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| ESE LogoStarLogo08_A |  | **Southbridge Public Schools**  **COORDINATED PROGRAM REVIEW**  **REPORT OF FINDINGS**  **Dates of Onsite Visit:** **October 24-28, 2016**  **Date of Draft Report:** **February 8, 2017**  **Date of Final Report: March 21, 2017**  **Action Plan Due: April 24, 2017**  **Department of Elementary and Secondary Education Onsite Team Members:**  **Matthew Nixon, Office of Public School Monitoring (PSM) Chair**  **Marc Oldenburg, PSM**  **Corey Steinman, PSM**  **Sibel Hughes, Office of English Language Acquisition and Academic Achievement (OELAAA) Chair**  **Paul Aguiar, OELAAA** |
|  |  | **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**

**Southbridge Public Schools**

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**MASSACHUSETTS DEPARTMENT OF ELEMENTARY AND SECONDARY EDUCATION**

**COORDINATED PROGRAM REVIEW REPORT**

**Southbridge Public Schools**

**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 (OELAAA), 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; approximately 66 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 56 current special education criteria and 26 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 five-member Massachusetts Department of Elementary and Secondary Education team visited Southbridge Public Schools during the week of October 24, 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 ten administrative staff.
* Interviews of 72 teaching and support services staff across all levels.
* Student record reviews: Samples of 21 special education student records and 20 English learner education student records.
* Surveys of parents of students with disabilities: 50 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: 26 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. None of these parent surveys were returned to the Department of Elementary and Secondary Education for review.
* Observation of classrooms and other facilities. A sample of 24 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. |

Southbridge Public Schools

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

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

| **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:** |
| *A review of student records and staff interviews indicated that within 45 school working days of receipt of the parent's written consent to an initial evaluation or re-evaluation, the district does not consistently determine whether the student is eligible for special education and provide the parent with either a proposed IEP and placement or a written explanation of the finding of no eligibility.* |

| **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:** |
| *A review of student records and staff interviews indicated that the district does not consistently conduct a re-evaluation every three years for eligible students.* |

| **CRITERION**  **NUMBER** |  | | | |
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|  | **Legal Standard** | | | |
| **SE 14** | Review and revision of IEPs   1. At least annually, on or before the anniversary date of the IEP, a Team meeting is held to consider the student’s progress and to review, revise, or develop a new IEP or refer the student for a re-evaluation, as appropriate. 2. The IEP Team reviews and revises the IEP to address any lack of expected progress towards the annual goals and in the general curriculum. 3. Amendments to the IEP. In between annual IEP meetings the district and parent may agree to make changes to a student’s IEP, documented in writing, without convening a meeting of the Team. Upon request, a parent is provided with a revised copy of the IEP with the amendments incorporated. | | | |
|  | State Requirements | | Federal Requirements | |
|  | 603 CMR 28.04(3) | | 34 CFR 300.324(a)(4), (6) and (b) | |
|  | **Rating:** | **Partially Implemented** | **District Response Required:** | **Yes** |

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| **Department of Elementary and Secondary Education Findings:** |
| *A review of student records and staff interviews indicated that at least annually, on or before the anniversary date of the IEP, the district does not consistently hold a Team meeting to consider the student's progress and to review, revise, or develop a new IEP or refer the student for a re-evaluation, as appropriate.* |

| **CRITERION**  **NUMBER** |  | | | |
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|  | **Legal Standard** | | | |
| **SE 18A** | IEP development and content   1. Upon determining that the student is eligible for special education, the Team, including the parent(s), develops an IEP at the Team meeting. 2. The IEP is completed addressing all elements of the most current IEP format provided by the Department of Elementary and Secondary Education. 3. The school district ensures that the IEP will not be changed outside of the Team meeting. 4. Whenever the IEP Team evaluation indicates that a student's disability affects social skills development, or when the student's disability makes him or her vulnerable to bullying, harassment, or teasing, the IEP must address the skills and proficiencies needed to avoid and respond to bullying, harassment, or teasing. 5. For students identified with a disability on the autism spectrum, the IEP Team must consider and specifically address the skills and proficiencies needed to avoid and respond to bullying, harassment, or teasing. | | | |
|  | State Requirements | | Federal Requirements | |
|  | 603 CMR 28.05(3); G.L.c. 71 B, section 3, as amended by Chapter 92 of the Acts of 2010 | | IDEA-97: 34 CFR Part 300, Appendix A, Question #22 | |
|  | **Rating:** | **Partially Implemented** | **District Response Required:** | **Yes** |

