

CRITERION NUMBER	
	Legal Standard
TI 36	For any of the district’s Title I schools that have been identified as “in need of improvement,” the school spends at least 10% of its allocation of Title I funds to provide teachers and the school principal with high-quality professional development that directly addresses the problems associated with academic achievement in the school. 1116(b)(3)(A)(iii)(I) NCLB
	Rating: Not Applicable DISTRICT RESPONSE REQUIRED: No

Department of Education Findings:

The district does not have any Title I schools identified as “in need of improvement.”

CRITERION NUMBER	
	Legal Standard
TI 37	For schools that have been identified as “in need of improvement,” the district

CRITERION NUMBER	
	Legal Standard
	<p>provides students enrolled in those schools the choice to transfer to another of the district's schools not identified as in need of improvement and informs parents of this opportunity. Priority is given to the lowest achieving students from low-income families.</p> <p>1116(b)(1)(E)(i) and (ii) NCLB 2763A-32 of P.L. 106-554 (Education Appropriations Act, 2001)</p>
	<p>Rating: Not Applicable DISTRICT RESPONSE REQUIRED: No</p>

Department of Education Findings:

The district does not have any Title I schools identified as “in need of improvement.”

CRITERION NUMBER	
	Legal Standard
TI 38	<p>For schools that continue to fail to make AYP after being identified as “in need of improvement,” the district:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> a. Continues to make the choice to transfer option available to students; b. Begins to make supplemental educational services available; For supplemental services, the district/school notifies parents of eligible students at least annually about the availability of supplemental educational services, objectively determines which students should receive services if all students can not be served, arranges for service to be provided, ensures that students with disabilities and students with limited English proficiency are served appropriately and when requested, assists the Department with monitoring the services provided, and; c. To provide technical assistance to such schools. <p>1116(b)(5) and 1116 (e) NCLB; 200.46 (4) and (5)</p>
	<p>Rating: Not Applicable DISTRICT RESPONSE REQUIRED: No</p>

Department of Education Findings:

The district does not have any Title I schools identified as “in need of improvement.”

CRITERION NUMBER	SAFE AND DRUG FREE SCHOOLS VIII. PROGRAM PLAN AND EVALUATION		
	Legal Standard		
SDF 5	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.		
	[Title IV Secs. 4111 – 4116]		
	Rating: Implemented	District Response Required:	No

Department of Education Findings: *The Palmer Public Schools utilizes school disciplinary and town police records and interviews of local law enforcement personnel in their determination of current use and level of substance abuse and violence among their students. Their information would be strengthened by the inclusion of health and hospital and community agencies' representatives in the assessment process.*

CRITERION NUMBER			
	Legal Standard		
SDF 6	Each recipient establishes a set of performance measures and designs its programs to meet those measures.		
	[Title IV Sections 4114, (d) (B) (i) (I) (II) (ii) (C)]		
	Rating: Implemented	DISTRICT RESPONSE REQUIRED:	No

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 are based on scientifically based research that provides evidence that the program to be used will reduce violence and illegal drug use.		
	[NCLB, Title IV Section 4115, (a) (C)]		
	Rating: Implemented	DISTRICT RESPONSE REQUIRED:	No

CRITERION NUMBER	
	Legal Standard
SDF 8	<p>Each recipient shall conduct a periodic evaluation to assess its progress toward reducing violence and illegal drug use in schools to be served based on performance measures.</p> <p>[NCLB, Title IV Secs. 4115 (2) (A),(B)]</p>
	<p>Rating: Not Implemented</p> <p style="text-align: right;">DISTRICT RESPONSE REQUIRED: Yes</p>

Department of Education Findings: *No documentation was provided describing an evaluation process for the effects of the Palmer Public Schools’ programs to prevent substance abuse and violence. Please document such a process.*

COMPONENT IX: RECORD KEEPING

The criteria in this component examine whether the district maintains required records and documentation for each program area, whether entitlement grants are appropriately designed, amended, and locally monitored, whether the use federal grant funds is in accordance with statutory fund-use rules, including supplement not supplant provisions and maintenance of effort requirements where applicable for the program areas listed below:

