

**September 2017**

**PRESS RELEASE  
FOR IMMEDIATE PUBLICATION**

**Dedham Public Schools Announces Child Find Efforts**

**The Dedham Public Schools offer comprehensive special education services to eligible students ages three through 21 years and to children from birth through age 21 years who have a hearing or visual impairment. Children from birth to age three with other disabilities will be referred to appropriate agencies for services. All referrals are considered confidential, and services are provided at no cost. The parent, legal guardian, or surrogate parent retains the right to refuse services and are provided other procedural safeguards under federal and state law.**

**Public school services include screening in areas of suspected disabilities, such as vision, hearing, motor skills, speech, language, and general development. Evaluations in the schools are provided for several areas of suspected disabilities, including learning disabilities, speech and language development, physical impairments, vision or hearing problems, intellectual disability, emotional disturbances, autism, health impairments, or traumatic brain injuries.**

**A free, appropriate public education with a full continuum of services is available. For more information concerning eligibility criteria and referral procedures, please contact the principal or school counselor of your local school. The Director of Special Education, Elizabeth O'Connell, is also available to answer your questions by calling 781-310-1025, or sending an e-mail to [eoconnell@dedham.k12.ma.us](mailto:eoconnell@dedham.k12.ma.us).**