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| **Department of Elementary and Secondary Education Findings:** |
| *A review of student records indicated that for students identified with a disability on the autism spectrum, the IEP Team does not consistently consider and specifically address the skills and proficiencies needed to avoid and respond to bullying, harassment, or teasing.* |

| **CRITERION**  **NUMBER** |  | | | |
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|  | **Legal Standard** | | | |
| SE 18B | Determination of placement; provision of IEP to parent   1. At the Team meeting, after the IEP has been fully developed, the Team determines the appropriate placement to deliver the services on the student’s IEP. 2. Unless the student’s IEP requires some other arrangement, the student is educated in the school that he or she would attend if the student did not require special education. 3. The decision regarding placement is based on the IEP, including the types of related services that are to be provided to the student, the type of settings in which those services are to be provided, the types of service providers, and the location at which the services are to be provided. 4. Reserved 5. Immediately following the development of the IEP, the district provides the parent with two (2) copies of the proposed IEP and proposed placement along with the required notice, except that the proposal of placement may be delayed according to the provisions of 603 CMR 28.06(2)(e) in a limited number of cases. | | | |
|  | State Requirements | | Federal Requirements | |
|  | 603 CMR 28.05(6) and (7); 28.06(2) | | 34 CFR 300.116; 300.325 | |
|  | **Rating:** | **Partially Implemented** | **District Response Required:** | **Yes** |

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| **Department of Elementary and Secondary Education Findings:** |
| *A review of student records and staff interviews indicated that at the conclusion of IEP Team meetings, the district provides the parent with a meeting summary which includes the completed IEP Service Delivery Grid and the major goal areas associated with the services. However, at the high school, the district provides the parent with only one (1) copy of the proposed IEP and proposed placement within two calendar weeks of the Team meeting.* |

| **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:** |
| *A review of student records indicated that the Notice of Proposed School District Action (N1) form does not consistently include a description of any other options that the district considered and the reasons why those options were rejected; other factors the district used as a basis for the proposed or refused action; or a description of each evaluation procedure, test, record, or report the district used as a basis for the proposed or refused action.* |

| **CRITERION**  **NUMBER** |  | | | |
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|  | **Legal Standard** | | | |
| **SE 51** | Appropriate special education teacher licensure  Except at Commonwealth charter schools, individuals who design and/or provide direct special education services described in IEPs are appropriately licensed.  **Commonwealth Charter Schools – Special Education Teacher Qualifications**  To come into compliance with IDEA, Commonwealth charter schools must use “qualified” teachers to provide specialized instruction or have a “qualified” teacher consult with or provide direct supervision for someone who is not qualified but is delivering specialized instruction.  This is an IDEA requirement.  “Qualified” teachers must hold a valid license in special education or have successfully completed an undergraduate or graduate degree in an approved special education program.  Please see additional guidance at:  [http://www.doe.mass.edu/charter/tech\_advisory/07\_1.html#](http://www.doe.mass.edu/charter/tech_advisory/07_1.html)  (update 2/2011)  <http://www.doe.mass.edu/charter/sped/staffqualifications.html> (update 3/23/2012). | | | |
|  | State Requirements | | Federal Requirements | |
|  | M.G.L. c. 71, s. 38G; s. 89(qq);  603 CMR 1.07; 7.00; 28.02(3) | | 34 CFR 300.18; 300.156 | |
|  | **Rating:** | **Partially Implemented** | **District Response Required:** | **Yes** |

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| **Department of Elementary and Secondary Education Findings:** |
| *A review of documentation and a staff interview indicated that two special education teachers, one at the West Street Elementary School and one at the Charlton Street Elementary School, are not licensed. In addition, one special education inclusion teacher at the Southbridge Middle School is not licensed.* |

| **CRITERION**  **NUMBER** |  | | | |
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|  | **Legal Standard** | | | |
| **SE 52** | Appropriate certifications/licenses or other credentials -- related service providers  Any person, including non‑educational personnel, who provides related services described under federal special education law, who supervises paraprofessionals in the provision of related services, or who provides support services directly to the general or special classroom teacher is appropriately certified, licensed, board‑registered or otherwise approved to provide such services by the relevant professional standards board or agency for the profession. | | | |
|  | State Requirements | | Federal Requirements | |
|  | 603 CMR 28.02(3), (18) | | 34 CFR 300.34; 300.156(b) | |
|  | **Rating:** | **Partially Implemented** | **District Response Required:** | **Yes** |

