***Massachusetts Department of***

***Elementary and Secondary Education***

75 Pleasant Street, Malden, Massachusetts 02148-4906 Telephone: (781) 338-3700

*TTY: N.E.T. Relay 1-800-439-2370*

December 12, 2014

Ms. Pamela Davis-Edwards, Director

Farr Academy

71 Pearl Street

Cambridge, MA 02139

Re: Mid-cycle Review and Verification of previous Program Review Corrective Action Plan

|  |
| --- |
| A - Farr Academy Day ProgramB - Farr Academy Summer Program  |

Dear Ms. Davis-Edwards:

Enclosed is the Department of Elementary and Secondary Education’s (“Department”) Mid-cycle Review Report based upon the Mid-cycle Review conducted in your private school programs in November 2014. This Mid-cycle Review Report contains the Department's findings regarding the implementation status and effectiveness of corrective steps taken in response to your previous Program Review Report issued on April 2, 2012. This report also includes a report on the status of implementation for new state or federal special education requirements enacted since your programs’ last Program Review.

We are pleased to indicate that the Department has found your programs’ approved Corrective Action Plan to be substantially implemented and effective in remedying the previously identified noncompliance issue. Additionally, we have determined that your programs are in substantial compliance with the selected Mid-cycle Review criteria as well as any new state or federal special education requirements enacted since your last Program Review. You and your entire staff are to be congratulated for your efforts in implementing all necessary improvements. Your program will now receive an updated status of “Full Approval.” This approval shall remain in effect for three (3) years and will be contingent upon continued compliance with all regulations contained within 603 CMR 28.00 “Special Education Regulations” and 603 CMR 18.00 “Program And Safety Standards For Approved Public Or Private Day And Residential Special Education School Programs.” The Department may change this approval status at any point during this three-year period if circumstances arise that warrant such a change.

The Department will notify you of your programs’ next regularly scheduled Program Review several months before it is to occur. At this time we anticipate the next routine monitoring visit to occur sometime during the 2017-2018 school year, unless the Department determines that there is some reason to schedule this visit earlier.

**Please be advised that the attached Department Approval Certificates must be conspicuously posted in a public place within the program as required by 603 CMR 28.09.**

Your staff's cooperation throughout these follow-up monitoring activities is appreciated. Should you require additional clarification of information included in our report, please do not hesitate to contact the Onsite Team Chairperson.

Sincerely,

Paul Bottome, Mid-cycle Review Chairperson

Program Quality Assurance Services

Darlene Lynch, Director

Program Quality Assurance Services

c: Mitchell D. Chester, Ed.D., Commissioner of Elementary and Secondary Education

Encl.: Mid-cycle Review Report

Full Approval Certificate, Expiration Date: August 31, 2018

 Farr Academy Day Program

 Farr Academy Summer Program

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|  | ESE Logo | **MID-CYCLE REVIEW REPORT****Farr Academy****MCR Onsite Date:** **11/14/2014****Programs under review for the agency:****A - Farr Academy Day Program****B - Farr Academy Summer Program**  |
|   |  | Mitchell D. Chester, Ed.D.Commissioner of Elementary and Secondary Education |
| **MID-CYCLE REVIEW REPORT** |

| **PS Criterion #2.2 - Approvals, Licenses, Certificates of Inspection** |
| --- |
| **Rating:** |
| Implemented |
| **Applies To:** |
| All |
| **Basis for Findings:** |
| A review of documentation indicated that there were current approvals, licenses and certificates of inspection for all buildings used by the students. |

| **PS Criterion #2.3 - EEC Licensure (Residential Programs Only)** |
| --- |
| **Rating:** |
| Implemented |
| **Applies To:** |
| All |
| **Basis for Findings:** |
| Farr Academy Day Program and Farr Academy Summer Program are Day Programs, therefore this criterion does not apply. |

| **PS Criterion #6.1 - Daily Instructional Hours** |
| --- |
| **Rating:** |
| Implemented |
| **Applies To:** |
| All |
| **Basis for Findings:** |
| A review of documentation indicated that all students were scheduled to receive the required number of instructional hours. |

| **PS Criterion #6.4 - School Days Per Year** |
| --- |
| **Rating:** |
| Implemented |
| **Applies To:** |
| All |
| **Basis for Findings:** |
| A review of documentation indicated that the required number of school days was offered to all students. |

