

Massachusetts Department of Elementary and Secondary Education

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Jeffrey C. Riley
Commissioner

March 11, 2021

Gregory Martineau, Superintendent
The Public Schools of Northborough and Southborough
53 Parkerville Road
Southborough, MA 01772

Re: Tiered Focused Monitoring Report for Special Education and Civil Rights

Dear Superintendent Martineau:

The Office of Public School Monitoring recently conducted a Tier 1 Tiered Focused Monitoring (TFM) Review in your district. During this review, the Department monitored selected special education and civil rights criteria to determine your district's compliance with laws and regulations.

We are pleased to tell you that the Department has found your district to be in compliance with all of the criteria monitored during the TFM Review and no corrective action is required at this time.

Enclosed you will find a copy of the Tiered Focused Monitoring Report. To access the report on the Department's website, please visit <http://www.doe.mass.edu> and select *Security Portal* then *PQA WebMonitoring*. Continue by selecting *Home > PSM Tier Review > Feedback/CIMP > View TFM Report*. The Tiered Focused Monitoring Toolkit, which includes the regulatory requirements specific to the special education and civil rights criteria referenced in this report, can be found at <http://www.doe.mass.edu/psm/resources/default.html>.

In closing, we would like to thank the administration and staff who shared their time and thoughts so generously during the preparation and onsite phases of the review, and we commend you on your commitment and diligence in the areas reviewed under TFM. Special thanks are given to Marie Alan for coordinating this visit for the district. Should you need any additional information or assistance, please do not hesitate to contact Samantha Alvarez at (781) 338-3752.

Sincerely,

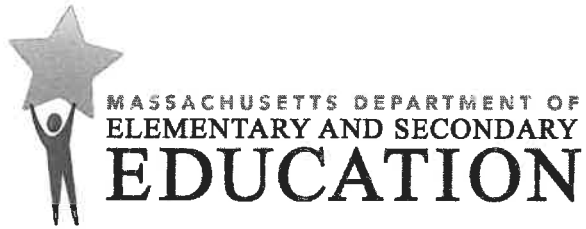
Samantha Alvarez

Samantha Alvarez
Tiered Focused Monitoring Review Chairperson
Office of Public School Monitoring

Timothy Gallagher

Timothy Gallagher, Assistant Director
Office of Public School Monitoring

cc: Keith R. Lebel, Northborough School Committee Chairperson
Roger Challen, Southborough School Committee Chairperson
Joan G. Frank, Northborough-Southborough Regional School Committee Chairperson
Marie Alan, Local Monitoring Review Coordinator



The Public Schools of Northborough and Southborough

Tiered Focused Monitoring Report

**For Group B Universal Standards
Tier Level 1**

Dates of Onsite Visit: February 22-25, 2021

Date of Final Report: March 11, 2021



Jeffrey C. Riley
Commissioner of Elementary and Secondary Education

During the 2020-2021 school year, The Public Schools of Northborough and Southborough participated in a Tiered Focused Monitoring Review conducted by the Department's Office of Public School Monitoring. The purpose of the Tiered Focused Monitoring Review is to monitor compliance with regulatory requirements focusing on special education and civil rights. **The Department is pleased to report that the district was found to be in compliance with all criteria reviewed; no corrective action is required at this time.**

School districts are reviewed every three years through Tiered Focused Monitoring. This review process emphasizes elements most tied to student outcomes and alternates the focus of each review on either Group A Universal Standards or Group B Universal Standards.

Group A Universal Standards address:

- Student identification
- IEP development
- Programming and support services
- Equal opportunity

Group B Universal Standards address:

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

In addition, the Department has reserved a specific set of criteria, collectively known as Targeted Standards, employed when LEA or school-level risk assessment data indicate that there is a potential issue. Identified Targeted Standards are assessed in addition to the Universal Standards.

Universal Standards and Targeted Standards are aligned with the following regulations:

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).

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- various requirements under other federal and state laws.

Tiered Focused Monitoring allows for differentiated monitoring based on a district's level of need; the Tiers are defined as follows:

LEAs in Tiers 1 and 2 have been determined to have no or low risk:

- Tier 1/Self-Directed Improvement: Data points indicate no concern on compliance and performance outcomes – meets requirements.
- Tier 2/Directed Improvement: No demonstrated risk in areas with close link to student outcomes – low risk.

LEAs in Tiers 3 and 4 have demonstrated greater risk:

- Tier 3/Corrective Action: Areas of concern include both compliance and student outcomes – moderate risk.
- Tier 4/Cross-unit Support and Corrective Action: Areas of concern have profound effect on student outcomes and ongoing compliance – high risk.

The phases of Tiered Focused Monitoring for The Public Schools of Northborough and Southborough included:

Self-Assessment Phase:

- District reviewed special education and civil rights documentation for required elements including document uploads.
- Upon completion of this internal review, the district's self-assessment was submitted to the Department for review.

Verification Phase:

- Review of additional documents for special education or civil rights.
- Surveys of parents of students with disabilities: Parents of students with disabilities were sent a survey to solicit information regarding their experiences with the district's implementation of special education programs, related services, and procedural requirements.
- Interviews of staff consistent with those criteria selected for onsite verification.
- Interviews of parent advisory council (PAC) representatives.
- Observations of classrooms and other facilities: The onsite team reviewed floor plans of school facilities used in the delivery of programs and services to determine general levels of compliance with program requirements.

DEFINITION OF COMPLIANCE RATINGS

Commendable	Any requirement or aspect of a requirement implemented in an exemplary manner significantly beyond the requirements of law or regulation.
Implemented	The requirement is substantially met in all important aspects.
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.
Partially Implemented	The requirement, in one or several important aspects, is not entirely met.
Not Implemented	The requirement is totally or substantially not met.
Not Applicable	The requirement does not apply to the school district.

The Public Schools of Northborough and Southborough

SUMMARY OF COMPLIANCE CRITERIA RATINGS

	Universal Standards Special Education	Universal Standards Civil Rights and Other General Education Requirements
IMPLEMENTED	SE 15, SE 32, 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 8, CR 10A, CR 10B, CR 10C, CR 12A, CR 16, CR 17A, CR 20, CR 21, CR 22, CR 23, CR 24, CR 25
PARTIALLY IMPLEMENTED		
NOT IMPLEMENTED		

The review instruments, that include the regulatory requirements specific to the special education and civil rights criteria referenced in the table above, can be found at www.doe.mass.edu/psm/resources/default.html.