



Subject: The New Statewide Individualized Education Program (IEP) Form

Dear Parent/Guardian:

Earlier this year, the Massachusetts Department of Elementary and Secondary Education released a new Individualized Education Program (IEP) form to be used in schools and districts across the state. Newton will start using the new IEP form in September of the 2024-2025 school year. Your child's education team is committed to providing the best possible supports and services for your child's educational journey, and our use of the new IEP form is designed to enhance that commitment.

This new statewide IEP form helps teams to more effectively address the needs of students eligible for special education services. The revised form focuses attention on gathering complete information about your child's strengths, challenges, and individualized goals to develop a more personalized education plan for your child.

We believe that our use of the new statewide IEP form 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.

In order to provide you with information on the new IEP form, Newton will be holding parent information sessions. Here are the dates and times for the upcoming parent information sessions:



Thursday, June 20, 2024 at 6:00 pm (Virtual)

Tuesday, July 9, 2024 at 10:00 am (Virtual)

Wednesday, July 24, 2024 at 12:00 pm (Virtual)

Monday, August 5, 2024 at 2:00 pm (Virtual)

Tuesday, August 27, 2024 at 4:00 pm (Virtual)

Thursday, September 12, 2024 at 6:00 pm at Newton North High School

Please feel free to reach out to the special education administrator at your child's school if you have any immediate questions or concerns regarding the implementation of the new statewide IEP form. We value our partnership in your child's education, and we 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>

For general special education parent information, please visit:
<https://www.doe.mass.edu/sped/parents.html>

Thank you for your ongoing partnership and support.

Sincerely,

Maura Tynes
Director of Special Education
Pre-K - Elementary

Melissa Gamble
Director of Special Education
Secondary Education & Special Programs