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| ESE Logo |  | **SABIS International Charter School**  **COORDINATED PROGRAM REVIEW**  **REPORT OF FINDINGS**  **Dates of Onsite Visit:** **December 12-13, 2016**  **Date of Draft Report:** **March 20, 2017**  **Date of Final Report: May 19, 2017**  **Action Plan Due: June 19, 2017**  **Department of Elementary and Secondary Education Onsite Team Members:**  **Sandra Hanig, Office of Public School Monitoring (PSM) Chair**  **Michelle Poulin, PSM**  **David Valade, Office of English Language Acquisition and**  **Academic Achievement (OELAAA) Chair** |
|  |  | **Mitchell D. Chester, Ed.D.** **Commissioner of Elementary and Secondary Education** |
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**MASSACHUSETTS DEPARTMENT OF ELEMENTARY AND SECONDARY EDUCATION**

**COORDINATED PROGRAM REVIEW REPORT**

**SABIS International Charter School**

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**MASSACHUSETTS DEPARTMENT OF ELEMENTARY AND SECONDARY EDUCATION**

**COORDINATED PROGRAM REVIEW REPORT**

**SABIS International Charter School**

**SCOPE OF COORDINATED PROGRAM REVIEWS**

As one part of its accountability system, the Department of Elementary and Secondary Education oversees local compliance with education requirements through the Coordinated Program Review (CPR). All reviews cover selected requirements in the following areas:

Special Education (SE)

* selected requirements from the federal Individuals with Disabilities Education Act (IDEA-2004); the federal regulations promulgated under that Act at 34 CFR Part 300; M.G.L. c. 71B, and the Massachusetts Board of Education’s Special Education regulations (603 CMR 28.00), as amended effective March 1, 2007. The 2016 - 2017 Web-based Monitoring System (WBMS) districts conducted self-assessments across all criteria.

Civil Rights Methods of Administration and Other General Education Requirements (CR)

* selected federal civil rights requirements, including 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; Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973, and Title II of the Americans with Disabilities Act of 1990, together with selected state requirements under M.G.L. c. 76, Section 5 as amended by Chapter 199 of the Acts of 2011 and M.G.L. c. 269 §§ 17 through 19.
* selected requirements from the Massachusetts Board of Education’s Physical Restraint regulations (603 CMR 46.00).
* selected requirements from the Massachusetts Board of Education’s Student Learning Time regulations (603 CMR 27.00).
* various requirements under other federal and state laws.
* The 2016 - 2017 Web-based Monitoring System (WBMS) districts conducted self-assessments across all criteria

English Learner Education (ELE) in Public Schools

* selected requirements from M.G.L. c. 71A, the state law that governs the provision of education to limited English proficient students, and 603 CMR 14.00, as well as the No Child Left Behind Act of 2001 and Title VI of the Civil Rights Act of 1964. During the 2016 - 2017 school year, all districts that enroll limited English proficient students will be reviewed using a combination of updated standards and a self-assessment instrument overseen by the Department’s Office of Language Acquisition and Academic Achievement (OLAAA), including a request for information regarding ELE programs and staff qualifications.

Some reviews also cover selected requirements in:

Career/Vocational Technical Education (CVTE)

* career/vocational technical education programs under the federal Carl D. Perkins Vocational and Technical Education Act of 1998 and M.G.L. c. 74.

Districts providing Title I services participate in Title I program monitoring during the same year they are scheduled for a Coordinated Program Review. Details regarding the Title I program monitoring process are available at: <http://www.doe.mass.edu/titlei/monitoring>.

**COORDINATED PROGRAM REVIEW ELEMENTS**

**Team:** Depending upon the size of a school district and the number of programs to be reviewed, a team of one to eight Department staff members conducts onsite activities over two to five days in a school district or charter school.

**Timing:** Each school district and charter school in the Commonwealth is scheduled to receive a Coordinated Program Review every six years and a mid-cycle special education follow-up visit three years after the Coordinated Program Review; about seventy school districts and charter schools are scheduled for Coordinated Program Reviews in 2016 - 2017, of which all districts participated in the Web-based Monitoring System (WBMS). The Department’s 2016 - 2017 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, including the Department’s Mid-cycle follow-up monitoring schedule, is posted at <<<http://www.doe.mass.edu/pqa/review/cpr/6yrcycle.html>>>.

**Criteria:** The Program Review criteria for each WBMS review, begins with the district/school conducting a self-assessment across all fifty-two current special education criteria and thirty-five civil rights criteria. The Office of Public School Monitoring through its Desk Review procedures examines the district/school’s self-assessment submission and determines which criteria will be followed–up on through onsite verification activities. For more details, please see the section on **The Web-based Approach to** **Special Education and Civil Rights Monitoring** at the beginning of the School District Information Package for Special Education and Civil Rights.

The requirements selected for review in all of the regulated programs are those that are most closely aligned with the goals of the Massachusetts Education Reform Act of 1993 to promote student achievement and high standards for all students.

**WBMS Methods:** Methods used in reviewing special education and civil rights programs include:

Self-Assessment Phase:

* District/school review of special education and civil rights documentation for required elements including document uploads. Upon completion of this portion of the district/school’s self-assessment, it is submitted to the Department for review.
* District/school review of a sample of special education student records selected across grade levels, disability categories and level of need. Additional requirements for the appropriate selection of the student record sample can be found in **Appendix II: Student Record Review Procedures** of the School District Information Package for Special Education.

Upon completion of these two portions of the district/school’s self-assessment, it is submitted to the Department for review.

On-site Verification Phase: Includes activities selected from the following;

* Interviews of administrative, instructional, and support staff consistent with those criteria selected for onsite verification.
* Interviews of parent advisory council (PAC) representatives and other telephone interviews, as requested, by other parents or members of the general public.
* Review of student records for special education: The Department may select a sample of student records from those the district reviewed as part of its self-assessment, as well as records chosen by the Department from the special education student roster. The onsite team will conduct this review, using standard Department procedures, to determine whether procedural and programmatic requirements have been implemented.
* Surveys of parents of students with disabilities: Parents of students with disabilities whose files are selected for the record review, as well as the parents of an equal number of other students with disabilities, are sent a survey that solicits information regarding their experiences with the district’s implementation of special education programs, related services, and procedural requirements.
* Observation of classrooms and other facilities: The onsite team visits a sample of classrooms and other school facilities used in the delivery of programs and services to determine general levels of compliance with program requirements.
* Review of additional documents for special education or civil rights.

