**CHAPTER 688 GUIDELINES FOR REFERRAL**

| Student Profile | Corresponding DESE Disability Category | Transitional Agency |
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| * Student is in the custody of or has an “open case” with DCF. * Exception: if the student is blind, s/he would be referred to the Massachusetts Commission for the Blind (MCB). | * All except blindness or deaf/blind (e.g., not codes 02,04 or 09, which would be sent to one of the disability agencies below) | DCF (Department of Children & Families)  (Area Office)  Mass.gov/eohhs/gov/departments/dcf |
| * Intellectual disabilities (ID) * Student may have ID coupled with other disabilities * Students living in a pediatric nursing facility may be referred to DDS. * Autism or developmental delay\*   \*functional skills deficits should also be present | * Code 01-Intellectual * All other codes must be coupled with 01 * Code 11 –Autism\* * Code 13 –Developmental delay\* | DDS (Department of Developmental Disabilities)  (Area Office)  Mass.gov/eohhs/gov/departments/dds |
| * Registered with MCB * May have blindness coupled with other disabilities such as emotional disturbance, deafness, or intellectual | * Code 04 Sensory/Vision Impaired or Blind * Code 09-Sensory Deaf/Blind * All other codes if coupled with 02 and is registered with MCB | MCB (Massachusetts Commission for the Blind)  (Springfield Office)  Mass.gov/eohhs/gov/departments/mcb |
| * Serious and long-term mental illness that has resulted in functional impairment that substantially interferes with or limits one or more major life activities.\*   \*Serious and long-term mental illness is a disorder of thought, mood, perception, orientation, or memory that grossly impairs judgment, behavior, capacity to recognize reality, and that results in an inability to meet the ordinary demands of life. See: *Interpretive Guidelines for 104 CMR 29.00 Determining Service Authorization for Children, Adolescents and Adults*, [Interpretive Guidelines for 104 CMR 29.00](https://www.mass.gov/doc/interpretive-guidelines-for-104-cmr-29-determining-service-authorization-for-children/download) | * Code 05-Emotional * All other codes if coupled with 05 | DMH (Department of Mental Health)  (Area Office)  Mass.gov/eohhs/gov/departments/dmh |
| * Specific learning disabilities; Health related disabilities; Communication disabilities (Vocational Rehabilitation Services) * Traumatic Brain Injury (SHIP/Statewide Head Injury Program ) * Physical disability with mobility impairment (Independent Living Program)   NOTE: Students receiving residential services at the time of 688 referral should not be referred to MRC for transition planning unless specifically directed by the Bureau of Transitional Planning (BTP). | * Code 03-Communication * Code 06-Physical * Code 07-Health * Code 08-Specific Learning Disabilities * Code 10-Multiple Disabilities * Code 12-Neurological   (Codes 11 and 13 may apply if no diagnosis of ID is present) | MRC (Massachusetts Rehabilitation Commission)  (Central Office: Anne Spector, Statewide 688 Coordinator)  600 Washington Street  Boston, MA 02111  Mass.gov/eohhs/gov/departments/mrc |
| * Deaf/use of American Sign Language (ASL); hard of hearing;   ***AND***   * Unable to sustain independent competitive employment * Unable to complete postsecondary education/training without substantial assistance | * Code 02 – Sensory/Hearing Impaired or Deaf | MCDHH (Massachusetts Commission for the Deaf and Hard of Hearing)  (Springfield Office)  Mass.gov/eohhs/gov/departments/mcdhh |

**If it cannot be clearly determined which agency is appropriate, school districts should send the 688 referral and supporting documents to the Bureau of Transitional Planning.**