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| **Department of Elementary and Secondary Education Findings:** |
| *A review of documentation and a staff interview indicated that one school adjustment counselor at the West Street Elementary School is not appropriately licensed.* |

| **CRITERION**  **NUMBER** |  | | | |
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|  | **Legal Standard** | | | |
| **SE 54** | **Professional development**   1. The district considers the needs of all staff in developing training opportunities for professional and paraprofessional staff and provides a variety of offerings. 2. The district ensures that all staff, including both special education and general education staff, are trained on:    1. state and federal special education requirements and related local special education policies and procedures;    2. analyzing and accommodating diverse learning styles of all students in order to achieve an objective of inclusion in the general education classroom of students with diverse learning styles;    3. methods of collaboration among teachers, paraprofessionals and teacher assistants to accommodate diverse learning styles of all students in the general education classroom; 3. The district provides in-service training for all locally hired and contracted transportation providers, before they begin transporting any special education student receiving special transportation, on his or her needs and appropriate methods of meeting those needs; for any such student it also provides written information on the nature of any needs or problems that may cause difficulties, along with information on appropriate emergency measures. Transportation providers include drivers of general and special education vehicles and any attendants or aides identified by a Team for either type of vehicle. | | | |
|  | State Requirements | | Federal Requirements | |
|  | M.G.L. c. 71, §§ 38G , 38Q and 38Q ½  603 CMR 28.03(1)(a); 28.06(8)(b) and (c) | |  | |
|  | **Rating:** | **Partially Implemented** | **District Response Required:** | **Yes** |

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| **Department of Elementary and Secondary Education Findings:** |
| *A review of documentation and staff interviews indicated that not all special education and general education staff have received training on analyzing and accommodating diverse learning styles of all students in order to achieve an objective of inclusion in the general education classroom of students with diverse learning styles and methods of collaboration among teachers, paraprofessionals and teacher assistants to accommodate diverse learning styles of all students in the general education classroom. 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:** |
| *A review of documentation and staff interviews indicated that important information and documents, e.g. handbooks and codes of conduct, being distributed to parents are not translated into the major languages spoken by parents or guardians with limited English skills. In addition, staff interviews indicated that the district has not established a system of oral interpretation to assist parents/guardians with limited English skills, including those who speak low-incidence languages.* |

| **CRITERION**  **NUMBER** |  | | | |
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|  | **Legal Standard** | | | |
| CR 9 | Hiring and employment practices of prospective employers of students   1. The district requires employers recruiting at the school to sign a statement that the employer complies with applicable federal and state laws prohibiting discrimination in hiring or employment practices and the statement specifically includes the following protected categories: race, color, national origin, sex, gender identity, handicap, religion and sexual orientation. 2. Prospective employers to whom this criterion applies include those participating in career days and work-study and apprenticeship training programs, as well as those offering cooperative work experiences. | | | |
|  | Authority: M.G.L. c. 76, § 5; 603 CMR 26.07(5) as amended by Chapter 199 of the Acts of 2011. | | | |
|  | **Rating:** | **Not Implemented** | **District Response Required:** | **Yes** |

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| **Department of Elementary and Secondary Education Findings:** |
| *Staff interviews indicated that the district does not require employers recruiting at the school to sign a statement that the employer complies with applicable federal and state laws prohibiting discrimination in hiring or employment practices that specifically includes the following protected categories: race, color, national origin, sex, gender identity, handicap, religion and sexual orientation.* |

