

# FALL RIVER PUBLIC SCHOOLS

"The Scholarship City"

417 Rock Street, Fall River, MA 02720

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Maria Pontes  
Superintendent

Lori Obenchain M.A., CAGS  
Assistant Superintendent of Special Education

March 4, 2024

Re: Introduction of New Individualized Education Program (IEP) Form

Dear Parents/Guardians,

We hope this letter finds you well. We are writing to share an important update regarding the Individualized Education Program (IEP) form. Earlier this year, the Massachusetts Department of Elementary and Secondary Education (DESE) released a new Individualized Education Program (IEP) form that all school districts in Massachusetts will be required to use beginning in the Fall of 2024.

The intent of the new IEP document is to support teams in developing a more personalized education plan for students receiving special education services. It is important for you to understand that while the IEP form itself will look different, the special education process remains the same.

We believe that the new IEP form will enhance collaboration and provide clear and comprehensive documentation of your child's strengths and special education services. Our Special Education Team Chairs had the opportunity to participate in year long professional development to prepare for the new IEP roll out including strategies for facilitating your team meetings. Our special education leadership team also attended training from the DESE and we are beginning to train all teachers and administrators across the district.

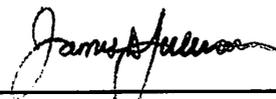
**We would like to invite you to learn more about the New IEP form during our SEPAC meeting on March 21, 2024 at 6pm in the community room at Kuss Middle School. We value your partnership and look forward to working together to support your child's educational needs.**

For more information about the new statewide IEP form, please visit the state webpage at: <https://www.doe.mass.edu/sped/improveiep>

Sincerely,



Lori Obenchain  
Assistant Superintendent of Special Education



James Sullivan  
Chief Compliance Officer