Hello EMK Families & Staff,

During November, the Department of Elementary and Secondary Education’s Office of Public School Monitoring will conduct a Tiered Focused Monitoring Review of Edward M. Kennedy Academy for Health Careers. These periodic visits to each district and charter school allow DESE to monitor compliance with federal and state special education, civil rights, and English learner education laws and 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. Areas of review related to English learners include student assessments; identification of English learners; what programs English learners are placed in; parent and community involvement; curriculum and instruction; student support services; licensure requirements for faculty, staff and administration; program plans; and evaluation and recordkeeping.

In addition to the onsite visit, parent/guardian outreach is an important part of the review. The review chairperson from DESE will send all parents of students with disabilities and some parents of English learners a survey that focuses on key areas of their child’s education program. Survey results will contribute to the development of a report. During the onsite review, 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 of Special Education students and other individuals may call Moses Nduati, Public School Monitoring Chairperson, at 781-338-3707 to request a telephone interview. Parents of English Learners and other individuals may call Sibel Hughes, Office of Language Acquisition Review Chairperson, at (781) 338-3569 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 Department will provide the charter school with a report with information about areas in which the charter school meets or exceeds regulatory requirements and areas in which the charter school requires assistance to correct or improve practices. The public will be able to access the Special Education report at www.doe.mass.edu/pqa/review/cpr/reports/ and the English Learner report at http://www.doe.mass.edu/ell/cpr/?section=reports.

If you have any questions about the visit, please reach out to Ms. Mary-Alyce Whitham directly at 617-635-8450.

Sincerely,

Dr. Caren Walker Gregory, Headmaster

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