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From our EL Coordinator, Stephanie Mihos:

During the week of April 29, 2024 the Department of Elementary and Secondary Education's (DESE's) Office of Language Acquisition (OLA) will conduct a Tiered Focused Monitoring Review of Stoneham Public Schools. The Office of Language Acquisition reviews each district's and charter school's ELE program every six years to monitor compliance with federal and state English learner education laws and regulations. Areas of review will include English learners' student assessments, identification of English learners; what programs English learners are placed in, parent and community involvement, curriculum and instruction, student support services, licensure requirements for faculty, staff and administration, program plans, and evaluation and recordkeeping.

In addition to the onsite visit, parent outreach is an important part of the review process. The district will send a survey to the parents of students whose records the review team will examine. The survey focuses on key areas of their child's English learner education program. Survey results will be reviewed by OLA and they will contribute to the monitoring report.

Parents and other individuals may call David Valade, Office of Language Acquisition Review Chairperson, at 413-314-6711, to request a telephone interview. If an individual requires an accommodation, such as translation to participate in an interview, DESE will make the necessary arrangements.

Within approximately 60 business days of the onsite visit, the review chairperson will provide the Stoneham Public Schools with a report with information about areas in which the district meets or exceeds regulatory requirements and areas in which the district requires assistance to correct or improve practices. The report will be available to the public at <https://www.doe.mass.edu/ele/cpr/>.