



STATE OF MICHIGAN  
DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION  
LANSING

GRETCHEN WHITMER  
GOVERNOR

MICHAEL F. RICE, Ph.D.  
STATE SUPERINTENDENT

August 22, 2024

Dear Parent or Guardian,

Your child will start receiving or is receiving special education services. I want to assure you that the Michigan Department of Education (MDE) Office of Special Education (OSE) and a network of local educators are working hard to help your child receive the best possible education.

As director of MDE OSE, I am happy to share the [Family Matters webpage](#), which houses a series of fact sheets available to support families. These two-page *Family Matters* Fact Sheets offer you a concise overview of special education laws, practices, and procedural safeguards and include links to more in-depth special education system resources. The fact sheets are available to help you understand the special education system. New fact sheets are added on an ongoing basis.

If you are interested in receiving *Family Matters* updates, please visit the [Family Matters webpage](#) to sign up for notifications when new information is available.

Additionally, the [Michigan Alliance for Families](#) provides information on special education topics and has trained parent mentors who can talk with you directly.

Your intermediate and/or local school district provides the main support for special education services for your child. Our goal is that the information shared in the *Family Matters* Fact Sheets will further help you and your child understand the special education process and requirements.

If you would like to speak with a staff member from MDE OSE regarding the information shared on the *Family Matters* webpage or other special education concerns, please call our toll-free number at 888-320-8384.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Teri L. Rink".

Teri L. Rink, Ed.S., Director  
Office of Special Education

**STATE BOARD OF EDUCATION**

PAMELA PUGH – PRESIDENT • ELLEN COGEN LIPTON / TIFFANY D. TILLEY – CO-VICE PRESIDENTS  
JUDITH PRITCHETT – SECRETARY • MARSHALL BULLOCK II – TREASURER  
MITCHELL ROBINSON – NASBE DELEGATE • TOM MCMILLIN • NIKKI SNYDER