**Methods for all other programs in the Coordinated Program Review:**

* Review of documentation about the operation of the charter school or district's programs.
* Interviews of administrative, instructional, and support staff across all grade levels.
* Telephone interviews as requested by other parents or members of the general public.
* Review of student records for English learner education and career/vocational technical education:  The Department selects a representative sample of student records for the onsite team to review, using standard Department procedures, to determine whether procedural and programmatic requirements have been implemented.
* Surveys of parents of English learners whose files are selected for the record review are sent a survey of their experiences with the district's implementation of the English learner education program and related procedural requirements.
* Observation of classrooms and other facilities: The onsite team visits a sample of classrooms and other school facilities used in the delivery of programs and services to determine general levels of compliance with program requirements.

**Report:** **Preparation:**

At the end of the onsite visit, the onsite team will hold an informal exit meeting to summarize its comments for the superintendent or charter school leader and anyone else he or she chooses. Within approximately 45 business days of the onsite visit, the onsite chairperson will forward to the superintendent or charter school leader (and collaborative director where applicable) a Draft Report containing comments from the Program Review. The Draft Report comments for special education and civil rights are provided to the district/school on-line through the Web-based Monitoring System (WBMS). These comments will, once the district has had a chance to respond, form the basis for any findings by the Department. The district (and collaborative) will then have 10 business days to review the report for accuracy before the publication of a Final Report with ratings and findings (see below). The Final Report will be issued within approximately 60 business days of the conclusion of the onsite visit and posted on the Department’s website at <<http://www.doe.mass.edu/pqa/review/cpr/reports/>>.

**Content of Final Report:**

*Ratings.* In the Final Report, the onsite team gives a rating for each compliance criterion it has reviewed; those ratings are “Commendable,” “Implemented,” “Implementation in Progress,” “Partially Implemented,” “Not Implemented,” and “Not Applicable.” “Implementation in Progress,” used for criteria containing new or updated legal requirements, means that the district has implemented any old requirements contained in the criterion and is training staff or beginning to implement the new requirements in such a way that the onsite team anticipates that the new requirements will be implemented by the end of the school year.

*Findings.* The onsite team includes a finding in the Final Report for each criterion that it rates “Commendable,” “Partially Implemented,” “Not Implemented,” or “Implementation in Progress,” explaining the basis for the rating. It may also include findings for other related criteria.

**Response:** Where criteria are found “Partially Implemented” or “Not Implemented”, the district or charter school must propose corrective action to bring those areas into compliance with the relevant statutes and regulations.  This corrective action plan (CAP) will be due to the Department within 20 business days after the issuance of the Final Report and is subject to the Department’s review and approval. Department staff will offer districts and charter schools technical assistance on the content and requirements for developing an approvable CAP.

Department staff will also provide ongoing technical assistance as the school or district is implementing the approved corrective action plan. **School districts and charter schools must demonstrate effective resolution of noncompliance identified by the Department as soon as possible but in no case later than one year from the issuance of the Department’s Final Program Review Report.**

# **INTRODUCTION TO THE FINAL REPORT**

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A three-member Massachusetts Department of Elementary and Secondary Education team visited SABIS International Charter School during the week of December 12, 2016, to evaluate the implementation of selected criteria in the program areas of special education, civil rights and other related general education requirements, and English learner education. The team appreciated the opportunity to interview staff and parents, to observe classroom facilities and to review the programs underway in the district.

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 the following Department program review methods:

* Interviews of eight administrative staff.
* Interviews of 28 teaching and support services staff across all levels.
* Interview of one parent advisory council (PAC) representative.
* Interviews as requested by persons from the general public.
* Student record reviews: Samples of 38 special education student records and 18 English learner education student records.
* Surveys of parents of students with disabilities: Fifty parents of students with disabilities were sent surveys that solicited information about their experiences with the district’s implementation of special education programs, related services and procedural requirements. Six of these parent surveys were returned to the Department of Elementary and Secondary Education for review.
* Surveys of parents of ELE students: Sixteen parents of ELE students were sent surveys that solicited information about their experiences with the district’s implementation of English learner education programs, services, and procedural requirements. One of these parent surveys was returned to the Department of Elementary and Secondary Education for review.
* Observation of classrooms and other facilities. A sample of 10 instructional classrooms and other school facilities used in the delivery of programs and services was visited to examine general levels of compliance with program requirements.

The report includes findings in the program areas reviewed organized under nine components. These components are:

**Component I: Assessment of Students**

**Component II: Student Identification and Program Placement**

**Component III: Parent and Community Involvement**

**Component IV: Curriculum and Instruction**

**Component V: Student Support Services**

**Component VI: Faculty, Staff and Administration**

**Component VII: Facilities**

**Component VIII: Program Evaluation**

**Component IX: Recordkeeping and Fund Use**

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| The district conducted a self-assessment and the Department reviewed all of the criteria in the specific program areas. The Coordinated Program Review Report includes those criteria that were found by the team to be implemented in a “Commendable” manner, as well as criteria receiving a rating of "Partially Implemented," "Not Implemented," or “Implementation in Progress.” (Refer to the “Definition of Compliance Ratings” section of the report.) **Program Review Reports no longer include criteria receiving a rating of “Implemented” or “Not Applicable.”** This change will allow the district and the Department to focus their efforts on those areas requiring corrective action. For those criteria receiving a rating of “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. For any criteria receiving a rating of “Implementation in Progress,” the district must indicate the steps the district will continue to take in order to fulfill the regulatory requirements. Districts are expected to incorporate the corrective actions into their district and school improvement plans, including their professional development plans. |

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

**SABIS International Charter School**

**SUMMARY OF COMPLIANCE CRITERIA RATINGS**

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| --- | --- | --- | --- |
|  | **Special Education** | **Civil Rights and Other General Education Requirements** | **English Learner Education** |
| **IMPLEMENTED** | SE 1, SE 2, SE 3, SE 4,  SE 5, SE 6, SE 8, SE 9A, SE 14, SE 15, SE 18A,  SE 18B, SE 19, SE 21,  SE 22, SE 25, SE 25A,  SE 25B, SE 26, SE 27,  SE 29, SE 33, SE 35,  SE 36, SE 40, SE 41,  SE 43, SE 44, SE 45,  SE 46, SE 47, SE 48,  SE 49, SE 50, SE 51,  SE 52, SE 52A, SE 53,  SE 54, SE 55, SE 56, SE 59 | CR 3, CR 6, CR 7A, CR 7B, CR 7C, CR 8, CR 9, CR 10, CR 10A, CR 11A, CR 13,  CR 14, CR 15,  CR 18A, CR 20,  CR 21, CR 22, CR 23, CR 24 | ELE 1, ELE 2, ELE 7, ELE 8, ELE 9, ELE 11, ELE 13, ELE 14,  ELE 15, ELE 16, ELE 17 |
| **PARTIALLY**  **IMPLEMENTED** | SE 3A, SE 7, SE 9, SE 10, SE 11, SE 12, SE 13,  SE 20, SE 24, SE 34 | CR 7, CR 10B,  CR 10C, CR 12A,  CR 16, CR 17A,  CR 18, CR 25, CR 26A | ELE 3, ELE 6, ELE 10, ELE 12, ELE 18 |
| **NOT IMPLEMENTED** | SE 32 |  | ELE 4, ELE 5 |
| **NOT APPLICABLE** | SE 16, SE 17, SE 37,  SE 38, SE 39A, SE 39B, SE 42 |  |  |

