



Ipswich Public Schools

PAYNE SCHOOL BLDG.
ONE LORD SQUARE
IPSWICH, MA, 01938
TEL. (978) 356-2935
FAX (978) 356-0445

DR. BEVERLY HEGEDUS
DIRECTOR OF PUPIL PERSONNEL SERVICES

August 27, 2020

Dear Special Education Parents,

We are all very excited about finalizing plans for the 2020-21 school year and welcoming back those students who will be returning to in-person learning. We ---the principals, program managers, and I---have heard from many of you directly requesting details of your children's schedules. Additionally, the SEPAC Board and I met last week to discuss concerns which you have brought to them.

We are all sensitive to the fact that daycare plans, job arrangements and similar needs are on hold in many families as you await more detailed opening plans. Unfortunately, we are asking for your patience for a short while longer. We in Ipswich are particularly proud that our special education services are embedded in the general education environment, and that we provide a Free and Appropriate Public Education in the least restrictive environment. Because of this interconnectedness, we in special education are awaiting the finalization of student and staff survey responses before we can proceed forward. We can only confirm special education delivery plans once the overarching general education details are completed.

What this means for you and your family:

- We respectfully request your patience. We cannot immediately confirm the number of days or specific patterns of service delivery until the School Committee has finalized the Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) with the Ipswich Educational Association. Our plans are to have the liaisons respond to you soon after the Aug. 31 return of staff and the MOU has been accepted. In some cases, you have already received a preliminary call.
- All decisions are being made on an individual student basis, based on DESE guidance criteria for student needs.
- Quoting Dr. Russell Johnston, State Special Education Director and Senior Associate Commissioner, we will be following **District-wide implementation and School-wide customization**. This means that services will look different in different environments, but will meet IEP needs.

Please also be assured that we value our working relationships with you and will be communicating with you as soon as our path is clear.

Sincerely,

Beverly Hegedus, Ed.D.