

November 2006

Kevin O'Malley, M.ed, Head of School of the Benjamin Franklin Classical Charter Public School was recently informed by the Commissioner of Education of an upcoming Department of Education Coordinated Program Review. As part of this Coordinated Program Review, Department staff will visit the charter school during the week of January 8, 2007. 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
- ELE

After reviewing school charter school procedures for these programs, a Department of Education team will make its onsite visit, during which it will review individual student records, interview administrators, teachers and parents, and observe instructional sites. After the onsite visit it will prepare a report for the Charter School Leader and Board of Trustees, with detailed findings for each program and an Executive Summary.

Using a scale of ratings ranging from "Commendable" to "Not Implemented," the report will rate the implementation of each requirement reviewed by the Department of Education. Where requirements are found less than substantially implemented, the district [or charter school] must propose to the Department of Education 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 [or charter school] may request technical assistance from the Department of Education 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 Charter School office at 508-541-3434 ext 133 no later than December 8, 2006 to leave their name and phone number, or they may call the Department of 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.

Kevin O'Malley, Head of School, indicated that he is confident that the Program Review will be a useful and positive experience for staff members and that the report will be useful in planning for the continued improvement of educational services for all students.