

Press Release Quabbin Regional School District to participate in Tiered Focused Monitoring Review of Special Education, Civil Rights and English Learner Education

During the week of **November 18, 2019** the Department of Elementary and Secondary Education's Office of Public School Monitoring (PSM) will conduct a Tiered Focused Monitoring Review of Quabbin Regional School District. The Office of Public School Monitoring visits each district and charter school every three years to monitor compliance with federal and state special education and civil rights regulations. Areas of review related to special education include student assessments, determination of eligibility, the Individualized Education Program (IEP) Team process, and IEP development and implementation. Areas of review related to civil rights include bullying, student discipline, physical restraint, and equal access to school programs for all students.

In addition to the onsite visit, parent outreach is an important part of the review process. Representatives from the Office of Public School Monitoring will conduct a one-hour parent orientation, ideally, to occur during a scheduled SEPAC meeting. Quabbin Regional School District is responsible for setting the date and time, location, and informing parents of the meeting. This meeting is scheduled for October 15, 2019 at 7:00 p.m. at the Professional Development Center at the Quabbin Regional School District Central Office at 872 South Street, Barre MA.

The review chairperson from the Office of Public School Monitoring will also send all parents of students with disabilities an online survey that focuses on key areas of their child's special education program. Survey results will contribute to the development of a report. During the onsite review, the Office of Public School Monitoring will interview the chairperson(s) of the district's Special Education Parent Advisory Council (SEPAC). Other onsite activities may include interviews of district staff and administrators, reviews of student records, and onsite observations.

Parents and other individuals may call Michelle Hennessy-Kowalchek, Public School Monitoring Chairperson, at (781) 338- 3704 to request a telephone interview. If an individual requires an accommodation, such as translation, to participate in an interview, the Department will make the necessary arrangements.

Within approximately 60 business days after the onsite visit, the review chairperson will provide the district with a report with information about areas in which the district meets or exceeds regulatory requirements and areas in which the district requires assistance to correct or improve practices. The public will be able to access the report at www.doe.mass.edu/pqa/review/cpr/reports/.