| **CRITERION**  **NUMBER** | CIVIL RIGHTS METHODS OF ADMINISTRATION (CR)AND OTHER RELATED GENERAL EDUCATION REQUIREMENTS **V. STUDENT SUPPORT SERVICES** | | | |
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|  | **Legal Standard** | | | |
| **CR 10A** | Student handbooks and codes of conduct   1. 1. The district has a code of conduct for students and one for teachers.    2. The principal of every school containing grades 9-12 prepares, in consultation with the school council, a student handbook containing the student code of conduct and distributes it to each student annually, as well as to parents and school personnel; the school council reviews and revises the student code of conduct every year.    3. The principal of every school containing other grades distributes the district’s student code of conduct to students, parents, and personnel annually.    4. At the request of a parent or student whose primary language is not English, a student handbook or student code of conduct is translated into that language. 2. Student codes of conduct contain:    1. procedures assuring due process in disciplinary proceedings and    2. the district’s responsibility to provide every student with an opportunity to make academic progress during the period of suspension whether in-school, out-of-school, or expulsion.    3. appropriate procedures for the discipline of students with disabilities and students with Section 504 Accommodation Plans.    4. if a charter school or a virtual school, the designation by the board of trustees as to who shall serve as the principal and who shall serve as superintendent for the purpose of 603 CMR 53.00. 3. Student handbooks and codes of conduct reference M.G.L. c. 76, s. 5 and contain:    1. a nondiscrimination policy that is consistent with M.G.L. c. 76, s. 5, and affirms the school’s non-tolerance for harassment based on race, color, national origin, sex, gender identity, religion, or sexual orientation, or discrimination on those same bases;    2. the school’s procedure for accepting, investigating and resolving complaints alleging discrimination or harassment; and    3. the disciplinary measures that the school may impose if it determines that harassment or discrimination has occurred. | | | |
|  | Section 504; M.G.L. c. 71, § 37H; M.G.L. c. 71, § 37H ¾; 603 CMR 53.00; 603 CMR 26.08 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:** |
| *A review of documentation indicated that when the parent or student whose primary language is not English requests a student handbook or student code of conduct, there is no procedure in place to provide a translated copy.* |

| **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:** |
| *A review of documentation indicated that the Bullying Prevention and Intervention Plan (Plan) is not consistent with the amendments to the Massachusetts anti-bullying law, which became effective*  *July 1, 2013. Specifically, the Plan has not been updated or amended to include extending protections to students who are bullied by a member of the school staff. The Plan does not make clear that a member of the school staff may be named the aggressor or perpetrator in a bullying report and it does not contain information relative to the duties of faculty and staff 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:** |
| *A review of documentation indicated that the district's discipline policy does not include procedures for in-school suspension, including the following: the principal's responsibility to inform the student of the disciplinary charge and to provide the student the opportunity to dispute the charge and explain the circumstances; if the principal determines that the student committed the offense, informing the student of the length of the suspension which may not exceed ten days cumulatively or consecutively in a school year; the principal's responsibility to orally inform the parent of the disciplinary offense, the reasons for concluding that the student committed the infraction and the length of the in-school suspension; the principal's responsibility to invite the parent/guardian to a meeting to discuss the student's academic performance and behavior, strategies for student engagement, and possible responses to the behavior; procedures to address the need to schedule the parent/guardian meeting for the day of the suspension or as soon as possible, and the need for the principal to document at least two attempts to reach the parent for the purpose of orally informing the parent; and procedures to address the need for the principal to send written notice to the student and the parent/guardian about the in-school suspension, inviting the parent to a meeting if such meeting has not occurred, which must be delivered on the day of the suspension.* |

| **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:** |
| *A review of documentation and staff interviews indicated that written materials and other media used to publicize the school do not 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. Specifically, flyers promoting schools in the district do not include a non-discrimination statement and the website does not include a non-discrimination statement.* |

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

| **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:** |
| *A review of documentation and staff interviews indicated that the notice sent to parents/guardians and students 16 or over leaving school without a high school diploma, certificate of attainment, or certificate of completion does not include: 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; a statement that the time and the date for the exit interview may be extended at the request of the parent/guardian for no longer than 14 days; or set forth that 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.*  *In addition, a review of documentation and staff interviews indicated that the district does not send annual written notice for a minimum of two years to former students who have not yet earned their competency determination and who have not transferred to another school, to inform them of the availability of publicly funded post-high school academic support programs and to encourage them to participate in those programs.* |

| **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:** |
| *A review of documentation indicated that the district has updated its written restraint prevention and behavior support policy to include all required content consistent with regulatory requirements that went into effect January 1, 2016; however, the previous version that has not been updated remains posted in the School Committee Policies section of the district website.* |

| **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:** |
| *A review of documentation indicated that the district does not currently have a District Curriculum Accommodation Plan (DCAP). The DCAP should assist regular classroom teachers in analyzing and accommodating diverse learning styles of all students in the regular classroom and in providing appropriate services and supports within the general education program. This support includes direct and systematic instruction in reading and the provision of services to address the needs of children whose behavior interferes with learning. The plan should also include provisions encouraging teacher mentoring and collaboration, as well as parental involvement. While the district has begun to address the lack of a tiered system of supports, a review of documentation indicated that it does not have a fully developed Multi-Tiered System of Supports (MTSS), including response to intervention (RTI) designed to provide instructional support that includes remedial instruction for students, consultative services for teachers, appropriate services for linguistic minority students, and other services consistent with effective educational practices. This, in part, has led to an over-representation of English language learners in special education.* |

