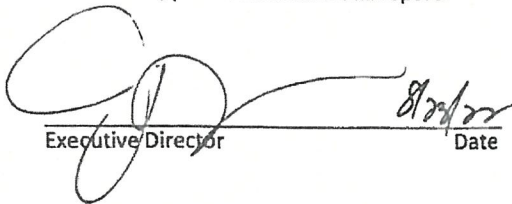




The New England Center
for Children®

Autism Education and Research

During the 2021-2022 school year, the Massachusetts Department of Elementary and Secondary Education conducted a routine Approved Special Education Program Review. This review is conducted every 6 years for our Intensive Instruction, Residential, Intermediate and Severe Programs. The assessment entailed document and policy review, staff and student record review, interviews, surveys and observations, in order to evaluate our compliance with DESE regulations. We are happy to report that NECC was fully compliant in all program areas and had no areas of corrective action. For more information, please reference this report.


Executive Director Date


President of Board of Directors Date



Jeffrey C. Riley
Commissioner

Massachusetts Department of Elementary and Secondary Education

75 Pleasant Street, Malden, Massachusetts 02148-4906

Telephone: (781) 338-3000
TTY: N.E.T. Relay 1-800-439-2370

June 21, 2022

Jessica Sassi
Executive Director
New England Center for Children, Inc.
33 Turnpike Road
Southborough, MA 01772

Re: Approved Special Education Schools Mid-cycle Review and Verification of previous
Program Review Corrective Action Plan
A - N. E. Center Intensive Instruction Day Program
B - Intermediate Residential Program
C - Residential Program
D - Severe Residential Program

Dear Ms. Sassi:

Enclosed is the Department of Elementary and Secondary Education (Department) Approved Special Education Schools Mid-cycle Review Final Report based on the virtual Mid-cycle Review conducted in your approved special education school programs in May 2022.

This report includes detailed findings describing the determinations of the Department about the implementation status of each requirement status of selected Mid-cycle Review criteria as well as implementation of new state or federal special education requirements enacted since your programs' last Program Review. Please note that all requirements were found to be fully implemented; therefore, the Department does not need to order a Corrective Action Plan.

At this time, the Department requests that you upload a separate statement signed by you and the Chairperson of your Board of Directors which describes the steps the programs are taking to make the findings of the Department available to staff, parent groups and the general public. Please go into the WBMS and upload your programs' statement that has been signed by you and the Chairperson of your Board of Directors into Additional Documents no later than **July 5, 2022**. You can do this by accessing: > MCR > Self-Assessment > Additional Documents.

The Approval Certificates enclosed with this correspondence shall remain in effect until August

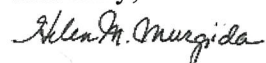
31, 2025, and will be contingent upon continued compliance with all regulations contained within 603 CMR 28.00 "Special Education Regulations," 603 CMR 18.00 "Program And Safety Standards For Approved Public Or Private Day And Residential Special Education School Programs," and 603 CMR 46.00 "Prevention of Physical Restraint and Requirements If Used." The Department may change this approval status at any point during this three-year period if circumstances arise that warrant such a change.

Please be advised that the attached Department Approval Certificates must be conspicuously posted in a public place within the programs as required by 603 CMR 28.09.

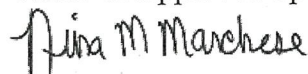
The Department will notify you of your programs' next regularly scheduled Program Review several months before it is to occur. At this time we anticipate the next routine monitoring visit to occur sometime during the 2024-2025 school year, unless the Department determines that there is some reason to schedule this visit earlier.

In closing, we would like to extend our thanks to the administration and staff who shared their time and thoughts so generously during the preparation and virtual review process. Should you require any additional information, please do not hesitate to contact the Team Chairperson.

Sincerely,



Helen Murgida, Chairperson
Office of Approved Special Education Schools



Nina M. Marchese, M.Ed., Director
Office of Approved Special Education Schools

c: John Kim, President of the Board of Directors
Heather Morrison, Director of Administration, New England Center for Children, Inc.
Jannelle Roberts, Assistant Director, Office of Approved Special Education Schools
Joanne Morris, Supervisor, Office of Approved Special Education Schools

Encl.: Mid-cycle Review Report
Full Approval Certificate, Expiration Date: August 31, 2025
N. E. Center Intensive Instruction Day Program
Intermediate Residential Program
Residential Program
Severe Residential Program



MID-CYCLE REVIEW REPORT

New England Center for Children, Inc.

MCR Onsite Dates: 05/09/2022 - 05/10/2022

Programs under review for the agency:

A - N. E. Center Intensive Instruction Day Program

B - Intermediate Residential Program

C - Residential Program

D - Severe Residential Program



Jeffrey C. Riley
Commissioner of Elementary and Secondary Education

MID-CYCLE REVIEW REPORT

PS Criterion #1.2 - Program & Student Descriptions, Program Capacity

Rating:

Implemented

Applies To:

All

Basis for Findings:

A review of documentation, interviews and observations indicated that the program served students consistent with characteristics included in the approved Program & Student Description regarding population of students to be served, ages of students, and educational and behavioral characteristics of students.