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| |  | | --- | | **SPECIAL EDUCATION**  **LEGAL STANDARDS,**  **COMPLIANCE RATINGS AND**  **FINDINGS** | |

| **CRITERION**  **NUMBER** |  | | | |
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|  | **Legal Standard** | | | |
| **SE 3A** | **Special requirements for students on the autism spectrum**  Whenever an evaluation indicates that a child has a disability on the autism spectrum, which includes autistic disorder [autism], Asperger's disorder, pervasive developmental disorder not otherwise specified, childhood disintegrative disorder, and Rhett's Syndrome as defined in the Diagnostic and Statistical Manual of Mental Disorders, fourth edition (DSM-IV, 2000), the IEP Team shall consider and shall specifically address the following:  1) the verbal and nonverbal communication needs of the child;  2) the need to develop social interaction skills and proficiencies;  3) the needs resulting from the child's unusual responses to sensory experiences;  4) the needs resulting from resistance to environmental change or change in daily  routines;  5) the needs resulting from engagement in repetitive activities and stereotyped  movements;  6) the need for any positive behavioral interventions, strategies, and supports to  address any behavioral difficulties resulting from autism spectrum disorder;  7) and other needs resulting from the child's disability that impact progress in the  general curriculum, including social and emotional development.  Please see additional guidance at: Technical Assistance Advisory SPED 2007-1: Autism Spectrum Disorder http:www.doe.mass.edu/sped/advisories/07\_1ta.html# | | | |
|  | State Requirements | | Federal Requirements | |
|  | Chapter 57 of the Acts of 2006, amends  M.G.L. c. 71B, section 3 | | 34 CFR 300.8(c)(1)(i) | |
|  | **Rating:** | **Partially Implemented** | **District Response Required:** | **Yes** |

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| **Department of Elementary and Secondary Education Findings:** |
| *Student record review and interviews indicate when a student has a diagnosis of a disability on the autism spectrum, the school is not always documenting a Team's discussion of whether the student has needs resulting from an unusual response to sensory experiences or engagement in repetitive activities or stereotypical movements.* |

| **CRITERION**  **NUMBER** |  | | | |
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|  | **Legal Standard** | | | |
| **SE 7** | Transfer of parental rights at age of majority and student participation and consent at the age of majority   1. At least one year prior to the student reaching age 18, the district informs the student and the parent/guardian of the rights that will transfer from the parent/guardian to the student upon the student’s 18th birthday. The notification provided to both the student and the parent/guardian must explicitly state that all rights accorded to parents under special education law will transfer to the 18 year old. 2. Upon reaching the age of 18, the school district implements procedures to obtain consent from the student with decision-making authority to continue the student’s special education program. 3. The district continues to send the parent written notices and the parent will have the right to inspect the student’s records, but the parent will no longer have decision-making authority, except as provided below:    1. 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.    2. 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.    3. 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. | | | |
|  | State Requirements | | Federal Requirements | |
|  | 603 CMR 28.07(5) | | 34 CFR 300. 320(c), 300.520 | |
|  | **Rating:** | **Partially Implemented** | **District Response Required:** | **Yes** |

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| **Department of Elementary and Secondary Education Findings:** |
| *Student record review and interviews indicate that the charter school is not implementing procedures to obtain written consent from the student with decision-making authority, upon reaching the age of 18, to continue the student's special education program.* |

| **CRITERION**  **NUMBER** |  | | | |
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|  | **Legal Standard** | | | |
| SE 9 | Timeline for determination of eligibility and provision of documentation to parent  Within forty‑five (45) school working days after receipt of the parent's written consent to an initial evaluation or a re‑evaluation, the school district determines whether the student is eligible for special education and provides to the parent either a proposed IEP and (except in cases covered by 603 CMR 28.06(2)(e)) proposed placement or a written explanation of the finding of no eligibility. | | | |
|  | State Requirements | | Federal Requirements | |
|  | 603 CMR 28.05(1); 28.06(2)(e) | |  | |
|  | **Rating:** | **Partially Implemented** | **District Response Required:** | **Yes** |

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| **Department of Elementary and Secondary Education Findings:** |
| *Student record review and interviews indicate the charter school is not consistently holding a Team meeting within forty-five school working days after receipt of the parent's written consent to an initial evaluation or a re-evaluation.* |

| **CRITERION**  **NUMBER** |  | | | |
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|  | **Legal Standard** | | | |
| **SE 10** | End of school year evaluations  If consent is received between 30 and 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 14 days after the end of the school year. | | | |
|  | State Requirements | | Federal Requirements | |
|  | 603 CMR 28.05(1) | | 34 CFR 300.323 | |
|  | **Rating:** | **Partially Implemented** | **District Response Required:** | **Yes** |

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| **Department of Elementary and Secondary Education Findings:** |
| *Student record review indicates when signed consent for an evaluation is received between 30 and 45 school working days before the end of the school year, the charter school is not scheduling a Team meeting to allow for the provision of a proposed IEP, or written notice of the finding that the student is not eligible, within 14 days after the end of the school year. The charter school has scheduled these meetings for the beginning of the next school year.* |

| **CRITERION**  **NUMBER** |  | | | |
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|  | **Legal Standard** | | | |
| **SE 11** | School district response to parental request for independent educational evaluation  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:   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 student are to be 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 independent education evaluation in an area not assessed by the school district, the student does not meet income eligibility standards or the family chooses not to provide financial documentation to the school district establishing family income level, the school district shall respond in accordance with the requirements of federal law. Within five school days, the district shall either agree to pay for the independent education evaluation or, proceed to the Bureau of Special Education Appeals (BSEA) to show that its evaluation was comprehensive and appropriate. If the Bureau of Special Education Appeals finds that the school district’s evaluation was comprehensive and appropriate, then the school district shall not be obligated to 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. | | | |
|  | State Requirements | | Federal Requirements | |
|  | 603 CMR 28.04(5) | | 34 CFR 300.502 | |
|  | **Rating:** | **Partially Implemented** | **District Response Required:** | **Yes** |

