



MASSACHUSETTS  
Department of Elementary  
and Secondary Education

## **Springfield International Charter School**

### **Tiered Focused Monitoring Report**

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

**Date of Onsite Visit: December 13, 2022**

**Date of Final Report: January 31, 2023**

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**MASSACHUSETTS DEPARTMENT OF ELEMENTARY AND SECONDARY EDUCATION  
TIERED FOCUSED MONITORING REPORT**

**Springfield International Charter School**

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## MASSACHUSETTS DEPARTMENT OF ELEMENTARY AND SECONDARY EDUCATION REPORT INTRODUCTION

During the 2022-2023 school year, Springfield International Charter School participated in a Tiered Focused Monitoring Review (TFM) conducted by the Department's Office of Public School Monitoring (PSM). 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 school was found to be in compliance with all criteria reviewed; no corrective action is required at this time.**

Each school district, charter school, vocational school, and virtual school undergoes a Tiered Focused Monitoring Review every three years. The statewide Tiered Focused Monitoring cycle is posted at <https://www.doe.mass.edu/psm/tfm/6yrcycle.html>.

Regularly monitored standards are divided into two groups, known as Group A Universal Standards and Group B Universal Standards. Districts and schools are monitored on an alternate set of Universal Standards every three years.

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

The Department has also reserved a specific set of criteria, collectively known as Targeted Standards, employed if LEA or school level risk assessment data indicate there is a potential issue; the 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 the Every Student Succeeds Act (ESSA); 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

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- 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).
- Various requirements under other federal and state laws.

**PSM Team:**

Depending upon the size of a school or district and the number of special education programs to be reviewed, a team of one to four Department staff members conducts onsite activities over one to five days in a school district or charter school.

**Tier Level:**

The level of monitoring varies based on tier designation, aligning supports to the level of need and ensuring that districts and schools with greater needs receive appropriate supports to make sustained improvements.

Tier	Title	Description
1	Self-Directed Improvement	Data points indicate no concern on compliance and student outcomes.
2	Directed Improvement	No demonstrated risk in areas with close link to student outcomes.
3	Corrective Action	Areas of concern include both compliance and student outcomes.
4	Cross-unit Support and Corrective Action	Areas of concern have a profound effect on student outcomes and ongoing compliance.

For the 2022-2023 school year, the tier assignments are based on:

- Annual drop-out rate for students with disabilities
- Five-year cohort graduation rate for students with disabilities
- Public School Monitoring compliance data from the previous review
- Problem Resolution System data, specifically findings of noncompliance
- Special education SPP/APR compliance Indicator data for Indicators 4B, 9 & 10
  - Indicator 4B: Significant discrepancy by race or ethnicity in removal of students with IEPs greater than 10 days
  - Indicator 9: Overall disproportionate representation of racial and ethnic groups identified as eligible for special education
  - Indicator 10: Disproportionate representation of racial and ethnic groups within specific disability categories
- Special education SPP/APR performance Indicator data for Indicators 5 & 6
  - Indicator 5: Education Environments (6-21)
  - Indicator 6: Preschool Environments
- Significant Disproportionality data 2021-2022 & 2022-2023

Tiering adjustments may be made for schools and districts engaged in work with the Department's Statewide System of Support and have schools identified as requiring assistance and intervention. Tiering assignments may also be adjusted for schools and districts unable to remedy noncompliance within one year of the previous TFM review, as well as for charter schools requiring additional oversight based on conditions of their charter.

For more information regarding the TFM Review Process, including district and parent resources, please visit < <https://www.doe.mass.edu/psm/tfm/default.html> >.

## **TIERED FOCUSED MONITORING FINAL REPORT**

### **Springfield International Charter School**

The Massachusetts Department of Elementary and Secondary Education conducted a Tiered Focused Monitoring Review in Springfield International Charter School during the week of December 12, 2022, to evaluate the implementation of Group A Universal Standards in the program areas of special education, civil rights, and other related general education requirements. The team appreciated the opportunity to interview staff and parents, to observe classroom facilities, and to review the programs underway in the school.

