



DRACUT PUBLIC SCHOOLS

Office of Student Services

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PARENT INTRODUCTION TO THE NEW IEP WITH ALLAN BLUME

The Massachusetts Department of Elementary and Secondary Education (Department) recently made updates to the Individualized Education Program (IEP) form. These changes are intended to strengthen the IEP process and improve the educational outcomes and experiences of students with disabilities in the Commonwealth. [The IEP Improvement Project](#) is intended to provide schools, districts, and families with more than newly designed and updated forms. It is also intended to provide opportunities for families, schools, and districts to work together to build better systems that more effectively support students with disabilities.

The updated IEP is a tool to help improve outcomes for students with disabilities by building on individual student strengths. Additionally, the language used in the updated IEP is intended to be easily accessible to students and their families. The updated IEP also reflects the requirement that students with disabilities are placed in the least restrictive environment consistent with their needs. The updated IEP also seeks to strengthen the transition planning process to better prepare students for independence in adult life, including post-secondary education and employment. **All school Districts in the Commonwealth of Massachusetts will begin to use the new IEP documents no later than September 2024.**

The Dracut School District has participated in state level training beginning this year and in addition has welcomed [Allan Blume](#) to train additional staff during this transition. Allan is an educational consultant, former special educator, and professor who works with schools across Massachusetts regarding various topics in education. Most of his work focuses on IEP writing and strategies for doing so. Allan has guided school personnel and parents with understanding and implementing individualized education programs, disability awareness, special education process, inclusion, eligibility, Section 504, linking instruction to standards, district evaluation of inclusion and special education provision, as well as assisting school districts with the creation and editing of their District Curriculum Accommodation Plans.

Topic: New IEP Parent Introduction

Dates: February 1, 2024 or February 29, 2024

Times: Virtual 6:30-8:00pm

Link:

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/88657377331?pwd=TjdVRGVrMWlrOFVtSmhBUzE2M1M2Zz09>

Meeting ID: 886 5737 7331 Passcode: 987099