



# Massachusetts Department of Elementary and Secondary Education

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Jeffrey C. Riley  
Commissioner

May 1, 2023

Christina King  
Executive Director  
Realizing Children's Strength Learning Center, Inc.  
6 Strathmore Road  
Natick, MA 01760

Re: Approved Special Education Schools Mid-cycle Review and Verification of previous Program Review Corrective Action Plan  
A - RCS Day Program  
B - RCS Intensive Day Program

Dear Ms. King:

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 March 2023.

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 May 15, 2023. 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, 2026 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.**

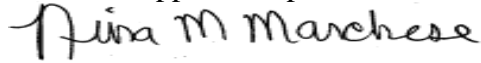
The Department will notify you of your programs' next regularly scheduled Program Review several months before it is to occur. At this time, we anticipate the next routine monitoring visit to occur sometime during the 2025-2026 school year, unless the Department determines that there is some reason to 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,



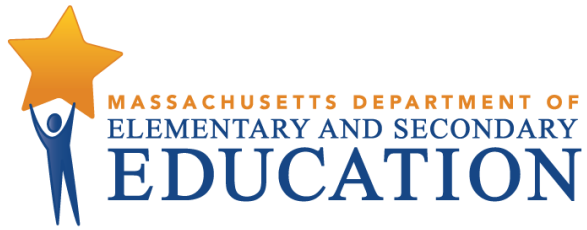
Lynda Womack, Chairperson  
Office of Approved Special Education Schools



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

c: Denise Rizzo-Ranieri, President of the Board of Directors  
Jeffrey C. Riley, Commissioner of Elementary and Secondary Education  
Russell Johnston, Ph.D., Senior Associate Commissioner  
Joanne Morris, Supervisor, Office of Approved Special Education Schools

Encl.: Mid-cycle Review Report  
Full Approval Certificate, Expiration Date: August 31, 2026  
RCS Day Program  
RCS Intensive Day Program



## **MID-CYCLE REVIEW REPORT**

**Realizing Children's Strength Learning Center, Inc.**

**MCR Onsite Dates: 03/27/2023 - 03/28/2023**

**Programs under review for the agency:**

**A - RCS Day Program**

**B - RCS Intensive Day 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 programs 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 #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 at the time of the Mid-cycle Review the teaching staff were appropriately licensed or had been granted an appropriate waiver for the 2022-2023 school year.

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

**Rating:**

Implemented

**Applies To:**

All

**Basis for Findings:**

A review of documentation indicated that at the time of the Mid-cycle Review 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:**

All

**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 teachers, direct care workers and other educational personnel.

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File Name: RealizingChildren'sStrengthsInc\_51070000\_MCRFinal\_2023.doc

Last Revised on: May 1, 2023**Error! Bookmark not defined.**

Prepared by: LM