



STATE OF MICHIGAN
DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION
LANSING

RICK SNYDER
GOVERNOR

BRIAN J. WHISTON
STATE SUPERINTENDENT

August 31, 2017

Dear Parent or Guardian,

Your child will soon start receiving special education services. While this may seem overwhelming at times, I want to assure you that we, along with your school and other educators across the state, are working hard to help your child receive the best possible education.

As Director of the Michigan Department of Education (MDE), Office of Special Education (OSE), I am happy to share additional resources available to support families. Family Matters resources are available to help you understand many of the confusing parts of special education and to connect you to other parent resources.

The Family Matters web page includes a series of fact sheets. Each fact sheet explains a different special education topic and provides additional resources for your consideration. The web page also includes a list of other helpful programs and state agencies. New fact sheets and resources will be added on an ongoing basis, so check the web page regularly to see what's new.

The main support for special education services for your child is provided by your local school district. However, our goal is that the Family Matters information will further support you and your child in understanding the special education process and requirements.

The MDE Office of Special Education would like to stay in touch with you. If you are interested in receiving Family Matters updates, please visit the [Family Matters web page](http://www.michigan.gov/specialeducation-familymatters) at www.michigan.gov/specialeducation-familymatters to sign up to receive notification when new information is available or contact the [Michigan Alliance for Families](http://www.michiganallianceforfamilies.org) for additional information on special education topics at www.michiganallianceforfamilies.org.

If you would like to speak with a staff member from the OSE, please call our toll free number at 888-320-8384.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Teri S. Chapman".

Teri Chapman, Ed. S.
Director, Office of Special Education

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608 WEST ALLEGAN STREET • P.O. BOX 30008 • LANSING, MICHIGAN 48909
www.michigan.gov/mde • 517-373-3324