



Offered by City Councilor Annissa Essaibi-George

**CITY OF BOSTON
IN CITY COUNCIL**

**ORDER FOR A HEARING REGARDING
INDEPENDENT EDUCATION PLANS IN THE
BOSTON PUBLIC SCHOOLS**

WHEREAS: The Individuals with Disabilities Education Act (IDEA) is federal legislation that guarantees the rights of children with learning and other disabilities to a free and appropriate public education; and

WHEREAS: More than 20% of students in the Boston Public School system, approximately more than 11,000 students, have disabilities and require services based on their own individual needs; and

WHEREAS: The Boston Public School district agrees that every child in the Boston Public Schools should be treated with respect and supported to succeed academically, socially, emotionally, and physically; and

WHEREAS: The Boston Public Schools provide students that require additional services an Independent Education Plan (IEP's), a document identifying the needs, goals, services and vocational outcomes for the student to succeed; and

WHEREAS: The process as a whole is demanding, requiring families to provide medical information, work samples, report cards, progress reports, classroom observations, independent evaluations, therapists' reports, state assessments; and most importantly, assessments based on first-hand knowledge; and

WHEREAS: An IEP meeting is held annually to revise the plan to ensure the child is making progress, and as new instruction techniques and technology becomes available; and

WHEREAS: An IEP meeting is often described by families to be stressful, intimidating, and overwhelming; and

WHEREAS: Boston Public Schools has an obligation to follow through with the IEP and provide proper transportation, meeting therapy requirements, providing the nurse with the proper medical needs of the student, scheduling necessary counseling sessions, and proper training to staff; and

WHEREAS: The transition from elementary to high school, high school to higher education, employment or living is critical and may require extra planning to accommodate the needs of the student to successfully transition and succeed; and

WHEREAS: Transitional planning may be an additional barrier for immigrant students and English Language Learners, it is crucial to provide guidance to families; and

WHEREAS: Students have a right to an education and deserve to be provided the appropriate support and resources in order to achieve academic success, ***THEREFORE BE IT***

ORDERED: That the appropriate committee of the Boston City Council hold a hearing to review the Independent Education Plan policy and process and that representatives from the Boston Public Schools and other interested parties be invited to testify.

Filed on: January 14, 2019