***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*

January 8, 2019

Mr. Robert Carter, President

Willie Ross School for the Deaf, Inc.

32 Norway Street

Longmeadow, MA 01106

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

 A - Willie Ross Program

Dear Mr. Carter:

Enclosed is the Department of Elementary and Secondary Education’s (“Department”) Mid-cycle Review Report based upon the Mid-cycle Review conducted in your approved special education day school in December 2018. This Mid-cycle Review Report contains the Department's findings regarding the implementation status and effectiveness in response to your previous Program Review Report issued on July 6, 2016. Because the Department determined all requirements were found to be fully implemented during the 2016 Program Review, this Mid-cycle Review Report includes a report on the status of selected Mid-cycle Review criteria as well as the implementation of new state or federal special education requirements enacted since your program’s 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,” 603 CMR 18.00 “Program And Safety Standards For Approved Public Or Private Day And Residential Special Education School Programs,” and 603 CMR 46.00 “Prevention of Physical Restraints and Requirements If Used.” 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 program’s 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 2021-2022 school year, unless the Department determines that there is some reason to schedule this visit earlier.

**Please be advised that the attached Department Approval Certificate 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,

Karen Brann, Chairperson

Office of Approved Special Education Schools

Nina M. Marchese, M.Ed., Director

Office of Approved Special Education Schools

c: Jeff Riley, Commissioner of Elementary and Secondary Education

 Joanne Morris, Supervisor, Office of Approved Special Education Schools

 Dr. Robert Kirkwood, President, Willie Ross Board of Directors

Encl.: Mid-cycle Review Report

Full Approval Certificate, Expiration Date: August 31, 2022

 Willie Ross Day Program

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|  | ESE Logo | **MID-CYCLE REVIEW REPORT****Willie Ross School for the Deaf, Inc.****MCR Onsite Dates:** **12/10/2018 - 12/12/2018****Programs under review for the agency:****A - Willie Ross Program** |
|   |  | Jeff RileyCommissioner of Elementary and Secondary Education |
| **MID-CYCLE REVIEW REPORT** |

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

| **PS Criterion #4.5 - Immediate Notification** |
| --- |
| **Rating:** |
| Implemented |
| **Basis for Findings:** |
| A review of documentation and student records indicated that the policy on Immediate Notification Regarding Serious Incidents met the current requirements and included notification to appropriate parties of such incidents, as well as the person responsible for oversight. A review of student records showed that the program maintains copies of all incidents regarding students. |

| **PS Criterion #6.1 - Daily Instructional Hours/6.4 School Days Per Year** |
| --- |
| **Rating:** |
| Implemented |
| **Basis for Findings:** |
| A review of documentation indicated that all students were scheduled to receive the required number of instructional hours per year, and that the required number of school days per year was scheduled for all students. |

| **PS Criterion #8.5 - Current IEP & Student Roster** |
| --- |
| **Rating:** |
| Implemented |
| **Basis for Findings:** |
| A review of documentation and review of student records indicated that there was a current Individualized Education Program (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 the student, when applicable. In student records where an IEP was found not to be current, there was documentation of the program's efforts to obtain a current IEP from the responsible school district. |

| **PS Criterion #9.1 - Policies and Procedure for Behavior Support** |
| --- |
| **Rating:** |
| Implemented |
| **Basis for Findings:** |
| A review of documentation and staff interviews indicated that the program has developed and is implementing written Behavior Support Policies and Procedures consistent with the regulations under 603 CMR 46.00 regarding appropriate responses to student behavior that may require immediate intervention. Behavior support policies and procedures are reviewed annually, and are provided to staff annually and made available to parents of enrolled students. |

| **PS Criterion #9.1(a) - Student Separation Resulting from Behavior Support** |
| --- |
| **Rating:** |
| Implemented |
| **Basis for Findings:** |
| A review of documentation and staff interviews indicated that the policies and procedures regarding Student Separation Resulting from Behavior Management include that a student must be continuously observed by a staff member at all times, that staff shall be with the student or immediately available to the student at all times, that procedures are in place for obtaining principal approval of the student separation for more than 30 minutes based upon the student's continuing agitation, and that student separation shall cease as soon as the student has calmed. |

| **PS Criterion #9.4 - Physical Restraint** |
| --- |
| **Rating:** |
| Implemented |
| **Basis for Findings:** |
| A review of documentation and staff interviews indicated that the program administers physical restraints only in emergency situations of last resort when needed to protect a student and/or a 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. |

| **PS Criterion #11.3 - Educational Administrator Qualifications** |
| --- |
| **Rating:** |
| Implemented |
| **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 General Education Teachers)** |
| --- |
| **Rating:** |
| Implemented |
| **Basis for Findings:** |
| A review of documentation indicated that at the time of the Mid-cycle Review the teaching staff were appropriately licensed or had been granted an appropriate waiver for the 2018-2019 school year. |

| **PS Criterion #11.5 - Related Services Staff** |
| --- |
| **Rating:** |
| Implemented |
| **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** |
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| **Rating:** |
| Implemented |
| **Basis for Findings:** |
| A review of documentation indicated that at the time of the Mid-Cycle Review, 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 most recently approved DESE staffing plan. |