



ANDOVER PUBLIC SCHOOLS

36 Bartlet Street
Andover, MA 01810
(978) 247-7010

SCHOOL COMMITTEE

Joel Blumstein, Esq. - Chair
Tracey Spruce, Esq. - Vice Chair
Susan K. McCready
Paul Murphy
Shannon Scully

Sheldon H. Berman, Ed.D
Superintendent of Schools

Contact: Nicole Kieser
Director of Communications
Andover Public Schools
nicole.kieser@andoverma.us

Department of Elementary and Secondary Education Gives Andover a Positive Review *Special Education, Civil Rights and English Language Learning in Full Compliance*

Andover, Mass., January 7, 2020— Andover Public Schools (APS) received a positive result from the Department of Elementary and Secondary Education’s (DESE) most recent Tiered Focused Monitoring Report. The finding in the report reads: “The Department is pleased to report that the school district was found to be in compliance with all criteria reviewed; no corrective action is required at this time.”

All Massachusetts school districts and charter schools participate in the public school monitoring process every six years to ensure compliance with federal and state regulations in three categories: special education, civil rights and English language learning. Each district and charter school also receives a mid-cycle review after three years.

The district is required to submit extensive documentation to DESE prior to an on-site visit and review. In December 2019, representatives from DESE visited APS for their “On-Site” verification process. After the review of documentation and the on-site visit, DESE concluded that APS was found to be in compliance with all criteria reviewed and, importantly, no corrective action on the part the district is required at this time.

In 2014, APS began significant work to address DESE’s findings of multiple issues needing corrective action in special education, civil rights and English language learning.

“I am extremely pleased with DESE’s findings,” notes Dr. Sheldon Berman, superintendent of Andover Public Schools. “The 2019 report is a result of the hard work and efforts of Dr. Sara Stetson, assistant superintendent of Student Services, Sandra Trach, assistant superintendent of Teaching and Learning, and World Language Program Coordinator Jorge Allen.”

“This year, we achieved a perfect report on the 33 areas DESE reviewed in addition to the federal requirements. I am very proud of the work our department coordinators, educational team facilitators, teachers, and specialists put into a deep review of their practices and the development of new processes and procedures,” adds Dr. Sara Stetson, assistant superintendent of Student Services. “The professionalism with which they took on this work has been commendable. I look forward to leading the work on Andover’s next set of compliance reviews.”

By engaging in Tiered Focused Monitoring, DESE’s Office of Public School Monitoring (PSM) works with school districts and charter schools to promote positive student outcomes. PSM monitors the implementation of special education and civil rights requirements to support improved and sustained outcomes for students in the Commonwealth.

###

About APS: The mission of the Andover Public Schools, in partnership with the entire Andover community, is to educate by engaging and inspiring students to develop as self-reliant, responsible citizens who are thinkers, problem solvers, and contributors prepared to participate in an evolving global society.