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| **Department of Elementary and Secondary Education Findings:** |
| *Document review indicates the school's procedure is to provide for an independent education evaluation if a request is received within 16 months of the evaluation conducted by the charter school without specifying that this 16-month timeline only applies if the student is cost-shared or funded for state wards or is receiving free or reduced cost lunch.* |

| **CRITERION**  **NUMBER** |  | | | |
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|  | **Legal Standard** | | | |
| **SE 12** | Frequency of re-evaluation   1. When the student’s needs warrant it or a parent or teacher requests it, the school district, with parental consent, conducts a full re-evaluation consistent with the requirements of federal law, provided that:    1. a re-evaluation is conducted every three years unless the parent and district agree that it is unnecessary and    2. a re-evaluation is conducted no more frequently than once a year unless the parent and district agree otherwise. 2. The district implements re-evaluation procedures in all cases where it is suspected that a student is no longer eligible for special education, except that no re-evaluation is required before the termination of eligibility because a student has graduated with a general high school diploma or exceeded the age of eligibility. | | | |
|  | State Requirements | | Federal Requirements | |
|  | 603 CMR 28.04(3) | | 34 CFR 300.303; 300.305(e) | |
|  | **Rating:** | **Partially Implemented** | **District Response Required:** | **Yes** |

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| **Department of Elementary and Secondary Education Findings:** |
| *Student record review and interviews indicate the charter school is not consistently conducting a*  *re-evaluation every three years to determine continued eligibility for special education services. Record review also demonstrated that there was no evidence documenting the parent and charter school had agreed the re-evaluation was unnecessary.* |

| **CRITERION**  **NUMBER** |  | | | |
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|  | **Legal Standard** | | | |
| **SE 13** | Progress Reports and content   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. 3. Where a student’s eligibility terminates because the student has graduated from secondary school or exceeded the age of eligibility, the school district provides the student with a summary of his or her academic achievement and functional performance, including recommendations on how to assist the student in meeting his or her postsecondary goals. | | | |
|  | State Requirements | | Federal Requirements | |
|  | 603 CMR 28.07(3) | | 34 CFR 300.305(e)(3); 300.320(a)(3) | |
|  | **Rating:** | **Partially Implemented** | **District Response Required:** | **Yes** |

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| **Department of Elementary and Secondary Education Findings:** |
| *Student record review and interviews indicate the school is not providing special education students who have graduated from high school or exceeded the age of eligibility with a summary of academic achievement, functional performance, and recommendations on how to assist the student in meeting post-secondary goals.* |

| **CRITERION**  **NUMBER** |  | | | |
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|  | **Legal Standard** | | | |
| **SE 20** | Least restrictive program selected   1. The program selected is the least restrictive environment for students, with consideration given to any potential harmful effect on the student or on the quality of services that he or she needs. 2. If the student is removed from the general education classroom at any time, the Team states why the removal is considered critical to the student’s program and the basis for its conclusion that education of the student in a less restrictive environment, with the use of supplementary aids and services, could not be achieved satisfactorily. 3. The district does not remove an eligible student from the general education classroom solely because of needed modification in the curriculum. 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. | | | |
|  | State Requirements | | Federal Requirements | |
|  | M.G.L. c. 71B, § 3  603 CMR 28.06(2) | | 34 CFR 300.114-120 | |
|  | **Rating:** | **Partially Implemented** | **District Response Required:** | **Yes** |

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| **Department of Elementary and Secondary Education Findings:** |
| *Student record review indicates the Team is not documenting the reasons why removal from the general education classroom is considered critical to the student's program. The Non-participation Justification statement in the IEP is a reiteration of services listed on the IEP Service Delivery Grid. It does not describe the basis for the Team's conclusion that the student cannot be educated in the general education classroom with the use of supplementary aids and services.* |

| **CRITERION**  **NUMBER** | SPECIAL EDUCATION **III. PARENTAL INVOLVEMENT** | | | |
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|  | **Legal Standard** | | | |
| **SE 24** | Notice to parent regarding proposal or refusal to initiate or change the identification, evaluation, or educational placement of the student or the provision of FAPE   1. A student may be referred for an evaluation by a parent or any person in a caregiving or professional position concerned with the student's development. 2. When a student is referred for an evaluation to determine eligibility for special education, the school district sends written notice to the student's parent(s) within 5 school days of receipt of the referral, along with the district’s notice of procedural safeguards. The written notice meets all of the content requirements set forth in M.G.L. c.71B, §3, and in federal law, seeks the consent of the parent for the 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. 3. For all other actions, the district gives notice complying with federal requirements within a reasonable time. 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. | | | |
|  | State Requirements | | Federal Requirements | |
|  | M.G.L. c. 71B, § 3; 603 CMR 28.04(1) | | 34 CFR 300.503; 300.504(a)(1) | |
|  | **Rating:** | **Partially Implemented** | **District Response Required:** | **Yes** |

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| **Department of Elementary and Secondary Education Findings:** |
| *Student record review indicates the content of the notice sent to parents with a proposed IEP and placement is not individualized for each student. Notices contained the same wording to describe the action the charter school proposed and the reason why the charter school proposed the action. Notices do not specify the evaluation procedures, tests, records or other reports that were used to develop the student's IEP or include a statement of other options the Team considered and rejected.* |

| **CRITERION**  **NUMBER** |  | | | |
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|  | **Legal Standard** | | | |
| **SE 32** | Parent advisory council for special education   1. The school district has established a district-wide parent advisory council on special education. 2. Membership on the council is offered to all parents of students with disabilities and other interested parties. 3. The parent advisory council duties include but are not limited to: advising the district 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 district’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. | | | |
|  | State Requirements | | Federal Requirements | |
|  | M.G.L. c. 71B, § 3;  603 CMR 28.03(1)(a)(4); 28.07(4) | |  | |
|  | **Rating:** | **Not Implemented** | **District Response Required:** | **Yes** |

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| **Department of Elementary and Secondary Education Findings:** |
| *Document review, parent surveys, and interviews indicate the charter school has not established a parent advisory council on special education.* |

| **CRITERION**  **NUMBER** |  | | | |
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|  | **Legal Standard** | | | |
| **SE 34** | Continuum of alternative services and placements  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. | | | |
|  | State Requirements | | Federal Requirements | |
|  | 603 CMR 28.05(7)(b) | | 34 CFR 300.109; 300.110; 300.115 | |
|  | **Rating:** | **Partially Implemented** | **District Response Required:** | **Yes** |

