

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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DESE Announces Routine Program Review for BART

ADAMS, Massachusetts (December 18, 2017) – James C. White II, Ph.D, the Executive Director of BART Charter Public School was informed by the Department of Elementary and Secondary Education of an upcoming Coordinated Program Review that will be taking place this school year. As part of this Coordinated Program Review, Department staff will visit the charter school during the week of January 15, 2018. Such visits are routinely conducted by the Department to satisfy federal and state requirements for the periodic review of specific education programs and services in schools throughout the Commonwealth. 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, and English Learner Education*. After reviewing charter school 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 Executive Director and Board of Trustees, 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 charter school must propose to the Department corrective action to bring those areas into compliance with statutes and regulations. Charter schools are encouraged to incorporate the corrective action into their charter school improvement plans and professional development plan. The charter school 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 BART at [\(413\) 743-7311](tel:413.743.7311) no later than January 11, 2018, to leave their name and phone number or they may call the Department of Elementary and Secondary Education at [\(413\) 314-6707](tel:413.314.6707). 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.

BART is a nationally recognized, award-winning, tuition-free, public middle and high school focused on preparing students for college. In 2015, US News & World Report ranked BART the 7th best high school in Massachusetts. To date, 100% of BART's graduates have passed a college course and have been accepted into college prior to graduation. BART does not discriminate on the basis of race, color, religion, sex, national origin, disability, sexual orientation or gender identity.