- Special Education (Report Issues # SE 57-58)
- Title I (Report Issues # TI 39-40 General Requirements and TI 1-18 Fiscal Requirements)
- Safe and Drug Free Schools (Report Issue # SDF 9-10)

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 amendments prior to their implementation. <p>State Regulations</p> <p>Federal Requirements</p>	

CRITERION NUMBER	
	Legal Standard
	28.03(1)(e) 300.230; 300.340-300.500
	Rating: Implemented DISTRICT RESPONSE REQUIRED: No

CRITERION NUMBER	TITLE 1 IX. RECORD KEEPING – General Requirements
	Legal Standard
TI 39	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. The district has submitted all required reports to the Department including the district Title I Plan/Application and Performance and Achievement Report. 2. 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) determining school allocations. 3. Current 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.
	1113; 1116 (c)(1)(B) NCLB
	Rating: Implemented District Response Required: No

CRITERION NUMBER	
	Legal Standard
TI 40	<p>Federal Title I Grant:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. The district’s Title I grant is developed by appropriate local administrators who are responsible for the implementation of the local Title I 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, including those for grant amendments, 3. Appropriate local administrators monitor the grant in an ongoing manner to ensure its full implementation as the Department has approved it.
	Rating: Implemented DISTRICT RESPONSE REQUIRED: No

CRITERION NUMBER	TITLE 1		
	IX. RECORD KEEPING – FISCAL REQUIREMENTS		
	I. Maintenance of Effort		
	Legal Standard		
TI 1	The maintenance of effort fiscal test is of local and state expenditures, <i>not</i> of Title I or other federal expenditures.		
	1120A(a); 9521 NCLB		
	Rating: Implemented	District Response Required:	No

CRITERION NUMBER			
	Legal Standard		
TI 2	The school district’s combined fiscal effort per student <i>or</i> aggregate expenditures of the school district and state for free public education for the preceding fiscal year was not less than 90% of the combined fiscal effort or aggregate expenditures for the second preceding fiscal year.		
	1120A(a); 9521(a) NCLB		
	Rating: Implemented	DISTRICT RESPONSE REQUIRED:	No

CRITERION NUMBER			
	II. Comparability		
	Legal Standard		
TI 3	1. Documentation of the district’s Comparability Report demonstrates annual compliance with the comparability requirement and is documented at least biennially.		
	1120A(c)(3)(B) NCLB		
	2. The district’s comparability fiscal test is a comparison of local and state funds in Title I schools and non-Title I schools, <i>not</i> a comparison of federal funds.		
	1120A(c) NCLB		
	3. The school district uses state and local funds in Title I schools that provide services that, taken as a whole, are at least comparable to services in non-Title I		

CRITERION NUMBER	
	II. Comparability
	Legal Standard
	<p>schools.</p> <p>1120A(c)(1)(A) NCLB</p> <p>4. If all of the district's schools are Title I schools, the school district uses state and local funds to provide services that, taken as a whole, are substantially comparable in each school.</p> <p>1120A(c)(1)(B) NCLB</p>
	<p>Rating: Implemented</p> <p style="text-align: right;">DISTRICT RESPONSE REQUIRED: No</p>

CRITERION NUMBER	
	Legal Standard
TI 4	<p>1. The district has established and implemented the following requirements:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> a. a district-wide salary schedule; b. a policy to ensure equivalence among schools in teachers, administrators, and other staff; and c. a policy to ensure equivalence among schools in the provision of curriculum materials and instructional supplies. <p>1120A(c)(2)(A) NCLB</p> <p>2. If the school district groups its schools by grade-span for demonstrating comparability, the school district does so in a way that reflects the actual grade-spans of the school district.</p> <p>1120A(c)(1)(C) NCLB; Title I Policy Guidance IASA</p> <p>3. In applicable situations, the school district divides a grade-span with significant school enrollment differences into a large-group/small-group model.</p> <p>Title I Policy Guidance IASA</p>
	<p>Rating: Implemented</p> <p style="text-align: right;">DISTRICT RESPONSE REQUIRED: No</p>