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| **Department of Elementary and Secondary Education Findings:** |
| *Document review, student record review, and interviews indicate that in grades 6-12 the charter school provides students with pull-out special education services in a resource room setting for English language arts and mathematics. However, students in need of specialized instruction in other subjects, including social studies, science, and Spanish, do not have access to special education supports. Also, special education teachers are not providing instruction in the general education classroom when a student's IEP indicates direct specialized instruction will be delivered by a special education teacher in the classroom.*  *Additionally, there is a substantially separate program for grade K-2 students to address their developmental and behavioral needs; however, the charter school has not developed programs to meet the continuing needs of these students in grades 3-12, who may require such services.*  *See also CR 18.* |

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| |  | | --- | | **CIVIL RIGHTS**  **METHODS OF ADMINISTRATION (CR)**  **AND**  **OTHER RELATED GENERAL EDUCATION REQUIREMENTS**  **LEGAL STANDARDS,**  **COMPLIANCE RATINGS AND**  **FINDINGS** | |

| **CRITERION**  **NUMBER** | CIVIL RIGHTS METHODS OF ADMINISTRATION (CR) **AND OTHER RELATED GENERAL EDUCATION REQUIREMENTS**  **III. PARENTAL INVOLVEMENT** | | | |
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|  | **Legal Standard** | | | |
| **CR 7** | Information to be translated into languages other than English   1. Important information and documents, e.g. handbooks and codes of conduct, being distributed to parents are translated into the major languages spoken by parents or guardians with limited English skills; the district has established a system of oral interpretation to assist parents/guardians with limited English skills, including those who speak low-incidence languages. 2. School or program recruitment and promotional materials being disseminated to residents in the area served by the school or program are translated into the major languages spoken by residents with limited English skills. | | | |
|  | Title VI; EEOA: 20 U.S.C. 1703(f); M.G.L. c. 76, s. 5; 603 CMR 26.02(2) | | | |
|  | **Rating:** | **Partially Implemented** | **District Response Required:** | **Yes** |

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| **Department of Elementary and Secondary Education Findings:** |
| *Document review and interviews indicate that although the student handbook includes a statement that the charter school will provide a Spanish translation of the handbook upon parent request, the statement is written in English, and the charter school does not have a translated handbook available. The charter school is not translating important information into Spanish and Vietnamese, which are the major languages spoken by parents of enrolled students. School recruitment and promotional materials are also not translated into the major languages spoken by residents in the area with limited English skills.* |

| **CRITERION**  **NUMBER** |  | | | |
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|  | **Legal Standard** | | | |
| CR 10B | Bullying Intervention and Prevention   1. Public schools (including charter schools and collaboratives) must update school handbooks to conform to their updated amended Bullying Prevention and Intervention Plan (Plan). The school handbook (and local updated Plan) must be consistent with the amendments to the Massachusetts anti-bullying law, which became effective July 1, 2013. The amendments extend protections to students who are bullied by a member of the school staff. As defined in G.L. c. 71, 37O, as amended, a member of the school staff includes, but is not limited to, an “educator, administrator, school nurse, cafeteria worker, custodian, bus driver, athletic coach, advisor to an extracurricular activity or paraprofessional.” The school handbook must make clear that a member of the school staff may be named the “aggressor” or “perpetrator” in a bullying report. 2. School and district employee handbooks must also contain relevant sections of the amended Plan relating to the duties of faculty and staff and relevant provisions addressing the bullying of students by a school staff member. 3. Each year all school districts and schools must give parents and guardians annual written notice of the student-related sections of the local Plan. 4. Each year all school districts and schools must provide all staff with annual written notice of the Plan. 5. All schools and school districts must implement, for all school staff, professional development that includes developmentally appropriate strategies to prevent bullying incidents; developmentally appropriate strategies for immediate, effective interventions to stop bullying incidents; information regarding the complex interaction and power differential that can take place between and among a perpetrator, victim and witnesses to the bullying; research findings on bullying, including information about specific categories of students who have been shown to be particularly at risk for bullying in the school environment; information on the incidence and nature of cyber-bullying; and internet safety issues as they relate to cyber-bullying. | | | |
|  | M.G.L. c. 71, s. 37H, as amended by Chapter 92 of the Acts of 2010. M.G.L. c. 71, s. 37O(e)(1) & (2). M.G.L. c. 71, s. 370(d), as amended. | | | |
|  | **Rating:** | **Partially Implemented** | **District Response Required:** | **Yes** |

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| **Department of Elementary and Secondary Education Findings:** |
| *Document review indicates the student handbook has been updated to make clear that a member of the school staff may be named the "aggressor" or "perpetrator" in a bullying report. However, the Bullying Prevention and Intervention Plan posted on the charter school's website and in the employee handbook does not contain updated procedures for addressing the bullying of students by a school staff member.* |

| **CRITERION**  **NUMBER** |  | | | |
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|  | **Legal Standard** | | | |
| CR 10C | Student Discipline  Each school committee and board of trustees shall ensure that policies and procedures are in place in public preschool, elementary, and secondary schools and programs under its jurisdiction that meet, at a minimum, the requirements of M.G.L.c. 71, section 37H ¾, M.G.L.c. 76, section 21, and 603 CMR 53.00. These policies and procedures must address or establish, but are not limited to:   1. The notice of suspension and hearing; 2. Procedures for emergency removal; 3. Procedures for principal hearings for both short and long-term suspension; 4. Procedures for in-school suspension; 5. Procedures for superintendent hearing; 6. Procedures for education services and academic progress (School-wide Education Service Plan); 7. A system for periodic review of discipline data by special populations; 8. Alternatives to suspension. | | | |
|  | M.G.L.c. 71, section 37H ¾, M.G.L.c. 76, section 21, and 603 CMR 53.00, M.G.L.c. 71 section 38R and Chapter 77 of the Acts of 2013. | | | |
|  | **Rating:** | **Partially Implemented** | **District Response Required:** | **Yes** |

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| **Department of Elementary and Secondary Education Findings:** |
| *Document review indicates the charter school has not developed a School-Wide Education Services Plan or procedures for periodic review of discipline data by special populations.* |

| **CRITERION**  **NUMBER** |  | | | |
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|  | **Legal Standard** | | | |
| CR 12A | Annual and continuous notification concerning nondiscrimination and coordinators   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, gender identity, 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 CR 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, gender identity, sex, or disability. This notice, also, includes the name(s), office address(es), and phone number(s) of the person(s) designated under CR 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, gender identity, disability, religion, or sexual orientation. | | | |
|  | 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, § 5; 603 CMR 26.02(2) as amended by Chapter 199 of the Acts of 2011. | | | |
|  | **Rating:** | **Partially Implemented** | **District Response Required:** | **Yes** |

