



Massachusetts Department of Elementary and Secondary Education

75 Pleasant Street, Malden, Massachusetts 02148-4906

Telephone: (781) 338-3000
TTY: N.E.T. Relay 1-800-439-2370

Jeffrey C. Riley
Commissioner

December 10, 2018

Jennifer McCrystal, Director of Special Education
Lowell Public Schools
155 Merrimack Street
Lowell, MA 01852

Re: Special Education State Performance Plan/Annual Performance Report Indicator 11 (Initial Evaluation Timelines)

Dear Ms. McCrystal:

I am writing to notify you that your district has corrected all identified noncompliance with Indicator 11: Initial Evaluation Timelines. In the spring of 2018, your district reported data for the Massachusetts Special Education State Performance Plan/Annual Performance Report (SPP/APR) for Indicator 11: Initial Evaluation Timelines. Based on your district's data, the Department issued a finding of noncompliance on July 30, 2018, and you were directed to submit a corrective action report to address the root causes of the noncompliance.

The Department received the district's corrective action report that articulated an acceptable plan. In the corrective action report, you indicated that meetings were held with building-based leaders and special education staff to discuss the importance of timelines and review the specific action steps outlined in the corrective action report. These action steps included the following:

- spot-checking of files to ensure compliance and reporting out to principals for any noncompliance;
- monthly meetings led by Team chairpersons with building-based staff to review meeting status; and
- determining if students with non-compliant records require compensatory services.

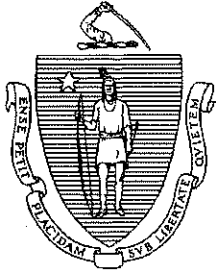
In order to demonstrate that these activities were successful in addressing the identified noncompliance, your district completed a review of an additional five student records. The Department reviewed the recently submitted data set and has determined that this data demonstrates 100% compliance with the requirements described in Indicator 11. This is satisfactory evidence of correction of identified noncompliance and no further activity is required at this time.

We appreciate your continued support for meeting students' needs in a timely manner.

Sincerely,


Van Rastogi-Kelly, Director
Office of Public School Monitoring

cc: Matthew Nixon, Tiered Focused Monitoring Chairperson



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155 Merrimack Street
Lowell, MA 01852

Re: SPP/APR Indicator 12: Early Childhood Transition (Part C to Part B transition)

Dear Ms. McCrystal:

I am writing to notify you that your district has corrected all identified noncompliance with Indicator 12: Early Childhood Transition. In the spring of 2018, your district reported data for the Massachusetts Special Education State Performance Plan/Annual Performance Report (SPP/APR) for Indicator 12: Early Childhood Transition. Based on your district's data, the Department issued a finding of noncompliance on July 30, 2018, and you were directed to submit a corrective action report to address the root causes of the noncompliance.

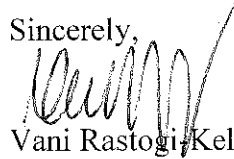
The Department received the district's corrective action report that articulated an acceptable plan. In the corrective action report, you indicated that meetings were held with building-based leaders, early childhood leaders, and special education staff to discuss the importance of meeting timelines and review the specific action steps outlined in the corrective action report. These action steps included the following:

- developing a tracking system in order to meet evaluation timelines;
- conducting monthly meetings with early childhood leaders; and
- conducting spot checks of student files to ensure compliance.

In order to demonstrate that these activities were successful in addressing the identified noncompliance, your district completed a review of an additional five student records. The Department reviewed the recently submitted data set and has determined that this data demonstrates 100% compliance with the requirements described in Indicator 12. This is satisfactory evidence of correction of identified noncompliance and no further activity is required at this time.

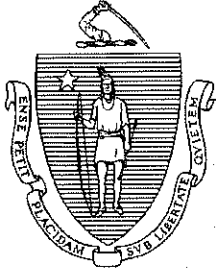
If you have any questions, please contact Matthew Nixon at 781-338-3733 or
mnixon@doe.mass.edu.

Sincerely,



Vani Rastogi Kelly, Director
Office of Public School Monitoring

cc: Matthew Nixon, Tiered Focused Monitoring Chairperson



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155 Merrimack Street
Lowell, MA 01852

Re: Special Education State Performance Plan/Annual Performance Report Indicator 13:
Secondary Transition

Dear Ms. McCrystal:

I am writing to notify you that your district has corrected all identified noncompliance with Indicator 13: Secondary Transition. In the spring of 2018, your district reported data for the Massachusetts Special Education State Performance Plan/Annual Performance Report (SPP/APR) for Indicator 13: Secondary Transition. Based on your district's data, the Department issued a finding of noncompliance on July 30, 2018, and you were directed to implement corrective action to address the root causes of the noncompliance.

The Department received the district's Proposed Transition Action Plan in which you indicated the following:


- Team chairpersons will hold monthly meetings to discuss transition planning;
- staff training will be conducted by a transition planning specialist with ongoing specialist review of IEPs and TPFs; and
- staff trained by the specialist will train other staff at assigned schools on transition planning.

In addition, the IEP Team for the student with the identified noncompliant record was reconvened and a representative from a participating agency was invited to the meeting.

In order to demonstrate that these activities were successful in addressing the identified noncompliance, your district completed a review of an additional six student records. The Department reviewed the recently submitted data set and determined that this data demonstrates 100% compliance with the requirements described in Indicator 13. This is satisfactory evidence of correction of identified noncompliance and no further activity is required at this time.

If you have any questions, please contact Matthew Nixon at 781-338-3733 or
mnixon@doe.mass.edu.

Sincerely,



Vani Rastogi-Kelly, Director
Office of Public School Monitoring

cc: Matthew Nixon, Tiered Focused Monitoring Chairperson