



WARE PUBLIC SCHOOLS

Department of Special Education

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August 1, 2012

Dear Parent/Guardian:

The Massachusetts Special Education Regulations require each school district to provide parents and guardians with a copy of the enclosed *Parent's Notice of Procedural Safeguards* at least annually. In addition, the regulations require each school district to create a Special Education Parent Advisory Council (PAC) to advise the district on matters that pertain to the education and safety of students with disabilities.

The Ware PAC focuses on improving communication and parent participation and developed the *Parent Summer Update* as a way to provide important information to students' new teachers. Please complete and return this form by August 17th.

The results of Parent Involvement Survey our district participated in during the 2011-2012 school year are posted on our website. The survey identified two areas of concern: 1) parents are not given information about organizations that offer support to parents of students with disabilities; and 2) parents are not offered training about special education issues and the needs of children with disabilities and their families.

As a result, we are enclosing a copy of *A Parent's Guide to Special Education*, which contains a resource list at the back. In addition, we will provide training on understanding the special education process at the PAC meeting on September 19, from 6:00 to 8:00 p.m., in the Ware Junior Senior High School Conference Room. At this meeting, we will identify training topics of interest and establish the meeting schedule for the remainder of the school year.

We welcome and encourage your participation; it is an essential to improving our processes and programs. If you will need child care at the PAC meeting, please contact me or Joanne Paquin at 967-7261 a week in advance.

Sincerely,

Mary Birks
Director of Special Education

3 Enclosures