



THE COMMONWEALTH OF MASSACHUSETTS  
OFFICE OF THE ATTORNEY GENERAL

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September 3, 2019

**By First Class Mail**

Ms. Cynthia Kwiecinski  
Chairperson  
Easthampton School Committee  
50 Payson Avenue, 2<sup>nd</sup> Floor  
Easthampton, MA 01027

Re: Compliance with Memorandum of Agreement

Dear Chair Kwiecinski:

As you aware, in August 2017, the Easthampton Public School District (“EPSD”) entered into a Memorandum of Agreement (“MOA”) with the Attorney General’s Office to resolve civil rights complaints concerning Easthampton High School (“EHS”). Over the last year, we have worked closely with the EPSD Superintendent, Dr. Allison LeClair, to monitor implementation of the MOA. Dr. LeClair, EPSD, and EHS have demonstrated a strong commitment to creating an environment at EPSD schools that is positive, welcoming, and inclusive for all students. We believe that EPSD is now successfully and properly implementing the terms of the MOA.

During the 2018-2019 school year, EPSD made significant and important progress in implementing the MOA, including by addressing several important outstanding items. For example, EPSD (1) developed and received approval for new policies required by the MOA, including a Bullying and Harassment Policy, an updated Memorandum of Understanding with the Easthampton Police Department concerning the student resource officer program, and a related Law Enforcement Involvement Policy for district employees; (2) made changes and clarifications to its disciplinary policies and procedures to address hate speech and bias-related conduct at EPSD schools consistent with the MOA; (3) provided trainings for EHS students, parents, and staff on bullying and bias-related harassment pursuant to the MOA; (4) appropriately handled incidents involving bias-related conduct at Easthampton High School consistent with its obligations under the MOA; and (5) completed and submitted a timely disciplinary audit and year end progress report.

Heading into the 2019-2020 school year, we have full confidence that EPSD will continue its progress in implementing the terms of the MOA. We have discussed with Dr. LeClair the steps EPSD and EHS plan to take to address certain remaining challenges—including those related to student discipline—and to continue to build on the progress of the last year. If you have any questions, please do not hesitate to contact me.

Sincerely,

  
Jon Burke  
Assistant Attorney General

cc: Russ Dupere, Esq.  
Mayor Nicole LaChappelle

