

**Medford Public Schools
PRESS RELEASE**

Coordinated Program Review Onsite Visit

Date: November 1, 2011

Superintendent of Schools Roy E Belson is announcing that the Massachusetts Department of Elementary and Secondary Education will be conducting a Coordinated Program Review of the Medford Public Schools beginning December 5, 2011. This review is done every six years to all school systems in the state. The Department is reviewing several programs during a single visit in order to use Department and school staff's time most efficiently and to encourage strong connections among the programs.

The Department's Coordinated Program Review will address the following programs: Special Education, Civil Rights, Vocational Education, and English Language Learner programs. After reviewing Medford's procedures for these programs, a Department team will make its onsite visit, during which it will review individual student records, interview administrators, teachers and paraprofessional staff, survey parents and observe instructional spaces. After the onsite visit it will prepare a report for the superintendent and school committee, with detailed findings for each program.

Using a scale of ratings ranging from "Commendable" to "Not Implemented," the report will rate the implementation of each requirement reviewed by the Department. Where requirements are found not implemented or only partially implemented, the district must propose to the Department corrective action to bring those areas into compliance with statutes and regulations. Districts and schools are encouraged to incorporate the corrective action into their district and school improvement plans and professional development plan. The school district will be provided with technical assistance from the Department in developing a corrective action plan. Both the Department's report and the corrective action plan are public information and will be available to the public upon request. Program Review Final Reports are also available on the Department's Internet website at <http://www.doe.mass.edu/pqa/review/cpr/reports/> .

Any member of the public may request to be interviewed by telephone by a member of the Department's visiting team. Those wishing to be interviewed should call the superintendent's office at 781-393-2442 no later than November 21, 2011 to leave their name and phone number, or they may call the Department of Elementary and Secondary Education at (781) 338- 3741. A member of the visiting team will contact each person desiring an interview within two weeks after the completion of the onsite visit. If an individual is not comfortable communicating in English or requires some other accommodation, the Department will make arrangements to communicate appropriately with the individual.