

**Codman Academy Charter Public School**

**TIERED FOCUSED MONITORING**

**REPORT**

**For** **Group B Universal Standards**

**Tier Level** **3**

**Dates of Onsite Visit:** **May 18, 2021**

**Date of Draft Report:** **July 20, 2021**

**Date of Final Report: September 1, 2021**

**Action Plan Due: September 30, 2021**

**Department of Elementary and Secondary Education Onsite Chairperson:**

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Commissioner of Elementary and Secondary Education

**MASSACHUSETTS DEPARTMENT OF ELEMENTARY AND SECONDARY EDUCATION**

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**MASSACHUSETTS DEPARTMENT OF ELEMENTARY AND SECONDARY EDUCATION**

**TIERED FOCUS MONITORING REPORT**

**Codman Academy Charter Public School**

**SCOPE OF TIER FOCUSED MONITORING REVIEWS**

As one part of its accountability system, the Department of Elementary and Secondary Education oversees local compliance with education requirements through Tiered Focused Monitoring (TFM). 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.

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.

**TIERED FOCUSED MONITORING 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 one 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 Tiered Focused Monitoring Review every three years. The statewide Tiered Focused Monitoring cycle is posted at <<http://www.doe.mass.edu/psm/tfm/6yrcycle.html>>.

**Tier Level:** Each district/charter school is assigned to one of four tier levels: Tier 1/Self-Directed Improvement; Tier 2/Directed Self-Improvement; Tier 3/Corrective Action; and Tier 4/Cross-unit Support and Corrective Action. The Tiered Focused Monitoring process and subsequent technical assistance varies by monitoring tier. Each district/school is assigned to a monitoring tier based on the district/school’s designated DESE Accountability Level along with risk factors, such as Problem Resolution System complaint data and Public School Monitoring report data. Districts/schools in Tiers 1 and 2 have been determined to have no or low risk. Districts/schools in Tiers 3 and 4 have demonstrated greater risk. Agency intervention, additional onsite monitoring, and provision of technical assistance varies based on district/school tier level, allowing the Department to direct resources to those districts requiring the most support.

1. Tier 1/Self-Directed Improvement: Data points indicate no concern on compliance and performance outcomes – meets requirements.
2. Tier 2/Directed Self-Improvement: No demonstrated risk in areas with close link to student outcomes – low risk.
3. Tier 3/Corrective Action: Areas of concern include both compliance and student outcomes – moderate risk.
4. Tier 4/Cross-unit Support and Corrective Action: Areas of concern have a profound effect on student outcomes and ongoing compliance – high risk.

**Process:** Each school district or charter school undergoes a Tiered Focused Monitoring Review every three years. Regularly monitored standards are divided into two groups, known as Group A Universal Standards and Group B Universal Standards. Districts and charter schools are monitored on an alternate set of Universal Standards every three years. The Department has also reserved a specific set of criteria, collectively known as Targeted Standards, employed if LEA or school level risk assessment data indicate there is a potential issue; the identified Targeted Standards are assessed in addition to the Universal Standards.

**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.
* Depending on which Universal Standard group the district/school is participating in and if there are additional Targeted Standards, the district may review a sample of special education student records selected across grade levels, disability categories and level of need.
* If the district/school is participating in a Group A Universal Standards Tiered Focused Monitoring Review, it will submit a review of student records related to the Indicator Data Collection for Indicators 11, 12 and 13 as part of the self-assessment. This Indicator data collection is also part of the State Performance Plan/Annual Performance Report.
* Upon completion of the self-assessment, the district/school submits the data to the Department for review.

**On-site Verification Phase (dependent upon Group A or Group B Universal Standards)**:

* 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 met.
* Surveys of parents of students with disabilities: Parents of 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.
* Observations of classrooms and other facilities: The onsite team may visit 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.

**Report:** **For Tier 3 & 4 Tiered Focused Monitoring Reviews**

At the end of the onsite visit, the onsite team holds 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 forwards to the superintendent or charter school leader a Draft Report containing comments from the Tiered Focused Monitoring 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). Within10 business days of receipt of the Draft Report, the district/charter school reviews and comments on the report for factual accuracy before the publication of a Final Report with ratings and findings (see below). The Tiered Focused Monitoring 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/psm/tfm/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.”

*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.

*Indicator Data.* In the Final Report for a district or charter school undergoing a review for Group A Universal Standards, the onsite team includes the results of the review of Indicator data submissions for Indicators 11, 12 and 13. For any Indicator data noncompliance found, the district or charter school must develop and implement corrective action that includes correcting noncompliance for the individual students affected by it, addressing the root cause and underlying reasons for the identified noncompliance, and reviewing additional records as evidence that the issues have been corrected and that requirements are being met. The Office of Special Education Programs (OSEP) requires correction of noncompliance within one year of the finding.

**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 Tiered Focused Monitoring Report.**

**INTRODUCTION TO THE FINAL REPORT**

#

The Massachusetts Department of Elementary and Secondary Education conducted a Tiered Focused Monitoring Review at Codman Academy Charter Public School during the week of May 17, 2021, to evaluate the implementation of Group B Universal Standards in the program areas of special education, civil rights, and other related general education requirements. The team appreciated the opportunity to interview staff and parents and to review the programs underway in the district.