CRITERION NUMBER			
	Legal Standard		
TI 5	<p>1. Other measures, such as student/instructional staff ratios or student/instructional staff salary ratios, are used to demonstrate comparability.</p> <p>a. Student/staff ratios: The Title I school average, as determined in Comparability Report forms, does not exceed 110% of average of non-Title I schools.</p> <p>b. Student/staff salary ratios: The Title I school averages are at least 90% of the average of non-Title I schools.</p> <p>c. Staff salary differentials for years of employment are not used in implementing requirements under criterion TI 5 (b) above.</p> <p>1120A(c)(2)(B); 1120A(c)(3)(A) NCLB; Title I Policy Guidance IASA</p> <p>2. Non-instructional staff (e.g., cafeteria workers, custodians, nurses, playground aides, student teachers, volunteers, etc.) are not included in the district's comparability determinations.</p> <p>Title I Policy Guidance IASA</p>		
	Rating: Implemented	DISTRICT RESPONSE REQUIRED:	No

CRITERION NUMBER			
	Legal Standard		
TI 6	<p>If the district is receiving and excluding supplemental state and local funds from the Title I comparability determinations, the district is able to demonstrate that the supplemental state and/or local funds that are excluded from Title I comparability determinations are used for programs that meet the intent and purposes of Title I.</p> <p>1120A(d) NCLB</p>		
	Rating: Not Applicable	DISTRICT RESPONSE REQUIRED:	No

Department of Education Findings:

The district is not excluding supplemental state and local funds from the Title I comparability determinations.

CRITERION NUMBER	
	III. Supplement, Not Supplant
	Legal Standard
TI 7 [Applicable to Targeted Assistance Schools (TAS)]	The district is able to demonstrate that it uses Title I funds only to supplement and, to the extent practical, increase the level of funds that would in the absence of Title I funds be made available from non-federal sources for the education of students participating in Title I programs. 1120A(b)(1) NCLB
	Rating: Implemented DISTRICT RESPONSE REQUIRED: No

CRITERION NUMBER	
	Legal Standard
TI 8 [Applicable to TAS]	The district/school is able to demonstrate that the Title I funds have been used for the express purpose of serving those students who were identified as being in greatest need of Title I assistance based on the district's and school's Title I student selection criteria. 1115(a) NCLB
	Rating: Implemented DISTRICT RESPONSE REQUIRED: No

CRITERION NUMBER	
	Legal Standard
TI 9 [Applicable to School-wide Programs (SWP)]	1. Title I funds may be used in combination with state, local, and other federal funds to serve the entire school population in accordance with the school-wide plan in effect for the school. 1114(a)(1) NCLB

CRITERION NUMBER	
	Legal Standard
	2. The district is able to demonstrate that the Title I funds in a school-wide program school are in addition to the total amount of funds that would, in the absence of the Title I funds, be made available from non-federal sources for the school, including funds needed to provide services required by law for students with disabilities and students with limited English proficiency. 1114(a)(2)(B) NCLB
	Rating: Not Applicable DISTRICT RESPONSE REQUIRED: No

Department of Education Findings:
The district does not have any Title I school-wide programs.

CRITERION NUMBER	
	Legal Standard
TI 10 (Exclusion)	<i>If the district is excluding supplemental state and local funds from the Title I supplement (not supplant determinations), the district is able to demonstrate that the excluded funds are used for programs that meet the intent and purposes of Title I.</i> 1120A(d)
	Rating: Not Applicable DISTRICT RESPONSE REQUIRED: No

Department of Education Findings:
The district does not exclude and supplemental state and local funds from the Title I supplement, not supplant requirements.

