



STATE OF MICHIGAN
DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION
LANSING

GRETCHEN WHITMER
GOVERNOR

MICHAEL F. RICE, Ph.D.
STATE SUPERINTENDENT

August 24, 2023

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), along with 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](#) that 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 made 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 to receive notifications when new information is available.

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

Your intermediate and/or local school district provide 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 support you and your child in understanding 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 black ink that reads "Teri L. Rink".

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

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