

Area	MASSACHUSETTS' Higher Standard or Different Standard (and reference information)
Personnel	Specific personnel requirement for an Administrator of Special Education for districts depending on student enrollment numbers. 603 CMR 28.03(2).
Assessment	Massachusetts requires additional information related to the educational assessment required when an initial evaluation is conducted. 603 CMR 28.04.
	Massachusetts outlines specific assessment considerations for autism. M.G.L. c.71B, § 3.
Eligibility	Students may be found eligible if they are disabled and need a related service to access the general curriculum although they do not need specially designed instruction. 603 CMR 28.02(9).
Unscheduled evaluations	If a student is likely to remain at home, in a hospital, or in a pediatric nursing home for more than 60 school days, the Administrator of Special Education is directed to convene a Team to consider evaluation needs or if it is necessary to amend the student's IEP. 603 CMR 28.04(4).
Extended evaluation	The parent may agree to an extended evaluation if the Team finds the evaluation insufficient to fully develop an IEP. 603 CMR 28.05(2)(b).
IEP development	Massachusetts continues use of objectives or benchmarks in IEP development. Policy.
Consent	Massachusetts requires consent for all evaluations or reevaluations, all IEPs, and all placements. 603 CMR 28.07(1).
	Students, when over 18 years of age, may delegate authority to the parent or choose to share decision-making with the parent for special education. 603 CMR 28.07(5).
Timelines	Massachusetts requires an evaluation and convening a Team meeting to discuss evaluation results, determine eligibility and, if appropriate, write IEP and propose IEP and placement to parent within 45 school working days after consent to evaluate, with additional right to another 15 school working days if placement is initial placement to an out-of-district day or residential setting. 603 CMR 28.05(1) & 28.06(2)(e).
	Massachusetts allows a district to convene a placement meeting 15 days later than the IEP development meeting if the Team is considering an initial placement to a day or residential program in order to explore less restrictive alternatives. 603 CMR 28.06(2)(e).
Independent educational evaluation	Massachusetts has additional requirements relating to a sliding fee scale that allows a district to seek voluntary financial information of family and if income is at certain levels then the district must cost share or full pay for an IEE with no recourse to showing that the district's evaluation was appropriate. 603 CMR 28.04(5).
Parentally-placed private school students	Right to IEP and generally comparable program, full access to procedural safeguards for Massachusetts residents. 603 CMR 28.03(1)(e).
FAPE	Massachusetts also offers a right to educational tutoring or other supportive services to maintain educational progress for all students at home or in hospital for medical reasons for over 14 days in a school year. 603 CMR 28.03(3)(c).
School District Responsibility	Massachusetts has extensive regulations regarding assignment of school district programmatic and fiscal responsibility. 603 CMR 28.10.
Parent Participation	Massachusetts has additional requirement for local parent advisory councils for special education. 603 CMR 28.07(4).

Parent Participation	Massachusetts requires local districts to conduct an annual workshop for parents on the rights of students and their parents/guardians under state and federal special education laws. 603 CMR 28.03(1)(a)(4).
	Massachusetts explicitly provides for reimbursement to parents who transport their own children when such children require special transportation. 603 CMR 28.07(6).
	Massachusetts provides protections for a parent or designee to observe a child in his or her program or a proposed program. M.G.L. c. 71B § 3.
Placement	Massachusetts requires a contract between a public school district and a private school when an eligible student is placed in a private school. 603 CMR 28.06(3)
	Massachusetts specifies instructional group sizes for eligible students receiving special education services in groups solely for students with disabilities. 603 CMR 28.06(6).
	Massachusetts has additional requirements about transportation and the information and training received by transportation providers in relation to the needs of the students they are transporting. 603 CMR 28.06(8).
	Massachusetts requires that when making placement to day or residential schools, the school district must give preference to approved, in-state programs and must meet additional requirements if using an unapproved program. 603 CMR 28.06(3)(d) & (e).
Approval of Private Special Education Schools	Massachusetts explicitly requires that private schools serving publicly funded students with disabilities meet state standards for approval before public funds may be used to pay tuition in such settings. 603 CMR 28.09
Related laws	Massachusetts has laws regulating charter schools, vocational schools, Metco schools, and school choice, each of which may affect funding or responsibilities associated with students with disabilities. M.G.L. c. 71, §89; c. 74; c. 76, §12A; c. 76, §12B; respectively.
Transition to Adult Life	Massachusetts requires that a referral be made to the Executive Office of Health and Human services when a student who is likely to require continuing services from adult human service agencies approaches graduation or the age of twenty-two, whichever comes first. M.G.L. c. 71B, §12A and 603 CMR 28.05(4)(c).
	Massachusetts requires transition planning at age 14. M.G.L. c.71B, § 2.
Facilities	Massachusetts requires that resource rooms and separate classrooms for students with disabilities is given the same priority as general education programs, with specific requirements related to comparable facilities and classrooms, including requirements on location, signage, and response to financial or construction considerations. 603 CMR 28.03(1)(b).
Responsibilities of the School Principal	Massachusetts requires that the district develop and the principal implement a curriculum accommodation plan to ensure that efforts have been made or will be made to meet the needs of diverse student learners in the general education program. 603 CMR 28.03(3)(a).
Institutional Settings	Massachusetts provides funding to the state DOE to provide services to students with disabilities in state institutional settings run by Department of Youth Services, Department of Mental Health, County Houses of Corrections, and Department of Public Health. The state provides special education services according to the students' IEPs and to the level of the appropriation. School districts retain responsibility for these students and work cooperatively with the Mass. Department of Education. 603 CMR 28.06(9)
Special Education Surrogate Parents	Massachusetts requires districts to assist in identification of persons willing to serve as special education surrogate parent upon request. 603 CMR 28.07(7).