CRITERION NUMBER	
	Legal Standard
TI 11	In implementing federal Title I supplement, not supplant requirements, the district has developed and implemented a Supplement Not Supplant policy and procedures. Note the following Department procedures in determining compliance under this criterion: <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Review the policies and procedures the district has in place to ensure that federal funds supplement and do not supplant the regular school budget and services. Who is responsible for supplement not supplant at

CRITERION NUMBER	
	Legal Standard
	<p>the district and at the school building level? Are the policies and procedures adequate?</p> <p>2. Select a sample of schools. Compare the listing of personnel for last year to this year for differences in personnel, grades, and subjects taught.</p>
	<p>Rating: Implemented DISTRICT RESPONSE REQUIRED: Yes</p>

Department of Education Findings:

Interviews indicated that the district administrators and staff understand and comply with supplement, not supplant requirements. A written policy and procedures related to this requirement, however, could not be located.

CRITERION NUMBER	
	IV. Other Fiscal Requirements
	Legal Standard
TI 12	<p>For each split-funded staff member, the district maintains an appropriate log (time and effort record) that documents the time actually spent by staff on Title I activities.</p> <p>EDGAR; OMB Circular/Cost Guidelines</p>
	<p>Rating: Implemented DISTRICT RESPONSE REQUIRED: No</p>

CRITERION NUMBER	
	Legal Standard
TI 13	<p>The district has selected eligible schools in accordance with Title I requirements under this criterion.</p> <p>1113(a); 1113(b); 1113(c); NCLB</p>
	<p>Rating: Implemented DISTRICT RESPONSE REQUIRED: No</p>

CRITERION NUMBER	
	Legal Standard
TI 14	The district includes accurate data in its Title I Application (Form 1) for the number of students residing in each of the district's school attendance areas. 1113(a) NCLB
	Rating: Implemented DISTRICT RESPONSE REQUIRED: No

CRITERION NUMBER	
	Legal Standard
TI 15	The district has made appropriate reservations (set asides) on Form 2 in accordance with applicable NCLB requirements: a. Professional development – highly qualified staff b. Professional development – schools in need of improvement c. Choice-related transportation and supplementary services d. Parental involvement e. Homeless 1113(c)(2)(A); 1113(c)(3) NCLB
	Rating: Implemented DISTRICT RESPONSE REQUIRED: No

CRITERION NUMBER	
	Legal Standard
TI 16	The final allocations to schools have been calculated in accordance with Title I requirements, and the final allocation totals appropriately relate to the budget total. 1113(a); 1113(c)(2)(A) NCLB
	Rating: Implemented DISTRICT RESPONSE REQUIRED: No

CRITERION NUMBER	
	Legal Standard
TI 17	The district has made private school allocations in accordance with Title I requirements. 1120(a); 1120(b); 1120(c) NCLB
	Rating: Not Applicable DISTRICT RESPONSE REQUIRED: No

Department of Education Findings:

The district does not serve any Title I eligible private school students at this time.

CRITERION NUMBER	
	Legal Standard
TI 18	<p>Budgeting – The district budget process demonstrates appropriate Title I program planning and implementation consistent with identified student needs at each school.</p> <p>Note the following Department procedures in determining compliance under this criterion:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Review the latest budget, budget narrative, budget comparison, and list of Title I personnel documents to gain an understanding of the schools and grades participating in Title I programs. Interview school staff to determine which subjects and grades are Title I. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> a. Does the current year budget total agree with the district’s entitlement together with any carryover? If not, obtain explanation. b. Does the current year budget total agree with the total funds allocated on Form 1? If not, obtain explanation. c. Review the allocation for each school. Do the allocated dollars for each school approximate the dollarization of personnel assigned to the school as shown on the personnel list? During the school visit, determine whether the personnel are assigned and teaching the grades and subjects noted. d. Sample schools to compare the consistency of the listing of personnel to the personnel listed on Form D of the Comparability Report. If not consistent, obtain explanation. <p>MADOE Title I Grant Application Instructions and Guidance</p>

