

CONTACT INFORMATION:

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RELEASE DATE:

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DESE To Conduct Site Visit Focused on Special Education

DESE will visit Salem Academy the week of March 15, 2021

SALEM, MA, February 26, 2021 — During the week of March 15, 2021 the Department of Elementary and Secondary Education's Office of Public School Monitoring (PSM) will conduct a Tiered Focused Monitoring Review of Salem Academy Charter School. 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. The review chairperson from the Office of Public School Monitoring will 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 Erin VandeVeer, Public School Monitoring Chairperson, at (781) 338- 3735 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 <http://www.doe.mass.edu/psm/tfm/reports/>.

ABOUT SALEM ACADEMY: Salem Academy Charter School opened its doors to sixth and seventh graders in September 2004 with the promise to serve the diverse population of Salem. Through a unique integration of college preparatory classes with service to the community, Salem Academy's mission is to graduate informed, articulate, and proactive individuals of strong character. Today, Salem Academy has over 480 students in grades six through twelve. For more information, please visit salemacademycs.org.

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