| **PS Criterion #8.5 - Current IEP & Student Roster** |
| --- |
| **Rating:** |
| Implemented |
| **Applies To:** |
| All |
| **Basis for Findings:** |
| A review of documentation and student records indicated that there was a current IEP for each enrolled Massachusetts student that had been issued by the responsible public school district and consented to by the student's parent or student, when applicable, or documentation indicating the program's efforts to obtain such. |

| **PS Criterion #11.3 - Educational Administrator Qualifications** |
| --- |
| **Rating:** |
| Implemented |
| **Applies To:** |
| All |
| **Basis for Findings:** |
| A review of documentation indicated that the Educational Administrator possessed the required qualifications to serve in this position. |

| **PS Criterion #11.4 - Teachers (Special Education Teachers and Regular Education Teachers)** |
| --- |
| **Rating:** |
| Implemented |
| **Applies To:** |
| All |
| **Basis for Findings:** |
| A review of documentation submitted in the self assessment indicated that the teaching staff were appropriately licensed or had been granted an appropriate waiver. |

| **PS Criterion #11.5 - Related Services Staff** |
| --- |
| **Rating:** |
| Implemented |
| **Applies To:** |
| All |
| **Basis for Findings:** |
| A review of documentation indicated that the staff providing or supervising the provision of related services were appropriately certified, licensed or registered in their professional areas. |

| **PS Criterion #11.6 - Master Staff Roster** |
| --- |
| **Rating:** |
| Implemented |
| **Applies To:** |
| All |
| **Basis for Findings:** |
| A review of documentation indicated the Master Staff Roster contained the name, program job title, corresponding Uniform Financial Report (UFR) title number and full-time equivalent (FTE) for all staff. The Master Staff Roster also accurately corresponded to the last approved program budget as required. |

| **PS Criterion #11.12 - Equal Access** |
| --- |
| **Rating:** |
| Implemented |
| **Applies To:** |
| All |
| **Basis for Findings:** |
| A review of documentation and staff interviews indicated that all students were provided with equal access to services, facilities, activities and benefits regardless of race, color, sex, gender identity, religion, national origin, sexual orientation, disability or homelessness. |

| **PS Criterion #12.1 - New Staff Orientation and Training** |
| --- |
| **Rating:** |
| Implemented |
| **Applies To:** |
| All |
| **Basis for Findings:** |
| A review of documentation, staff records, and interviews indicated that newly hired staff members now receive all required new staff orientation training before being given direct care responsibilities. |

| **PS Criterion #12.2 - In-Service Training Plan and Calendar** |
| --- |
| **Rating:** |
| Implemented |
| **Applies To:** |
| All |
| **Basis for Findings:** |
| A review of documentation, staff records, and interviews indicated that staff members now receive all required in-service training. |

| **PS Criterion #14.2 - Food and Nutrition** |
| --- |
| **Rating:** |
| Implemented |
| **Applies To:** |
| All |
| **Basis for Findings:** |
| A review of documentation indicated that all meals are included in the rate of the program, which makes breakfast and lunch available to publicly-funded students with disabilities as they would have access to such meals in their sending school district. A copy of the written plan describing the methods for purchase, storage, preparations and serving of food as well as the name and title of the person responsible for oversight of the purchase, storage and preparations were also submitted. |

| **PS Criterion #16.7 - Preventive Health Care** |
| --- |
| **Rating:** |
| Implemented |
| **Applies To:** |
| All |
| **Basis for Findings:** |
| A review of student records indicated that the program now maintains evidence or documentation of their efforts to obtain required vision, hearing and postural screenings, and physical and dental examinations. |

| **PS Criterion #19 - Anti-Hazing** |
| --- |
| **Rating:** |
| Implemented |
| **Applies To:** |
| All |
| **Basis for Findings:** |
| A review of student records and interviews indicated a copy of the anti-hazing legislation was received by all secondary school age students. Interviews also indicated that the program's anti-hazing disciplinary code approved by the Board of Directors had been distributed to all secondary school age students. |

| **PS Criterion #20 - Bullying Prevention and Intervention** |
| --- |
| **Rating:** |
| Implemented |
| **Applies To:** |
| All |
| **Basis for Findings:** |
| A review of documentation and staff interviews indicated that the student admissions materials/handbook was updated to conform to the updated amended Bullying Prevention and Intervention Plan ("Plan") and was consistent with the amendments to the Massachusetts anti-bullying law, including making clear that a member of the school staff may be named the "aggressor" or "perpetrator" in a bullying report. There was evidence of staff, students and parents/guardians having been annually notified in writing of the Plan and a professional development plan was in place for all staff, with evidence of its implementation provided. |