In preparing this report, the team reviewed extensive written documentation regarding the operation of the school's programs, together with information gathered by means of the following Department program review methods:

#### **Self-Assessment Phase:**

- Charter school review of special education and civil rights documentation for required elements including document uploads.
- Charter school review of a sample of special education student records selected across grade levels, disability categories, and levels of need.
- Charter school review of student records related to the Indicator Data Collection for Indicators 11, 12, and 13.
- Upon completion of the self-assessment, the school submitted the data to the Department for review.

#### **On-site Phase:**

- Interviews of staff consistent with those criteria selected for onsite verification.
- Interview of parent advisory council (PAC) representative.
- Review of additional documents for special education and civil rights.
- Surveys of parents of students in special education: Parents of students in special education were sent a survey that solicited information regarding their experiences with the school's special education programs, related services, and procedural requirements.
- Review of student records for special education: The Department selected a sample of student records from those the school reviewed as part of its self-assessment, as well as records chosen by the Department from the special education student roster. The onsite team conducted this review, using standard Department procedures, to determine whether procedural and programmatic requirements have been met.
- Observations of classrooms and other facilities.

## DEFINITION OF COMPLIANCE RATINGS

<b>Commendable</b>	Any requirement or aspect of a requirement implemented in an exemplary manner significantly beyond the requirements of law or regulation.
<b>Implemented</b>	The requirement is substantially met in all important aspects.
<b>Implementation in Progress</b>	This rating is used for criteria containing new or updated legal requirements; 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.
<b>Partially Implemented</b>	The requirement, in one or several important aspects, is not entirely met.
<b>Not Implemented</b>	The requirement is totally or substantially not met.
<b>Not Applicable</b>	The requirement does not apply to the school district or charter school.

# Springfield International Charter School

## SUMMARY OF COMPLIANCE RATINGS

	Universal Standards Special Education	Universal Standards Civil Rights and Other General Education Requirements	Targeted Standards
<b>IMPLEMENTED</b>	SE 1, SE 2, SE 3, SE 3A, SE 6, SE 7, SE 8, SE 9, SE 9A, SE 10, SE 11, SE 12, SE 13, SE 14, SE 18A, SE 19, SE 20, SE 22, SE 25, SE 26, SE 29, SE 34, SE 35, SE 40, SE 41, SE 43, SE 48, SE 49	CR 13, CR 14, CR 18	CR 10C, SE 44, SE 45, SE 46, SE 47
<b>PARTIALLY IMPLEMENTED</b>	None		
<b>NOT IMPLEMENTED</b>	None		
<b>NOT APPLICABLE</b>	SE 17, SE 37, SE 38, SE 39, SE 42		

The full list of criteria and information regarding the requirements can be found in Appendix B of the Tiered Focused Monitoring Toolkit available at < <https://www.doe.mass.edu/psm/resources/tfm-toolkit.docx>>.



## SUMMARY OF INDICATOR DATA REVIEW

As part of the self-assessment process for districts or charter schools undergoing a review for Group A Universal Standards, the PSM team reviewed the results of Indicator data submissions for Indicators 11, 12 and 13. The Indicator review is completed prior to the onsite visit and helps inform the scope of the onsite review. For any Indicator data noncompliance found, the district or charter school must develop and implement corrective action that includes correcting noncompliance for the individual students affected by it, addressing the root cause and underlying reasons for the identified noncompliance, and reviewing additional records as evidence that the issues have been corrected and that requirements are being met. The Office of Special Education Programs (OSEP) requires correction of noncompliance within one year of the finding.

The results of the Department's analysis regarding these Indicators are as follows:

	<b>Compliant</b>	<b>Non-Compliant</b>	<b>Not Applicable</b>
<b>Indicator 11 – Initial Evaluation Timelines</b>	X		
<b>Indicator 12 – Early Childhood Transition</b>			X
<b>Indicator 13 – Secondary Transition</b>	X		