

## BERLIN PUBLIC SCHOOLS

238 KENSINGTON ROAD ☐ BERLIN, CONNECTICUT 06037-2648 OFFICE 860-828-6581 ☐ FAX 860-829-0832

BRIAN J. BENIGNI SUPERINTENDENT OF SCHOOLS LAURIE A. GJERPEN KARA WATSON CO-DIRECTORS OF CURRICULUM LINDA HOLIAN DIRECTOR OF PUPIL PERSONNEL SERVICES ASHLEY L. DORSEY DIRECTOR OF FINANCE JEFFREY P. CUGNO DIRECTOR OF OPERATIONS **DENISE M. PARSONS**DIRECTOR OF
HUMAN RESOURCES

July 28, 2022

Dear Berlin Families,

We hope you are all enjoying the summer. We are excited to share that beginning July 1, 2022 the Connecticut State Department of Education launched a Statewide, web-based special education data management system called CT-SEDS (Connecticut Special Education Data System).

The use of CT-SEDS for special education IEPs, 504s and Service Plans will be mandatory for all districts beginning July 1, 2022 starting with your child's annual review.

CT-SEDS is an online management system for all Individualized Education Plans (IEP), Service Plans and 504 documents.

The State is moving to CT-SEDS for three reasons:

- 1. To ensure that all districts across the State of CT are utilizing the same IEP/504 platform.
- 2. To streamline the look of IEP/504 documents in order to make them more reader/user friendly.
- 3. To continually improve the quality of IEP/504 plans for all students.

## **New! Parent Portal**

The new system will include a parent portal for families to access their student's IEP, 504 or Service Plans and other important information as well as several language translations for PPT invitations and IEP documents to ensure that parents receive information in their native language. (The ten languages available for translation include: Spanish, Portuguese, Arabic, Creole-Haitian, Mandarin, Albanian, Polish, Urdu, Bengali, & Vietnamese.) The parent portal also allows you to sign documents electronically.

Please click the link below to access the CT-SEDS Parent Portal.

https://portal.ct.gov/-/media/SDE/Special-Education/New-IEP/Parent-Portal-Quick-Start-Guide-for-Parents.pdf

Reminder: You will not be able to access the parent portal or your child's IEP in CT-SEDS until your child's first annual review of the 22-23 school year.

The layout of the IEP, 504 and Service Plans will also change. The new layout is designed to be more user friendly and easy to follow. During your child's annual review, the new format will be reviewed. The most important thing to take away from these changes, is that they will NOT impact your child's programming.

Below is a link to a parent video describing the new CT-SEDs format.

https://ct.ieptraining.org/individualized-education-program-a-guide-for-parents-families/

In order to ensure that you have access to the parent portal we need all families to make sure that their information is accurate in PowerSchool. Please check your email address and cell phone numbers.

## https://berlinschools.powerschool.com/public/h

In addition to the new CT-SEDS System, we will continue to offer in-person and virtual meetings for parents. Please let your child's case manager know which you prefer. Lastly, below are our links for your Procedural Safeguards, Restraint and Seclusion Documents, Transition Bill of Rights and parent resources.

https://portal.ct.gov/-/media/SDE/Special-Education/Prosaf.pdf

https://portal.ct.gov/-/media/SDE/Special-

Education/2018 parental notification of the laws relating to seclusion and restraint in the public sc hools.pdf

https://portal.ct.gov/-/media/SDE/Special-

Education/Trans\_Bill\_of\_Rights\_for\_Parents\_of\_Students\_Receiving\_SpEd\_Services.pdf

Bureau of Special Education Resources http://www.sde.ct.gov/sde/cwp/view.asp?a=2626&q=320730

A Parent's Guide to Special Education 2021 (ct.gov)

We appreciate your patience and support as we navigate this new system together.

Yours Truly,

The Pupil Personnel Team

Linda Holian, Director of Pupil Personnel Services Michelle Zeuschner, Elementary Special Education Supervisor Cindy Martin, Secondary Special Education Supervisor JoAnn Walicki, Executive Assistant Sue McNally, Administrative Assistant