

## CHELMSFORD PUBLIC SCHOOLS

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Dear Chelmsford Families:

Welcome to the 2024-2025 school year. I hope this letter finds you well rested, relaxed and rejuvenated. Each school year is a new beginning and an opportunity to focus our work on our students and families. We look forward to our continued work together and open dialogue throughout the school year.

As you are aware, The Massachusetts Department of Elementary and Secondary Education released a new Individualized Education Program (IEP) document to be used in schools and districts across the state. This fall we will be implementing the new Individual Education Program (IEP) form - developed by the Department of Elementary and Secondary Education (DESE). Your child's education team is committed to providing the best possible support and services for your child and the new IEP form is designed to enhance that commitment. We have created a video providing an overview of the new IEP. This resource will provide you with the highlights of the changes DESE has made to the IEP Document. Please click [here](#) to watch. For more information about the new statewide IEP form, please visit [IEP Improvement Project](#). We anticipate this transition will be an adjustment but are committed to the process being smooth and beneficial for your child, and we are here to address any questions or concerns you may have.

We believe that our use of the new statewide IEP document will offer several benefits to you and your child. Some of the key advantages include:

- **Enhanced Collaboration:** The form promotes better communication and collaboration between you, your child's teachers, and the IEP team. It encourages a better understanding of your child's unique needs, allowing for improved support strategies.
- **More Clarity and Consistency:** The revised form is designed to ensure clarity and consistency in the IEP process and in the implementation of state and federal requirements. This consistency will facilitate smoother transitions between grade levels, and it is particularly designed to help students with disabilities to transition to post-high school life.
- **Comprehensive Documentation of the Program:** The new IEP form offers a more detailed framework for documenting your child's progress, accommodations, and services. This will support better tracking of your child's achievements and provide valuable information for future evaluations and assessments.

Please contact your child's special education liaison or Team Chair if you have any questions or concerns throughout the year.

Here are the Team Chairs assigned to each building:

Chelmsford Integrated Preschool (CHIPS)	Megan McGuirk, Preschool Coordinator <a href="mailto:mcguirkm@chelmsford.k12.ma.us">mcguirkm@chelmsford.k12.ma.us</a>
Byam Elementary School	Taryn Dery, Team Chairperson <a href="mailto:deryt@chelmsford.k12.ma.us">deryt@chelmsford.k12.ma.us</a>
Center Elementary School	Nicole Sylvester, Team Chairperson <a href="mailto:sylvestern@chelmsford.k12.ma.us">sylvestern@chelmsford.k12.ma.us</a>
Harrington Elementary School	Alison Alves-Pigeon, Team Chairperson <a href="mailto:alvespigeona@chelmsford.k12.ma.us">alvespigeona@chelmsford.k12.ma.us</a>
South Row Elementary School	Mary Jane Shaw, Team Chairperson <a href="mailto:shawm@chelmsford.k12.ma.us">shawm@chelmsford.k12.ma.us</a>
McCarthy Middle School	Nicole Sylvester, Team Chairperson <a href="mailto:sylvestern@chelmsford.k12.ma.us">sylvestern@chelmsford.k12.ma.us</a>
Parker Middle School	Alison Alves-Pigeon, Team Chairperson <a href="mailto:alvespigeona@chelmsford.k12.ma.us">alvespigeona@chelmsford.k12.ma.us</a>
Specialized Programs K-8 (SAIL, NECC Partner, Life Skills)	Taryn Dery, Team Chairperson <a href="mailto:deryt@chelmsford.k12.ma.us">deryt@chelmsford.k12.ma.us</a>
STRIVE (Elementary/Middle)	Mary Jane Shaw, Team Chairperson <a href="mailto:shawm@chelmsford.k12.ma.us">shawm@chelmsford.k12.ma.us</a>
Chelmsford High School & All CHS Programs	Shawna Mottram, Team Chairperson <a href="mailto:mottrams@chelmsford.k12.ma.us">mottrams@chelmsford.k12.ma.us</a>

Chelmsford Public Schools believe that developing and maintaining strong partnerships with families is essential for student success. We value family relationships and encourage ongoing communication. One way parents/guardians can get involved is by joining the Chelmsford Special Education Parent Advisory Council (SEPAC). SEPAC is a partnership between families and the district. We hold quarterly meetings as well as workshops throughout the school year. If you are interested please contact Amy Reese, Director of Student Services ([reesea@chelmsford.k12.ma.us](mailto:reesea@chelmsford.k12.ma.us)).

Please visit the following link for your annual [Parent's Notice of Procedural Safeguards](#).

We value our partnership in your child's education and look forward to working together to support your child's educational needs.

Sincerely,

Amy Reese, Ed.S.  
Director of Student Services  
[reesea@chelmsford.k12.ma.us](mailto:reesea@chelmsford.k12.ma.us)

[Overview of New IEP \(video\)](#)