

AMESBURY PUBLIC SCHOOLS



ELIZABETH McANDREWS
ACTING SUPERINTENDENT OF SCHOOLS

LYNN CATARIUS
DIRECTOR OF STUDENT SERVICES

5 Highland Street
Amesbury, MA 01913

JOAN LIPORTO
DIRECTOR OF FINANCE
AND OPERATIONS

LYN JACQUES
DIRECTOR OF TEACHING
AND LEARNING

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE :

Contact: Lyn Jacques
Director of Teaching & Learning
Amesbury Public Schools
(978) 388-0507
jacquesl@amesburyma.gov

Amesbury Public Schools' Triannual Tiered Focus Monitoring Review *DESE's Review of Special Education and Civil Rights*

(Amesbury, MA, January 15, 2021) During the week of January 25, 2021, the Department of Elementary and Secondary Education's Office of Public School Monitoring (PSM) will conduct a Tiered Focused Monitoring Review of the Amesbury Public 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.

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 review, the Office of Public School Monitoring will interview the chairperson of the district's Special Education Parent Advisory Council (SEPAC). Other activities may include interviews of school staff and administrators, reviews of student records, and observations. Parents and other individuals may call Dee Wyatt, Public School Monitoring Chairperson, at (781) 338-3794 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 review, the chairperson will provide the Amesbury Public School 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/.