| **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 18A** | School district employment practices  District employment practices in general are free from discrimination on the basis of race, color, gender identity, national origin, sex, or disability. The district’s employee recruitment is aimed at reaching all groups, including members of linguistic, ethnic, and racial minorities, females and males, and persons with disabilities. | | | |
|  | Title VI: 42 U.S.C. 2000d; 34 CFR 100.3(c); EEOA: 20 U.S.C. 1703(d); Title IX: 20 U.S.C. 1681; 34 CFR 106.51-106.61; Section 504: 29 U.S.C. 794; 34 CFR 104.11-104.14; Title II: 42 U.S.C. 12132; 28 CFR 35.140; Mass. Const. amend. art 114 | | | |
|  | **Rating:** | **Partially Implemented** | **District Response Required:** | **Yes** |

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| **Department of Elementary and Secondary Education Findings:** |
| *A review of documentation indicated that job openings posted by the district do not include the protected categories of sex and gender identity.* |

| **CRITERION**  **NUMBER** | CIVIL RIGHTS METHODS OF ADMINISTRATION (CR) **AND OTHER RELATED GENERAL EDUCATION REQUIREMENTS**  **VIII. PROGRAM PLAN AND EVALUATION** | | | |
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|  | **Legal Standard** | | | |
| **CR 24** | Curriculum review  The district ensures that individual teachers in the district review all educational materials for simplistic and demeaning generalizations, lacking intellectual merit, on the basis of race, color, sex, gender identity, religion, national origin and sexual orientation. Appropriate activities, discussions and/or supplementary materials are used to provide balance and context for any such stereotypes depicted in such materials. | | | |
|  | M.G.L. c. 76, § 5; 603 CMR 26.05(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:** |
| *A review of documentation and staff interviews indicated that although the district actively engages in curriculum review, it does not have a process that involves individual teachers in the review of educational materials for consideration of simplistic and demeaning generalizations, lacking intellectual merit, on the basis of race, color, sex, gender identity, religion, national origin and sexual orientation.* |

| **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:** | **Not Implemented** | **District Response Required:** | **Yes** |

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| **Department of Elementary and Secondary Education Findings:** |
| *A review of documentation and staff interviews indicated that the district does not evaluate 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.* |

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| |  | | --- | | **ENGLISH LEARNER EDUCATION**  **LEGAL STANDARDS,**  **COMPLIANCE RATINGS AND**  **FINDINGS** | |

| **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:** |
| *A review of documentation and staff interviews indicated that the district has not established English language proficiency screening procedures to determine each potential English learner preschool student's English language proficiency level. Please see the "Guidance on Identification, Assessment, Placement, and Reclassification of English Language Learners" at http://www.doe.mass.edu/ell/guidance/guidance.pdf.* |

| **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:** | **Partially Implemented** | **District Response Required:** | **Yes** |

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| **Department of Elementary and Secondary Education Findings:** |
| *A review of documentation and staff interviews indicated that English learners (ELs) with disabilities who are entitled to receive both language and disability related services under the Individuals with Disabilities Education Act (IDEA) and Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973 (Section 504) do not have access to direct ESL instruction available to ELs without disabilities. Please see 20 U.S.C. §§1400-1419; 34 C.F.R. pt.300 (IDEA, Part B and its implementing regulations); 29 U.S.C. § 794 and 34 C.F.R. pt.104 (Section 504 and its implementing regulations).*  *Furthermore, document review and staff interviews demonstrated that the district uses Hampton Brown/National Geographic 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 district adopted for the ELE program and described in their Castañeda Three-Pronged Test. The district should note that an ESL curriculum is integral to an effective ELE program in which ELs become English proficient at a rapid pace. Please see http://www.doe.mass.edu/ell/guidance/guidance.pdf.* |

| **CRITERION**  **NUMBER** | ENGLISH LEARNER EDUCATION **III. PARENT AND COMMUNITY INVOLVEMENT** | | | |
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|  | **Legal Standard** | | | |
| ELE 8 | **Declining Entry to a Program**  The district provides English language support to students whose parents have declined entry to a sheltered English immersion, two-way immersion, or other ELE program.  **Authority: Title VI; EEOA; G.L. c. 71, §38Q1/2** | | | |
|  | **Rating:** | **Not Implemented** | **District Response Required:** | **Yes** |