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| **Department of Elementary and Secondary Education Findings:** |
| *Document review indicates that the statement of nondiscrimination in the employee handbook does not include the protected category of gender identity and it does not include contact information for the staff responsible for receiving and investigating allegations of discrimination or harassment.* |

| **CRITERION**  **NUMBER** |  | | | |
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|  | **Legal Standard** | | | |
| CR 16 | Notice to students 16 or over leaving school without a high school diploma, certificate of attainment, or certificate of completion   1. No student who has not graduated from high school shall be considered to have permanently left public school unless an administrator of the school where the student last attended has sent notice within 5 days from the student’s tenth consecutive absence to the student and the parent/guardian of the student in English and the primary language of the parent or guardian (to the extent practicable). The notice shall offer at least two dates and times for an exit interview between the superintendent (or designee) and the student and the parent/guardian to occur prior to the student permanently leaving school. The notice shall include contact information for scheduling the exit interview and indicate that the parties shall agree to a date and time for the exit interview and that the interview shall occur within 10 days of the notice. The time and the date for the exit interview may be extended at the request of the parent/guardian but for no longer than 14 days. The superintendent or designee may proceed with an exit interview without a parent/guardian if the superintendent or designee makes a good faith effort to include the parent/guardian. 2. The exit interview shall be for the purpose of discussing the reasons for the student permanently leaving school and to consider alternative education programs and services available to the student. The superintendent (or designee) shall convene a team of school personnel, such as the principal, guidance counselor, teachers, attendance officer and other relevant school staff, to participate in the exit interview with the student and the parent/guardian. During the exit interview, the student shall be given information about the detrimental effects of early withdrawal from school, the benefits of earning a high school diploma and a list of alternative education program and services available to the student. 3. Any district serving students in high school grades sends annual written notice to former students who have not yet earned their competency determination and who have not transferred to another school    1. to inform them of the availability of publicly funded post-high school academic support programs and    2. to encourage them to participate in those programs.   At a minimum, the district sends annual written notice by first class mail to the last known address of each such student who attended a high school in the district within the past two years.   1. The Superintendent shall annually report to the Department the number of students sixteen years of age or older who have permanently left school, the reasons for such leaving and any alternative educational or other placement the student has taken. | | | |
|  | M.G.L. c. 76, §§ 5, 18; St. 1965, c. 741 | | | |
|  | **Rating:** | **Partially Implemented** | **District Response Required:** | **Yes** |

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| **Department of Elementary and Secondary Education Findings:** |
| *Document review indicates the notice sent to parents of students age 16 or older with ten consecutive absences is not sent within five days of the tenth consecutive absence and is not addressed to the student. It does not offer two dates and times for an exit interview or indicate it will be translated, if necessary.*  *Also, the letter sent annually for two years to former high school students who did not earn their competency determination to encourage them to participate in available publicly funded post-high school academic support programs is not addressed to the student.* |

| **CRITERION**  **NUMBER** |  | | | |
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|  | **Legal Standard** | | | |
| CR 17A | Use of physical restraint on any student enrolled in a publicly-funded education program   1. Public education programs must develop and implement written restraint prevention and behavior support policy and procedures consistent with new regulations 603CMR 46.00 regarding appropriate responses to student behavior that may require immediate intervention.    1. restraint prevention and behavior support policy and procedures shall be annually reviewed and provided to program staff and made available to parents of enrolled students.    2. restraint prevention and behavior support policy and procedures shall include, but not be limited to: methods for preventing student violence, self-injurious behavior and suicide; methods for engaging parents and youth in discussions about restraint prevention and use; a description and explanation of the program’s alternatives to physical restraint and method of physical restraint in emergency situations; a statement prohibiting: medication restraint, mechanical restraint, prone restraint unless permitted pursuant to 603 CMR 46.03(1)(b), seclusion, and the use of restraint inconsistent with 603 CMR 46.03; a description of the program’s training requirements, reporting requirements, and follow-up procedures; a procedure for receiving and investigating complaints; a procedure for conducting periodic review of data and documentation on the program’s use of restraint; a procedure for implementing the reporting requirements; a procedure for making both oral and written notification to the parent; and a procedure for the use of time-out. 2. Each principal or director shall determine a time and method to provide all program staff with training regarding the program’s restraint prevention and behavior support policy and requirements when restraint is used. Such training shall occur within the first month of each school year and, for employees hired after the school year begins, within a month of their employment. 3. At the beginning of each school year, the principal of each public education program or his/her designee shall identify program staff who are authorized to serve as a school-wide resource to assist in ensuring proper administration of physical restraint. Such staff shall have in-depth training on the use of physical restraint. 4. The program administers physical restraint on students only in emergency situations of last resort when needed to protect a student and/or member of the school community from assault or imminent, serious, physical harm and with extreme caution in order to prevent or minimize any harm to the student as a result of the use of physical restraint. | | | |
|  | M.G.L. c. 71, § 37G; 603 CMR 46.00 effective January 1, 2016 | | | |
|  | **Rating:** | **Partially Implemented** | **District Response Required:** | **Yes** |

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| **Department of Elementary and Secondary Education Findings:** |
| *Document review and interviews indicate the charter school has not provided all staff with training, within the first month of the school year, on the school's restraint prevention and behavior support policy and requirements when restraint is used.* |

| **CRITERION**  **NUMBER** | CIVIL RIGHTS METHODS OF ADMINISTRATION (CR)AND OTHER RELATED GENERAL EDUCATION REQUIREMENTS **VI. FACULTY, STAFF AND ADMINISTRATION** | | | |
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|  | **Legal Standard** | | | |
| **CR 18** | Responsibilities of the school principal   1. Instructional support. 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 M.G.L. 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. Curriculum Accommodation Plan. The principal implements a curriculum accommodation plan developed by the district’s general education program 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 general education program including, but not limited to, direct and systematic instruction in reading and provision of services to address the needs of children whose behavior may interfere with learning. The plan includes provisions encouraging teacher mentoring and collaboration and parental involvement. (*The plan may be part of a multi-year strategic plan.)* 3. Coordination with special education. 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. Educational services in home or hospital. 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 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 considered special education unless the student has been determined eligible for such services, and the services include services on the student’s IEP. | | | |
|  | M.G.L. c. 71, § 38Q ½; 603 CMR 28.03(3) | | | |
|  | **Rating:** | **Partially Implemented** | **District Response Required:** | **Yes** |

