



WESTPORT COMMUNITY SCHOOLS

Office of the Special Education Department

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Notification: Tiered Focused Monitoring Press Release

Dear Parents/Guardians,

During the week of May 13, 2024 the Department of Elementary and Secondary Education's Office of Public School Monitoring will conduct a Tiered Focused Monitoring Review of Westport Community Schools. The Office of Public School Monitoring reviews 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.

Parent outreach is an important part of the review process. Prior to the review, the chairperson from the Office of Public School Monitoring sent an online survey to all parents of students with disabilities receiving IEP services. The survey focused on key areas of their child's special education program. Survey results will contribute to the activities of the onsite review and the development of the final report.

The Department of Elementary and Secondary Education (DESE) chairperson conducted a virtual Parent Orientation meeting, in conjunction with the SEPAC, on March 7, 2024 to explain the review process and provide parents with an opportunity to ask questions.

During the onsite review, the Office of Public School Monitoring reviews student records and conducts interviews, including interviewing the Special Education Parent Advisory Council (SEPAC) chairperson, as well as district administrators and staff. After the conclusion of the review, the public will be able to access the report at <http://www.doe.mass.edu/psm/tfm/reports>.

Parents and other individuals may call Julie Evans, Public School Monitoring Chairperson, at (781) 338- 3754 to request additional information, or contact Wendy Miranda or Nancy Tavares, Special Education Coordinators, at 508 636-1140 ext. 4010.

Respectfully,

Wendy Miranda

Nancy Tavares

Special Education Coordinators

It is the policy of the Westport Community Schools to maintain a learning and working environment that is free from harassment, violence or discrimination based on actual or perceived race, color, creed, religion, national origin, sex/gender, marital status, homelessness, disability, sexual orientation, gender identity or expression, age, family care leave status, pregnancy or any condition related to pregnancy, or military/veteran status.