



Massachusetts Department of Elementary and Secondary Education

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January 26, 2009

Peter Schafer, Superintendent
Abington Public Schools
One Ralph Hamlin Lane
Abington, MA 02351

Re: Mid-cycle Report

Dear Superintendent Schafer:

Enclosed is the Department of Elementary and Secondary Education's Mid-cycle Report based on the Mid-cycle Review conducted in your district in January 2009. In this Mid-cycle Review the Department monitored selected special education criteria to determine your district's compliance with special education laws and regulations. The review consisted of staff interviews, review of student records, examination of documentation, and classroom observations.

We are pleased to tell you that the Department has found your district to be in compliance with all of the criteria monitored in your district during the Mid-cycle Review. The findings of the Department are included in the enclosed report. You and your entire staff are to be congratulated for your success in implementing the requirements included in these criteria.

The Mid-cycle team would like to commend the following programs and practices that were brought to its attention and that the team believes have a significant positive impact on the education of students enrolled in the Abington School District. These programs and practices are as follows:

The Team noted significant growth in the membership of the special education parent advisory council (PAC) since the previous Coordinated Program Review. The district has supported the PAC and has encouraged the PAC leadership to reach out to parents of students across all grade levels and with all degrees of disabilities. There is open communication with the parents involved in the PAC and there are formal and informal meetings that are designed to appeal to the needs and interests of different parents. At the end of the school year, the superintendent meets with the PAC chairperson to receive input regarding the education of students with disabilities in the district.

The Department will notify you of your district's next regularly scheduled Coordinated Program Review (CPR) several months before it is to occur. At this time we anticipate that this CPR will occur sometime during the 2011-2012 school year unless the Department determines that there is some reason to schedule this visit earlier.

Your staff's cooperation throughout this Mid-cycle Review is appreciated. If you have questions about this letter or the enclosed report, please do not hesitate to contact Nancy Hicks at 781-338-3714.

Sincerely,

Nancy Hicks, Mid-cycle Review Chairperson
Program Quality Assurance Services

Darlene A. Lynch, Director
Program Quality Assurance Services

cc: Mitchell D. Chester, Ed.D., Commissioner of Elementary and Secondary
Education
Vani Rastogi-Kelly, Supervisor, Program Quality Assurance Services
Brenda Pignone, School Committee Chairperson
Dympna Thomas, Local Program Review Coordinator

Encs: Mid-cycle Report

**MASSACHUSETTS DEPARTMENT OF ELEMENTARY AND SECONDARY EDUCATION
MID-CYCLE REPORT**

Abington Public Schools

Dates of the Mid-cycle Review Onsite: January 8, 2009

Date of this Report: January 26, 2009

Core Special Education Criteria Cited in CPR Report and Monitored in this Mid-cycle Review

(These criteria are marked with a triple asterisk (*) in the Mid-cycle Review Information Package and in the School District Information Package for Special Education.)**

Current special education criteria available by scrolling down to the special education instrument at

<http://www.doe.mass.edu/pqa/review/cpr/default.html>

Criterion	Criterion Implemented ✓	Criterion Partially Implemented (PI) or Not Implemented (NI)	Method(s) of Investigation	Basis of Determination about Criterion	<i>If Partially Implemented or Not Implemented:</i> (a) Required Corrective Action and Timelines for Implementation	(b) Progress Report Due Date(s) and Required Elements
***SE 24 Notice to parent regarding proposal or refusal to initiate or change the identification, evaluation, or educational placement of the child or the provision of	✓		Student records and interview	Student records indicate that the notice of school district action (N1) has the guiding questions included on page two of the form. An interview and student records indicate that the questions are addressed as required.		

Criterion	Criterion Implemented ✓	Criterion Partially Implemented (PI) or Not Implemented (NI)	Method(s) of Investigation	Basis of Determination about Criterion	<i>If Partially Implemented or Not Implemented:</i> (a) Required Corrective Action and Timelines for Implementation	(b) Progress Report Due Date(s) and Required Elements
FAPE						
***SE 25 Parental consent	✓		Student records and interview	Student records and an interview indicate that a revised procedure has been put in place so that teachers now receive an email when a signed IEP has been received at the special education administration office. IEPs will not be implemented prior to receiving parental consent.		
***SE 32 Parent advisory council for special education	✓		Interview and documentation	There are by-laws in place and the district has had a significant increase in attendance at the special education parent advisory council meetings since the last Coordinated Program Review.		
***SE 52A Registration of educational interpreters	✓		Documentation and interview	Documentation and an interview indicate that there are no deaf or hard of hearing children at this time in Abington Public Schools who require the services of an interpreter. The district has procedures in place that indicate that an employee acting in this capacity would be registered with the Massachusetts Commission for the Deaf and Hard of Hearing as required.		
***SE 55 Special education facilities and classrooms	✓		Classroom observation and interview	A visit to the Early Education Center (grades 1 and 2), the Woodsdale School and the Frolio School indicate that distractions have been minimized in the spaces used for the provision of special education services. Special education classes have been relocated		

Criterion	Criterion Implemented ✓	Criterion Partially Implemented (PI) or Not Implemented (NI)	Method(s) of Investigation	Basis of Determination about Criterion	<i>If Partially Implemented or Not Implemented:</i> (a) Required Corrective Action and Timelines for Implementation	(b) Progress Report Due Date(s) and Required Elements
				or classes have been scheduled to ensure that no more than two teachers are sharing the same instructional space.		

