



GREGORY W. SULLIVAN
INSPECTOR GENERAL

The Commonwealth of Massachusetts
Office of the Inspector General

JOHN W. McCORMACK
STATE OFFICE BUILDING
ONE ASHBURTON PLACE
ROOM 1311
BOSTON, MA 02108
TEL: (617) 727-9140
FAX: (617) 723-2334

November 18, 2010

Ms. Maureen Sabolinski
Superintendent of Schools
Franklin Public Schools
355 East Central Street, Suite 3
Franklin, MA 02038

Dear Superintendent Sabolinski:

As you know, the Massachusetts Office of the Inspector General (OIG) reviewed the Franklin Public Schools' (FPS) Fiscal Year 2009 State Fiscal Stabilization Fund (SFSF) Grant from the Massachusetts Department of Elementary and Secondary Education. The grant was received as a result of the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act (ARRA).

The OIG is reviewing ARRA-related grants to identify potential vulnerabilities to fraud, waste, and abuse and other risks that could negatively impact the accountability, transparency, and anti-fraud mandates contained in the statutory language and interpretive guidance of ARRA. Our review of the provided documents should not be construed as an audit, investigation, or a comprehensive programmatic review. The OIG intends these reviews to assist recipients of ARRA funding identify and address risks.

FPS received \$3,021,023 in SFSF funding in Fiscal Year 2009. The OIG review focused on the \$873,539.03 of these funds spent on tuition for sixteen special education schools.

The OIG examined a sample of three private special education schools that the FPS sent students in FY 09 using ARRA funded tuition. For this sample, the OIG verified that

Superintendent Sabolinski

November 18, 2010

Page 2

during the last quarter of FY 09 – the period covered by ARRA funding:

- FPS had written contracts in place with these special education schools pursuant to 603 CMR 28.06 (3)(f).
- These special education schools charged the contractual rate for services as set by the Massachusetts Operational Services Division (OSD)
- FPS paid these OSD-established rates to the special education schools in question

Additionally, the OIG verified that the rates charged by the special education schools not included in the sample conformed to the OSD-established rate structure.

I appreciate your cooperation with this review. Please do not hesitate to contact the OIG with any questions or concerns you may have regarding this review.

Sincerely,

Neil Cohen
Deputy Inspector General

cc: Director of Finance Miriam Goodman
School Committee Chairman Jeffrey Roy
DESE Director of Audit & Compliance David LeBlanc