



August 2021

Greetings,

What an exciting time! As educators; working with children is our life blood, our calling. Words can't describe the genuine enjoyment and energy we feel that we are able to be together in our schools this year.

While some of our students will be returning to the school building for the first time in a year or more, most of our special educators have been in school with our students all of last year. We cherish this time and are looking forward to another wonderful year together. That said, we all know that this pandemic is not fully behind us. We partner with the greater school community to ensure implementation of our health pillars with fidelity, in support of a safe and healthy educational ecosystem for all. Further, additional support to help facilitate a smooth transition to more traditional school experiences are available to all students who need them. Our school-based teams are available to help in any way necessary. Your child's principal, building-based special education leader, counselor, or special educator are great partners and are available to speak with you.

I am fortunate to work with a talented and dedicated team. Allow me to introduce them here: Maura Tynes is our Director of Elementary Special Education and she oversees all Special Education Programming, Pk-5. Lisa Langone is her secondary counterpart for grade 6 through post secondary serving as the Director of Secondary Special Education. Additionally, Paula Black is a valuable team member supporting homeless student support, related services, and out of district programming, to name a few, and serves as our Assistant Director for Student Services. Any of these devoted leaders are more than happy to assist you with any questions you may have.

You may be wondering about options for reconnecting in the coming year. In addition to communications and connections with your child's school, I strongly encourage you to connect with our Special Education Parent Advisory Council (SEPAC). This is a wonderful organization, led by Newton parents, available to support and promote connections among families whose children have special education needs. Connecting is easy: register for the listserve from the main homepage NewtonSEPAC.org or Newton Special Education Parents - SEPAC on facebook. Also, see the enclosed flyer with the meeting schedule for the year. Lots of events will be coming up throughout the year, both social and informational, so please keep checking the SEPAC website, Facebook page or [listserve](#) for updates. Finally, SEPAC needs your help. Parent Representatives are still needed for Countryside Elementary, Zervas Elementary, Day Middle, Newton South HS and Central HS. If you would like more information about filling this role, please email info@newtonsepac.org.

In closing, you will also find a copy of Procedural Safeguards, [here](#), and enclosed in this mailing. If you have any questions, please do not hesitate to reach out to any of us. I hope you and your children have a wonderful school year.

Yours in service to education,

Elizabeth S. Fitzmaurice

Elizabeth S. Fitzmaurice, Ed.D.
Assistant Superintendent for Student Services

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Parent's Notice of Procedural Safeguards

English and Translated Versions
















The PNPS have been updated to include information to meet the requirement of annual notice regarding the school district's use of MassHealth.

 [Memo to School Districts](#) — Updated December 18, 2013

 [Parent's Notice of Procedural Safeguards — English Version](#) — Updated November 2019

Translated Versions

The Parent's Notice of Procedural Safeguards was updated in November 2019. The changes incorporated into the English version are available in the languages listed below.

-  [Albanian](#)
-  [Arabic](#)
-  [Cape Verdean](#)
-  [Chinese](#)
-  [French](#)
-  [Haitian Creole](#)
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-  [Portuguese](#)
-  [Russian](#)
-  [Somali](#)
-  [Spanish](#)
-  [Vietnamese](#)

School districts must take additional steps to ensure that parents have the information that school districts are required by law to provide to them. Districts may need to obtain interpreters or prepare additional translated materials describing the procedural rights of parents and students under

IDEA-2004.

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