**The Learning Center for the Deaf**
**Notice of the Massachusetts Department of Elementary & Secondary Education**
**Upcoming Approved Private School's Program Review**

January 26, 2010

Dear Parent(s) and Guardian(s),
The Learning Center for the Deaf will participate in an important Massachusetts Department of Elementary and Secondary Education (ESE) *Approved Private Special Education School Program Review* during the week of March 8 –11, 2010. The Education Department is required by federal and state special education law to conduct reviews of specific education programs and services in approved private special education school programs throughout the Commonwealth. A full review is conducted every six years. The Department is looking for evidence of compliance with special education regulations. This includes:

- Document and student record reviews
- Observations of the facility, including instructional areas
- Interviews with a sampling of faculty, staff and parents and Parent Surveys

Parents of Massachusetts's students who attend TLC and are interested in sharing perspectives about The Learning Center for the Deaf are invited to do so. The Department hopes to conduct interviews with several parents during our program review along with conducting a parent survey through the mail.

Kindly contact **Nancy Maguire Heath at 508-879-5110** or Nancy_Maguire@tlcdeaf.org if you would like to schedule a personal or telephone or videophone interview during the onsite visit March 8-11, 2010. TLC parents may be interviewed at either campus whichever is most convenient. (The Department plans to be in Randolph on Wednesday, March 10th.) If you prefer, you may also contact Kerri Zeldis in the Department of Elementary and Secondary Education via e-mail at KZeldis@doe.mass.edu. Most interviews take approximately 30-45 minutes. If you are not comfortable communicating in English, or require accommodations, appropriate arrangements will be made for you.

I am confident that this Program Review will be a productive and positive experience for everyone involved and that the preparations, communications and Final Report issued by the Department of Elementary and Secondary Education will be a helpful planning tool. A detailed report of the findings for the program will describe the implementation status of each program requirement reviewed. The findings will note the implementation of those program standards, which the team found to be *Commendable* or *Substantially Implemented*. When program standards are found to be *Not fully implemented*, the school must propose to the Department of Elementary and Secondary Education corrective actions to bring those areas into compliance with the respective statutes or regulations.

Both the Department's report and the program's response to the Department of Elementary and Secondary Education are public information and will be available upon request. The Final Reports will also available on the Department's Internet web site at http://www.doe.mass.edu/pqa/review/psr/reports/default.html.

As you are aware from all the various accreditation and approval activities this year, TLC is committed to an honest appraisal of all aspects of its programs. We look forward to hearing from you if you decide you would like to participate in The Learning Center's Program Review.

Sincerely,