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| **Department of Elementary and Secondary Education Findings:** |
| *A review of documentation, student record review, and staff interviews indicated that the district does not actively monitor the progress of the students whose parents opted out of the ELE program to ensure that these students' linguistic and academic needs are met and the district takes affirmative steps and appropriate action as required by Title VI and EEOA to provide them access to its educational programs.* |

| **CRITERION**  **NUMBER** | ENGLISH LEARNER EDUCATION **V. STUDENT SUPPORT SERVICES** | | | |
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|  | **Legal Standard** | | | |
| ELE 11 | **Equal Access to Academic Programs and Services**   1. The district does not segregate ELs from their English-speaking peers, except where programmatically necessary, to implement an ELE program. 2. The district ensures that ELs participate fully with their English-speaking peers and are provided support in non-core academic courses. 3. The district ensures that ELs have the opportunity to receive support services, such as guidance and counseling, in a language that the student understands. 4. The district ensures that ELs are taught to the same academic standards and curriculum as all students, and provides the same opportunities to master such standards as other students, including the opportunity to enter academically advanced classes, receive credit for work done, and have access to the full range of programs. 5. The district uses grade appropriate content objectives for ELs that are based on the district curricula in English language arts, history and social science, mathematics, and science and technology/engineering, taught by qualified staff members. 6. Reserved. 7. The district provides access to the full range of academic opportunities and supports afforded non-ELs, such as special education services, Section 504 Accommodation Plans, Title I services, career and technical education, and the supports outlined in the district's curriculum accommodation plan. 8. Information in notices such as activities, responsibilities, and academic standards provided to all students is provided to ELs in a language and mode of communication that they understand.   **Authority: Title VI; EEOA; G.L. c. 71, § 38Q1/2; 603 CMR 28.03(3)(a);** **c. 71A, § 7; c. 76, § 5; 603 CMR 26.03; 603 CMR 26.07(8); 34 CFR 300.304(c) (2)** | | | |
|  | **Rating:** | **Partially Implemented** | **District Response Required:** | **Yes** |

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| **Department of Elementary and Secondary Education Findings:** |
| *A review of documentation indicated that ELs do not have access to Social Studies at the middle school and miss content classes, such as Math, at West Street Elementary School due to a rotating schedule.* |

| **CRITERION**  **NUMBER** | ENGLISH LEARNER EDUCATION **V. STUDENT SUPPORT SERVICES** | | | |
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|  | **Legal Standard** | | | |
| ELE 13 | **Follow-Up Support**   1. The district actively monitors students who have exited an ELE education program for four years and provides language support to those students, if needed. 2. The district provides language support, if needed, to remedy any academic deficits the student incurred as a result of participation in the ELE program.   **Authority: Title VI; EEOA; NCLB; Title III** | | | |
|  | **Rating:** | **Not Implemented** | **District Response Required:** | **Yes** |

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| **Department of Elementary and Secondary Education Findings:** |
| *A review of documentation and staff interviews indicated that the district does not actively monitor the progress of students who have exited the ELE program and provide support to those students, as needed.* |

| **CRITERION**  **NUMBER** | ENGLISH LEARNER EDUCATION **VIII. PROGRAM PLAN AND EVALUATION** | | | |
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|  | **Legal Standard** | | | |
| ELE 17 | **Program Evaluation**  The district conducts periodic evaluations of the effectiveness of its ELE program in developing students' English language skills and increasing their ability to participate meaningfully in the educational program. Where the district documents that the program is not effective, it takes steps to make appropriate program adjustments or changes that are responsive to the outcomes of the program evaluation.  **Authority: Title VI; EEOA. Title III § 3121** | | | |
|  | **Rating:** | **Not Implemented** | **District Response Required:** | **Yes** |

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| **Department of Elementary and Secondary Education Findings:** |
| *A review of documentation and staff interviews indicated that the district has not conducted periodic evaluations of the effectiveness of its ELE program in developing students' English language skills and increasing their ability to participate meaningfully in the educational program.* |

| **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:** |
| *A review of EL student records indicated that the following required documentation was not consistently included:*   1. *home language survey;* 2. *results of identification and proficiency tests and evaluations;* 3. *ACCESS for ELLs report;* 4. *MCAS/PARCC reports;* 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.* |

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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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