The Department is submitting the following Tiered Focused Monitoring 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 administrative staff
* Interview of a special education parent advisory council representative
* Surveys of parents of students with disabilities
* Review of special education student records
* Review of floorplans of classrooms and other facilities

The report includes findings in the program areas reviewed based on the assigned Universal Standard group for this review. These **Group B** standards are:

* Licensure and professional development
* Parent/student/community engagement
* Facilities and classroom observations
* Oversight
* Time and learning
* Equal access

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| The Tiered Focused Monitoring 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," and “Implementation in Progress.” (Refer to the “Definition of Compliance Ratings” section of the report.) The Tiered Focused Monitoring Reports do not include criteria receiving a rating of “Implemented” or “Not Applicable.” This will allow the district/school and the Department to focus their efforts on those areas requiring corrective action. 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; 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. |

**Codman Academy Charter Public School**

**SUMMARY OF COMPLIANCE CRITERIA RATINGS**

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|  | **Universal Standards Special Education** | **Universal Standards Civil Rights and Other General Education Requirements** | **Targeted Standards** |
| **IMPLEMENTED** | SE 15, SE 35, SE 36, SE 50, SE 51, SE 52, SE 52A, SE 54, SE 55, SE 56 | CR 3, CR 7, CR 7A, CR 7B, CR 7C, CR 10A, CR 10B, CR 12A, CR 16, CR 17A, CR 20, CR 21, CR 22, CR 23, CR 24 | SE 44, SE 45, SE 46, SE 47 |
| **PARTIALLY****IMPLEMENTED** | SE 32 | CR 10C, CR 25 |  |
| **NOTIMPLEMENTED** |  |  |  |
| **NOTAPPLICABLE** |  |  |  |

The Tiered Focused Monitoring Toolkit, which includes the regulatory requirements specific to the special education and civil rights criteria referenced in the table above, can be found at <<http://www.doe.mass.edu/psm/resources/default.html>>.

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

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| **CRITERION****NUMBER** |       |
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|  | **Legal Standard** |
| **SE 32** | Parent advisory council for special education 1. The school district has established a district-wide parent advisory council on special education.
2. Membership on the council is offered to all parents of students with disabilities and other interested parties.
3. The parent advisory council duties include but are not limited to: advising the district on matters that pertain to the education and safety of students with disabilities; meeting regularly with school officials to participate in the planning, development, and evaluation of the school district's special education programs.
4. The parent advisory council has established by-laws regarding officers and operational procedures.
5. The parent advisory council receives assistance from the school committee without charge, upon reasonable notice, and subject to the availability of staff and resources.
6. The school district conducts, in cooperation with the parent advisory council, at least one workshop annually within the district on the rights of students and their parents and guardians under the state and federal special education laws.
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|  | State Requirements | Federal Requirements |
|  | M.G.L. c. 71B, § 3; 603 CMR 28.03(1)(a)(4); 28.07(4) |  |
|  | **Rating:** |  **Partially Implemented**  | **District Response Required:** | **Yes** |

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| **Department of Elementary and Secondary Education Findings: Findings:** |
| *A review of documents and administrative interviews indicated that the charter school has established a parent advisory council for special education (SEPAC), which has developed by-laws regarding operational procedures. Document review and interviews also indicated that the charter school conducts, in cooperation with the parent advisory council, at least one workshop annually within the school on the rights of students and their parents and guardians under the state and federal special education laws. However, document review and interviews indicated that the SEPAC does not have elected officers and does not advise the charter school on matters pertaining to the education and safety of students with disabilities; the SEPAC does not meet regularly with school officials to participate in the planning, development, and evaluation of the school's special education programs.* |

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

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| **CRITERION****NUMBER** |       |
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|  | **Legal Standard** |
| CR 10C | Student DisciplineEach 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 documents indicated that the procedures for student discipline do not address all required components; specifically, the charter school has not developed the notice of long-term suspension and hearing, notices of determination for short or long-term suspension, or the notice of appeal to the superintendent that contains all requirements per M.G.L. Ch. 71, sec. 37H ¾. In addition, document review indicated that the charter school has not developed a system for periodic review of discipline data by principals to assess the extent of the use of suspension, determine its impact on the removal and exclusion of selected student sub-groups, and make adjustments as necessary to address over-reliance on suspensions and expulsions.* |

| **CRITERION****NUMBER** |       |
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|  | **Legal Standard** |
| CR 25 | Institutional self-evaluationThe district evaluates all aspects of its K-12 program annually to ensure that all students, regardless of race, color, sex, gender identity, religion, national origin, limited English proficiency, sexual orientation, disability, or housing status, have equal access to all programs, including athletics and other extracurricular activities. It makes such changes as are indicated by the evaluation. |
|  | Title VI: 42 U.S.C. 2000d; 34 CFR 100.3(b)(2); EEOA: 20 U.S.C. 1703(f); Section 504: 29 U.S.C. 794; 34 CFR 104.4(b)(4); Title II: 42 U.S.C. 12132; 28 CFR 35.130(b)(3); NCLB: Title III, Part A, Sec. 3121(c)(1)(C); Title X, Part C, Sec. 722(g)(1)(J)(i), 722(g)(7); Mass. Const. amend. art. 114; M.G.L. c. 71A, § 7; c. 76, § 5; 603 CMR 26.07(1),(4) as amended by Chapter 199 of the Acts of 2011 |
|  | **Rating:** |  **Partially Implemented**  | **District Response Required:** | **Yes** |

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| **Department of Elementary and Secondary Education Findings:** |
| *A review of documents and administrative interviews indicated that although a self-evaluation process has been developed, the charter school 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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| This Tiered Focused Monitoring Final Report is also available at:<http://www.doe.mass.edu/psm/tfm/default.html>.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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| Prepared by: | AM/JK |