CRITERION NUMBER	
	Legal Standard
	Rating: Implemented DISTRICT RESPONSE REQUIRED: No

CRITERION NUMBER	SAFE AND DRUG FREE SCHOOLS IX. RECORD KEEPING
	Legal Standard
SDF 9	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. [(EDGAR 76.730 TO 734)]
	Rating: Implemented District Response Required: No

CRITERION NUMBER	
	Legal Standard
SDF 10	Each recipient provides a set of assurances that the activities or programs to be funded comply with the Principles of Effectiveness and foster a safe and drug-free learning environment that supports academic achievement. [NCLB Title IV Sec. 4114 (d) (1) (6-9)]
	Rating: Implemented DISTRICT RESPONSE REQUIRED: No

APPENDIX I
NUTRITION PROGRAMS AND SERVICES

Code of Federal Regulations:

7 CFR Parts: 210 National School Lunch Program

215 Special Milk Program for Children

220 School Breakfast Program

227 Nutrition Education and Training Program

245 Determining Eligibility for Free and Reduced Price Meals and Free Milk in Schools

The criteria in this component of the Coordinated Program Review examine whether the School Food Authority ensures that the requirements for participation in the National School Lunch, School Breakfast, Special Milk and Commodity School Programs are being implemented. These requirements specify program responsibilities of local officials in the areas of program administration, preparation and service of nutritious meals, use of program funds, program monitoring, reporting and record keeping. The findings included in this section of the report have been made through on-site activities completed by the Department's Nutrition Programs and Services team member.

CRITERION NUMBER	NUTRITION PROGRAMS AND SERVICES		
	Legal Standard		
NS 1	All free and reduced price and paid lunches claimed for reimbursement are served to students eligible for free, reduced price and paid lunches respectively; and are counted, recorded, consolidated and reported through a system which consistently yields correct claims. 7 CFR 210.18 (g) (1).		
	Rating: Partially Implemented	DISTRICT RESPONSE REQUIRED:	Yes

Department of Education Findings:

Two applications reflecting eligibility for a total of four students were approved in error. A list of the students was left with the School Food Service Director. Although corrections were made effective February 9, 2004, a response is still required as part of the corrective action. Fiscal action may be assessed for the errors noted. In addition, the verification process (7 CFR 245.6) was allowed to continue until January 5, 2004. Federal regulations cite that verification must be completed by December 15 each year and documentation (copies of all correspondence) must be kept on file as stipulated in the program requirements.

CRITERION NUMBER			
	Legal Standard		
NS 2	Records indicate that lunches claimed for reimbursement within the school food authority contain food items/components as required by program regulations. 7 CFR 210.18 (g) (2)		
	Rating: Partially Implemented	DISTRICT RESPONSE REQUIRED:	NO

Department of Education Findings:

Technical assistance was provided in the area of meal patterns and offer versus serve requirements for both lunch and breakfast. It was suggested that the staff review the training materials that are on file at the district.

CRITERION NUMBER			
	Legal Standard		
NS 3	School Food Authorities account for all revenues and expenditures of their nonprofit school food service. In order to participate in the NSLP, the School Food Authority		

CRITERION NUMBER	
	Legal Standard
	maintains records to demonstrate compliance with program requirements. Retention of these documents is for three years after the close of the fiscal year to which they pertain except in cases where audit findings are unresolved. 7CFR210.9 (a) (17); 210.14, 210.15
	Rating: Partially Implemented DISTRICT RESPONSE REQUIRED: Yes

Department of Education Findings:

Based on the data provided at the time of the review, it appeared that the program is operating at a loss of \$38, 082.45. It appeared that some data was missing or reported in the wrong areas. Blank forms for both the profit and loss statement and the supplemental financial statement were left with the School Food Service Director. Technical assistance was provided prior to leaving the district.