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| **Department of Elementary and Secondary Education Findings:** |
| *Document review indicates the charter school has developed a Curriculum Accommodation Plan that does not include a provision for remedial instruction, consultative services for teachers, services for English learners, teacher mentoring and collaboration, or parental involvement. General education teachers do not receive adequate support to be able to analyze and accommodate the diverse academic and behavioral needs of students in the general education classroom. There is not a structure for general education teachers and special education teachers to collaborate to support students in the general education classroom. Special education teachers are not providing instruction in the general education classroom when a student's IEP indicates direct specialized instruction will be delivered by a special education teacher in the classroom.*  *The charter school relies on the special education staff to remove the student from the general education classroom to differentiate instruction, and relies on the Student Management Team staff to remove the student from the general education classroom to address classroom behaviors.* |

| **CRITERION**  **NUMBER** |  | | | |
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|  | **Legal Standard** | | | |
| CR 25 | Institutional self-evaluation  The district evaluates all aspects of its K-12 program annually to ensure that all students, regardless of race, color, sex, gender identity, 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. | | | |
|  | 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, § 7; c. 76, § 5; 603 CMR 26.07(1),(4) as amended by Chapter 199 of the Acts of 2011 | | | |
|  | **Rating:** | **Partially Implemented** | **District Response Required:** | **Yes** |

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| **Department of Elementary and Secondary Education Findings:** |
| *Document review indicates the charter school has not evaluated all aspects of its K-12 program annually to ensure all students have equal access to all academic, athletic and other extracurricular programs and activities regardless of race, color, sex, gender identity, religion, national origin, limited English proficiency, sexual orientation, disability, or housing status.* |

| **CRITERION**  **NUMBER** | CIVIL RIGHTS METHODS OF ADMINISTRATION (CR) **AND OTHER RELATED GENERAL EDUCATION REQUIREMENTS**  **IX. RECORD KEEPING** | | | |
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|  | **Legal Standard** | | | |
| CR 26A | Confidentiality and student records   1. In accordance with federal and state requirements, the district protects the confidentiality of any personally identifiable information that it collects, uses or maintains. 2. The district maintains and provides access to student records in accordance with federal and state requirements. | | | |
|  | FERPA: 20 U.S.C. § 1232g; 34 CFR Part 99; M.G.L. c. 71, § 34H; 603 CMR 23.05, 23.07 | | | |
|  | **Rating:** | **Partially Implemented** | **District Response Required:** | **Yes** |

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| **Department of Elementary and Secondary Education Findings:** |
| *Student record review indicates the charter school is not maintaining a log of access in each student record to document when authorized persons have obtained access to the record.* |

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| **CRITERION**  **NUMBER** | ENGLISH LEARNER EDUCATION **II. STUDENT IDENTIFICATION AND PROGRAM PLACEMENT** | | | |
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|  | **Legal Standard** | | | |
| ELE 3 | **Initial Identification**   1. The district uses qualified staff, appropriate procedures, and state-required assessments to identify students who are ELs and to assess their level of English proficiency in reading, writing, speaking, and listening. 2. Each school district shall establish procedures, in accordance with Department of Elementary and Secondary Education guidelines, to identify students who may be English learners and assess their level of English proficiency upon their enrollment in the school district.   **Authority: Title VI; EEOA; G.L. c. 71A, §§ 4, 5; 603 CMR 14.02; G.L c. 76, § 5; 603 CMR 26.03** | | | |
|  | **Rating:** | **Partially Implemented** | **District Response Required:** | **Yes** |

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| **Department of Elementary and Secondary Education Findings:** |
| *Document review and interviews indicate that the charter school has not established written initial identification policies and procedures in accordance with the Department guidelines to maintain the consistency of practices and identify students who may be English learners (ELs) in a timely, valid and reliable manner. Please see the Guidance on Identification, Assessment, Placement, and Reclassification of English Language Learners as found at* [*http://www.doe.mass.edu/ell/guidance/default.html*](http://www.doe.mass.edu/ell/guidance/default.html) *.* |

| **CRITERION**  **NUMBER** | ENGLISH LEARNER EDUCATION **II. STUDENT IDENTIFICATION AND PROGRAM PLACEMENT** | | | |
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|  | **Legal Standard** | | | |
| ELE 4 | **Waiver Procedures**   1. Waivers of the requirement to be taught through sheltered English immersion instruction may be considered based on parent request, providing the parent annually visits the school and provides written informed consent. Parents must be informed of their right to apply for a waiver and provided with program descriptions *in a language they can understand.* 2. Students who are under age 10 may only be granted waivers if (a) the student has been placed in an EL classroom for at least 30 calendar days, (b) the school certifies in no less than 250 words that the student "has special and individual physical or psychological needs, separate from lack of English proficiency" that requires an alternative program, and (c) the waiver is authorized by both the school superintendent and principal. All waiver requests and school district responses (approved or disapproved waivers) must be placed in the student's permanent school record. For students under age 10, both the superintendent and the principal must authorize the waiver, and it must be made under guidelines established by and subject to the review of the local school committee. These guidelines may, but are not required to, contain an appeals process. Students who are over age 10 may be granted waivers when it is the informed belief of the school principal and educational staff that an alternative program would be better for the student's overall educational progress. Students receiving waivers may be transferred to an educationally recognized and legally permitted ELE program other than a sheltered English immersion or two-way bilingual program. See 603 CMR 14.04 and ELE 5.   **Authority: G.L. c. 71A, § 5; 603 CMR 14.04(3)**. | | | |
|  | **Rating:** | **Not Implemented** | **District Response Required:** | **Yes** |

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| **Department of Elementary and Secondary Education Findings:** |
| *Document review and interviews indicate that although the Initial Notification Letter provides parents with waiver information, charter school staff members are not aware of the waiver process, nor are any written procedures in place as identified in G.L. c. 71A, § 5 under the pretext that the school does not have an alternate program. Please see the Guidance on Identification, Assessment, Placement, and Reclassification of English Language Learners as found at* [*http://www.doe.mass.edu/ell/guidance/default.html*](http://www.doe.mass.edu/ell/guidance/default.html) *.* |

| **CRITERION**  **NUMBER** | ENGLISH LEARNER EDUCATION **II. STUDENT IDENTIFICATION AND PROGRAM PLACEMENT** | | | |
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|  | **Legal Standard** | | | |
| ELE 5 | **Program Placement and Structure**   1. The district uses assessment data to plan and implement educational programs for students at different instructional levels. 2. G.L. c. 71A, **§** 5 requires that students classified as ELs be educated either in a Sheltered English immersion (SEI) program or Two-Way Immersion program (TWI), unless a program waiver is sought for another ELE program model, such as Transitional Bilingual Education (TBE). The requirement to provide English language development services to ELs applies to all districts that enroll one or more EL students. 3. Core academic teachers in ALL of these programs are expected to hold the SEI Teacher Endorsement and to shelter the content for ELs to make the content of their lessons more comprehensible and to promote the development of academic language needed to successfully master content standards by providing English language development (ELD) to ELs. 4. Districts are required to include ESL instruction in the implementation of their ELE program to advance English language development and promote academic achievement of ELs.   **Authority: Title VI; EEOA; G.L. c. 71A, §§ 2, 4, 7; 603 CMR 7.15; 603 CMR 14.07** | | | |
|  | **Rating:** | **Not Implemented** | **District Response Required:** | **Yes** |

