

To consider approval of the Center for Applied Behavioral Instruction (CABI) as a private special education school.

Dr. Jeffrey Robinson, Executive Director of Behavioral Concepts, Inc. (BCI), a long-time provider of ABA services to the district submitted to the administration a request for approval of the Center for Applied Behavioral Instruction (CABI), a private special education school located at 345A Greenwood Street in Worcester.

According to the Massachusetts General Laws (MGL) Chapter 76, Section 1, private schools must obtain approval of the school committee of the city or town in which the school is located. The MGL also sets the standards by which school committees must evaluate private schools.

For Private Special Education Schools, specifications for approval is further defined in the Massachusetts Special Education Regulations 603 CMR 28.00 and the regulations on Program and Safety Standards for Approved Public or Private Day and Residential Special Education School Programs under 603 CMR 18.00.

In addition to the school committee approval, the Department of Elementary and Secondary Education (DESE) conducts an extensive review of the private schools that apply for such approval, including their curriculum, physical facilities, personnel, and administration. DESE's approval authorizes the private special education school to enroll students with disabilities at public expense.

In order to comply with the standards for approval, Dr. Marco Rodrigues and Mrs. Kay Seale conducted an on-site evaluation of the school according to the criteria specified in the suggested checklist for approval of private school by a local school committee.

The Center for Applied Behavioral Instruction (CABI) is a private special education school for students diagnosed with Autism, ages 6 through 22. CABI's mission is "to provide the highest quality of individualized behavioral and educational services for children with autism spectrum disorder, Asperger Syndrome, Non-verbal Learning Disabilities, brain injuries and other developmental disabilities who present with significant behavioral challenges which limit their potential. We believe that every child has unique potential to grow and develop skills that lead to a more independent and fulfilling life".

During the on-site visit on September 4, 2014, Dr. Rodrigues and Mrs. Seale, met with Dr. Jeff Robinson, Dr. Brian Doyle, Associate Director of CABI and toured the facility. Dr. Robinson and Dr. Doyle explained the objectives and implementation plan for the educational programs and provide appropriate documentation to support all areas under review. Dr. Rodrigues and Mrs.

Seale also had the opportunity to speak with the teachers and to provide suggestions for program implementation.

The visit checklist with accompanying comments are attached for your review.

Based on the site visit and thorough review of the documentation provided by Dr. Robinson, the administration recommends that approval be granted to the Center for Applied Behavioral Instruction for operation in Worcester. The administration will schedule subsequent site visits once CABI is in full operation.