PS Criterion #2.2 - Approvals, Licenses, Certificates of Inspection

Rating:

Implemented

Applies To:

All

Basis for Findings:

A review of documentation and observations indicated that there were current approvals, licenses and certificates of inspection from appropriate local authorities for all buildings used by the students.

PS Criterion #2.3 - EEC Licensure (Residential Programs Only)

Rating:

Implemented

Applies To:

B - NECC Intermediate Residential Program, C - NECC Residential Program, D - NECC Severe Residential Program

Basis for Findings:

A review of documentation and observations indicated that there was a current license from the Department of Early Education and Care for all residential facilities.

PS Criterion #3.1(d) - Evacuation and Emergency Procedures

Rating:

Implemented

Applies To:

All

Basis for Findings:

A review of documentation and interviews indicated that the program has developed and implemented Evacuation and Emergency Procedures that comply with 603 CMR 18.05(10).

PS Criterion #4.5 - Immediate Notification**Rating:**

Implemented

Applies To:

All

Basis for Findings:

A review of documentation and student records indicated that the policy on Immediate Notification Regarding Serious Incidents met the current requirements and included notification to appropriate parties of such incidents, as well as the person responsible for oversight. A review of student records showed that the program maintains copies of all incidents regarding students.

PS Criterion #5.2(a) - Contracts**Rating:**

Implemented

Applies To:

All

Basis for Findings:

A review of student records indicated the program maintained a signed written contract for each enrolled student consistent with the requirements of 603 CMR 28.06(3)(f).

PS Criterion #6.1 - Daily Instructional Hours/6.4 School Days Per Year**Rating:**

Implemented

Applies To:

All

Basis for Findings:

A review of documentation indicated that all students were scheduled to receive the required number of instructional hours per year, and that the required number of school days per year was scheduled for all students.

PS Criterion #8.5 - Current IEP & Student Roster**Rating:**

Implemented

Applies To:

All

Basis for Findings:

A review of documentation and review of student records indicated that there was a current Individualized Education Program (IEP) for each enrolled Massachusetts student that had been issued by the responsible public school district and consented to by the student's parent or the student, when applicable. In student records where an IEP was found not to be current, there was documentation of the program's efforts to obtain a current IEP from the responsible school district.

PS Criterion #9.7 - Terminations**Rating:**

Implemented

Applies To:

All

Basis for Findings:

A review of documentation and staff interviews indicated that the program has developed and implements a written termination policy that includes provisions related to planned and emergency termination, and that the policy is compliant with regulatory requirements.

PS Criterion #11.3 - Educational Administrator Qualifications**Rating:**

Implemented

Applies To:

All

Basis for Findings:

A review of documentation indicated that the Educational Administrator possessed the required qualifications to serve in this position.

PS Criterion #11.4 - Teachers (Special Education Teachers and General Education Teachers)**Rating:**

Implemented

Applies To:

All

Basis for Findings:

A review of documentation indicated that the teaching staff were appropriately licensed or had been granted an appropriate waiver for the 2020-2021 school year.

PS Criterion #11.5 - Related Services Staff**Rating:**

Implemented

Applies To:

All

Basis for Findings:

A review of documentation indicated that the staff providing or supervising the provision of related services were appropriately certified, licensed or registered in their professional areas.

PS Criterion #11.6 - Staff Roster**Rating:**

Implemented

Applies To:

All

Basis for Findings:

A review of documentation indicated the Staff Roster contained the names, program job titles, corresponding Uniform Financial Report (UFR) title numbers and full-time equivalents (FTEs) for all staff. The Staff Roster also accurately corresponded to the last approved staffing plan.

PS Criterion #11.10 - Supervision of Direct Care Day and Residential Staff**Rating:**

Implemented

Applies To:

B - NECC Intermediate Residential Program, C - NECC Residential Program, D - NECC Severe Residential Program

Basis for Findings:

Review of documentation and interviews indicated the program has developed and implemented a written plan to indicate how regularly scheduled conferences occur between residential childcare workers and residential supervisors. Review of documentation and interviews also indicated the program provided regular supervision of all direct care workers by someone who has supervisory and administrative responsibility within the program and regularly scheduled conferences occurred between direct care workers and supervisor and between teachers, direct care workers and other educational personnel.

PS Criterion #11.10 - Supervision of Direct Care Day and Residential Staff**Rating:**

Implemented

Applies To:

A - NECC Intensive Instruction Day Program

Basis for Findings:

Review of documentation, staff records and interviews indicated the program has developed and implemented a written plan to indicate how regularly scheduled supervision of all direct care workers by someone who has supervisory and administrative responsibility within the program and how regularly scheduled conferences occurred between direct care workers and supervisor and between teachers, direct care workers and other educational personnel.