CRITERION NUMBER	
	Legal Standard
NS 4	The School Food Authority works to strengthen the following school nutrition program participation and management practices: a. school nutrition participation b. nutrition education activities c. productivity evaluation 7CFR 210.19; 7CFR 220.8; 7CFR 210.9
	Rating: Commendable DISTRICT RESPONSE REQUIRED: No

Department of Education Findings:

The School Food Service Director and his staff are to be commended for increasing school lunch participation within the district. The average lunch participation at the Converse school was calculated at 72%, which is much higher than the state average

CRITERION NUMBER	
	Legal Standard
NS 5	All eligible students have access to the school food services program. 7 CFR 15b; 7 CFR 210.23(c).

CRITERION NUMBER	
	Legal Standard
	Rating: Implemented DISTRICT RESPONSE REQUIRED: No

CRITERION NUMBER	
	Legal Standard
NS 6	The School Food Authority ensures that established sanitation and health standards are implemented. Facilities are properly safeguarded against theft, spoilage and other loss. 7 CFR 210.13
	Rating: Implemented DISTRICT RESPONSE REQUIRED: No

**APPENDIX II:
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 ever-current form on the Department's internet web site at <<http://profiles.doe.mass.edu/>>.

School District Profile Information

Definitions of Terms

Profiles

Introduction

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

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 Schools, Collaboratives, and Vocational Training Programs.

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

The electronic version of this district's or charter school's profile information is available at:
<http://profiles.doe.mass.edu/home.asp?mode=ot&view=&ot=5>

Organization Types

Approved Special Education Schools	Responsible for providing an education for students with disabilities. A school district (LEA) may place a student in an out-of-state program if it believes that such program is the most appropriate for the student.
Charter School	Public schools that are created by parents, teachers, businesses, and community leaders and have the freedom to organize their activities around a core mission, curriculum, or teaching method. Their autonomy gives them the freedom to create their own budgets and to hire and fire teachers and staff.
Collaborative	Collaboratives are formed through an agreement among two or more school committees to provide education for their member school systems. Agreements must be filed with the Commissioner of DOE. A Board representative of each member school committee manages them.
Collaborative Programs	Regardless of the size of the individual collaborative, each school provides programs that its member districts demand.
Private School	A non-publicly funded school that provides educational services directly to attending students.
Public School	Public schools are administered by a Public School District, and provide educational services directly to attending students. Expenses are paid by state

appropriation.

Public School Districts	An administrative unit responsible for managing primary and secondary school services within a defined geographical boundary. There can be two types of School Districts, Operational and Non-Operational district, and expenses are paid by state appropriation.
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The Data 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:

This section displays 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. **NOTE:** District level data only.

Services:

- **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:

- **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. **NOTE:** District level data only.

Enrollment/Indicators

Enrollment by Grade

Indicates the enrollment for students in grades Pre-kindergarten (PK), kindergarten through 12, Special Education beyond grade 12 (SP), Career and Technical Education beyond grade 12 (CT) for the listed school year.

Enrollment by 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.

Dropout Rate:

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.

Children Attending Public Schools

Indicates the percent of school-age children in a city or town attending public schools, for the listed school years. **NOTE:** District level data only.

Attendance/Exclusions:

Attendance rate indicates the average percentage of enrolled students, (grades 1-12), present in school for the listed school year. Student Exclusion (count) 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. Student Exclusion (rate) indicates the rate of exclusions per 1000 students.


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 that did not yet report data.

Plans of High School Graduates:

Indicates the post-graduate intentions of students for the listed school year.
Test Results

Massachusetts Comprehensive Assessment System (MCAS):

- Shows percentage of students at each performance level for the current year
- Select a year to view past year's performance level data
- Select annual comparisons or the  icon for a graphical display of MCAS results
- For 2002 only: view Cycle II Performance Rating Reports
- For 2001 only: select a 'Grade and Subject' to view test item analysis data

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

Finance - District level data only.

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: total teaching salaries, divided by the number of full-time equivalent teachers, equals the average teacher salary.

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.

This Coordinated Program Review Final Report is also available at:
<http://www.doe.mass.edu/pqa/review/cpr/reports/> .

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Prepared by: AWM; JHD