

GATEWAY REGIONAL SCHOOL DISTRICT

12 Littleville Road Huntington, MA 01050

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

CONTACT: Wendy V. Long, Public Relations ☒
(413) 685-1003

Parent input sought for Tiered Focused Monitoring at Gateway

Huntington – Parents of children who receive special education services in the Gateway Regional School District are invited to provide input into a Tiered Focused Monitoring process this spring. There will be several ways to provide input, including taking a survey about Gateway special education services or being interviewed by the visiting staff from the Massachusetts Department of Elementary and Second Education. This review is conducted by the state every three years.

DESE's Office of Public School Monitoring staff, which monitors compliance with federal and state special education and civil rights regulations, will conduct the review during the week of March 11. Areas under review include student assessments, determination of special education eligibility, the Individualized Education Program (IEP) Team process, and IEP development and implementation. Civil rights areas include bullying, student discipline, physical restraint and equal access to school programs for all students.

Parent outreach is an important part of this review process. The review chairperson from the Office of Public School Monitoring will send an online survey to all parents of students with disabilities. This survey will focus on key areas of their child's special education program and survey results will contribute to the final report. Parents who do not have internet access may also request a phone survey or a hard copy (paper) survey. The visiting team will also be onsite to interview district staff and administrators, review student needs and conduct onsite observations.

Parents and other individuals may call Marc Oldenburg (413.314.6703), the Public School Monitoring Chairperson, to request a telephone interview. DESE staff will make arrangements as needed for parents who need an accommodation, such as translation, to take part in an interview.

Within approximately 60 business days after the onsite visit, the review chairperson will provide Gateway with a report about areas in which Gateway met or exceeded regulatory requirements and areas in which Gateway requires assistance to correct or improve practices. The public will be able to access the report at www.mass.edu/pqa/review/cpr/reports/.

###