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| **Department of Elementary and Secondary Education Findings:** |
| *Document review and interviews indicate that the charter school uses Hampton Brown books for ESL instruction. While purchased materials can be used as resources they cannot replace an ESL curriculum that districts are expected to develop in order to implement with fidelity the educational approach the school adopted for their ELE program and described in the Castañeda's Three-Pronged Test submitted to the Department. The school should note that an ESL curriculum is integral to an effective ELE program in which ELs become English proficient at a rapid pace*  *The documents submitted by the charter school and a review of 2016 ACCESS for ELLs and MCAS scores demonstrate that the school's ELE program is not effective in developing students' English language skills and requires appropriate program adjustments to improve the outcomes of the service delivery. Please see the district's English Learner Student Learning Targets in the Security Portal at* [*https://gateway.edu.state.ma.us*](https://gateway.edu.state.ma.us) *.* |

| **CRITERION**  **NUMBER** | ENGLISH LEARNER EDUCATION **II. STUDENT IDENTIFICATION AND PROGRAM PLACEMENT** | | | |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
|  | **Legal Standard** | | | |
| ELE 6 | **Program Exit and Readiness**   1. Each school district shall establish criteria, in accordance with Department of Elementary and Secondary Education guidelines, to identify students who may no longer be English learners. 2. The district does not reclassify an English Learner (EL) as Former English Learner (FEL) until he or she is deemed English proficient and can participate meaningfully in all aspects of the district’s general education program without the use of adapted or simplified English materials. 3. Districts do not limit or cap the amount of time in which an EL can remain in a language support program. An EL only exits from such a program after he or she is determined to be proficient in English.   **Authority: Title VI; EEOA; G.L. c. 71A, § 4; 603 CMR 14.02** | | | |
|  | **Rating:** | **Partially Implemented** | **District Response Required:** | **Yes** |

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| **Department of Elementary and Secondary Education Findings:** |
| *According to state level data, the charter school reclassified two students whose composite ACCESS scores were below Level 5. ELs below this proficiency level continue to require appropriate support to participate meaningfully in all aspects of the school's general education program and therefore should not be considered for reclassification. Although the school's current reclassification policies are in compliance with 603 CMR 14.02, data indicates that reclassification policies are not being consistently followed.* |

| **CRITERION**  **NUMBER** | ENGLISH LEARNER EDUCATION **IV. CURRICULUM AND INSTRUCTION** | | | |
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|  | **Legal Standard** | | | |
| ELE 10 | **Parental Notification**   1. Upon identification of a student as EL, and annually thereafter, a notice is mailed to the parents or guardians written where practicable in the primary/home language as well as in English, that informs parents of:    1. the reasons for identification of the student as EL;    2. the child's level of English proficiency;    3. program placement and/or the method of instruction used in the program;    4. how the program will meet the educational strengths and needs of the student;    5. how the program will specifically help the child learn English;    6. the specific exit requirements;    7. the parents' right to apply for a waiver (see ELE 4), or to decline to enroll their child in the program (see ELE 8) 2. The district shall send report cards and progress reports including, but not limited to, progress in becoming proficient in using English language and other school communications to the parents or legal guardians of students in the English learners programs in the same manner and the frequency as report cards and progress reports to the other students enrolled in the district. The reports are, to the maximum extent practicable, written in a language understandable to the parent/guardian.  Authority: NCLB, Title III, Part C, Sec. 3302(a), (c); G.L. c. 71A, § 7; 603 CMR 14.02 | | | |
|  | **Rating:** | **Partially Implemented** | **District Response Required:** | **Yes** |

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| **Department of Elementary and Secondary Education Findings:** |
| *Student record review and interviews indicate that the charter school does not send an annual notification letter to the parents or guardians of all ELs, including the parents or guardians who declined ELE services, to inform them about the students' program placement, parental rights and other ELE program related information as required in NCLB, Sec. 3302.* |

| **CRITERION**  **NUMBER** | ENGLISH LEARNER EDUCATION **V. STUDENT SUPPORT SERVICES** | | | |
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|  | **Legal Standard** | | | |
| ELE 12 | **Equal Access to Nonacademic and Extracurricular Programs**   1. The district provides appropriate support, where necessary, to ELs to ensure that they have equal access to the nonacademic programs and extracurricular activities available to their English-speaking peers. 2. Information provided to students about extracurricular activities and school events is provided to ELs in a language they understand.   **Authority: Title VI; EEOA; G.L. c. 76, § 5; 603 CMR 26.06(2)** | | | |
|  | **Rating:** | **Partially Implemented** | **District Response Required:** | **Yes** |

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| **Department of Elementary and Secondary Education Findings:** |
| *Document review and interviews indicate written notices about extracurricular activities and school events are regularly translated into Spanish, but not into languages of other EL students enrolled in the school.* |

| **CRITERION**  **NUMBER** | ENGLISH LEARNER EDUCATION **IX. RECORD KEEPING** | | | |
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|  | **Legal Standard** | | | |
| ELE 18 | **Records of ELL Students**  ELL student records include:   1. home language survey; 2. results of identification and proficiency tests and evaluations; 3. ACCESS for ELLs report; 4. MCAS/PARCC report; 5. information about students' previous school experiences if available; 6. copies of parent notification letters; 7. progress reports, in the native language, if necessary; 8. report cards, in the native language, if necessary; 9. evidence of follow-up monitoring, if applicable; 10. documentation of a parent’s consent to “opt-out” of ESL instruction, if applicable; 11. waiver documentation, if applicable; 12. individualized learning plan (optional).   **Authority: Title VI; EEOA; G.L. c. 69, § 1I; c. 71A, §§ 5, 7; 603 CMR 14.02, 14.04** | | | |
|  | **Rating:** | **Partially Implemented** | **District Response Required:** | **Yes** |

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| **Department of Elementary and Secondary Education Findings:** |
| *Student record review and interviews indicate that for students whose parents have chosen to opt out of English learner education programs, the EL records do not include the annual parental notification letter and evidence of follow up monitoring.* |

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| This Coordinated Program Review Final Report is also available at:  <http://www.doe.mass.edu/pqa/review/cpr/reports/>.  Profile information supplied by each charter school and school district, including information for individual schools within districts, is available at  <http://profiles.doe.mass.edu/>. |

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