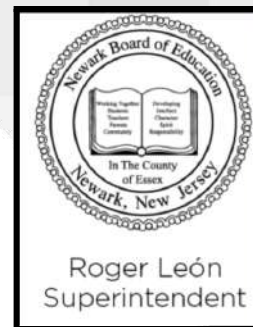


Newark Board of Education

Office of Special Education

January 2, 2024

Marilyn Mitchell, Director of Special Education



Teacher Talk OSE Updates

Monthly Highlights

Phonics Program Updates for Special Education Teachers K-8

The Office of Special Education is collaborating with the Office of English Language Arts to support special education teachers having access to implementing a phonics program from grades K to 8th grade (self-contained). During August and October, SIPPS materials for special education self-contained classes grades 2-3 have already been shipped to schools. Mr. Cullens, Special Assistant to OSE is following up with principals and their ELA coaches.

The Office of Special Education and The Office of English Language Arts are collaborating to purchase Fundation materials for grades K-1 and SIPPS materials for grades 4-8. In order to coordinate shipment of materials and to provide PD, please complete the needs assessment below. This survey will seek feedback regarding which special education teachers are already trained and implementing the phonics programs as well.

Special education teachers please complete the survey below.

- [Phonics Materials and PD Needs Survey](#)
- To be completed by January 12, 2024

Wilson Fundation Live Interactive Support to Educators (K to 1st)

Recognizing that limited time and distance are barriers to in-person sessions for many, Wilson® now offers live, interactive support to educators, no matter where they are located. Called [Virtual Implementation Support \(VIS\)](#), this professional learning is geared toward teachers who are new to Fundations® or Just Words®. It is delivered over the course of a school year by a highly-qualified team of Wilson Literacy Specialists and Wilson Credentialed Trainers. This Level-specific online community of practice allows for the time and space needed to deepen skills, learn practical tips, and connect with peers across the country.

- Special Education teachers already trained should click [this link](#) to Sign Up and receive additional follow ups from Wilson
- Click [this link](#) to visit the Wilson Implementation Support webpage

Inclusive Schools Week

Thank you to all the schools who participated in OSE's annual Inclusive Schools Week! This year's theme, "Draw Me In", celebrated how visual arts can be used to promote inclusive practices. Please see the official Inclusive Schools Week Slideshow 2023 which is also on the the district's website ([Inclusive Schools Week Dec 2023](#)).

Office of Special Education Professional Development

See additional workshop details below

AUTISM PROGRAM PD OPPORTUNITIES



Autism Program Virtual Monthly Office Hours SY 23-24

The Office of Special Education is excited to announce that every first Tuesday of the month, the Autism Team will be providing office hours for staff working with students with autism from 3:00 pm -4:00 pm. This time will be set aside for listening, sharing, and helping each other with questions, queries, or concerns. Please feel free to join us for productive and effective conversations on topics like curriculum, behaviors, and social/emotional support. Please use the link below to access office hours.

If you have any questions, please reach out to Katherine Agurto, OSE Autism Supervisor (kagurto@nps.k12.nj.us) or Jennifer LoConti, Autism Teacher Coach (jloconti@nps.k12.nj.us).

January 9, 2023

3:00 -4:00 pm
[Virtual Link](#)

Autism Supports by Star Autism

On behalf of the Office of Special Education, we want to welcome you back to the second half of our school year, Happy New Year! In order for us to best support our students on the Autism Spectrum with evidence based practices, we will continue our partnership with **Star Autism**. The Star trainers will be continuing to work in our district schools with Autism Programs. OSE has 2 model classrooms in each school with an autism program. Cohort 2 Teachers have resumed for the 2023-2024 SY and Cohort 3, composed of Autism teachers new to autism classrooms or new to the district, will receive training, materials, monthly coaching and feedback from Star Consultants.

In-Class Consultations (In-Person) Scheduled Throughout the Year:

Direct consultation with teachers, paraprofessionals and related service staff on the implementation of evidence-based practices using the STAR Program and/or Links Curriculum. Consultation can include general classroom implementation of the curriculum as well as individual student planning +and progress monitoring. Modeling of fidelity of implementation of lessons and use of positive behavior supports will be provided. Classroom consultation activities focus on active learning including observation, practice and collaboration.

- Coaching Visit Week of January 22 - January 25, 2024
- Coaching Visit Week of January 29 - February 1, 2024

Introductory Overview of the Autism Program Quality Indicators Revised (APQI-R)

The Office of Special Education offered the teachers and CST in the Autism Program a recorded overview of the Autism Program Quality Indicators-Revised (APQI-R) and how it will be used to move all classrooms to high quality. The (APQI-R) is a guidance document developed by the New Jersey Department of Education (NJDOE) that is meant to serve as a resource for Local Educational Agencies (LEAs) in developing, implementing, and evaluating quality programming for all students on the autism spectrum disorder (ASD). Please find the link to the recording and the respective Google Form- Review Link for Teachers and CST in the Autism Programs. **AU Teachers and CST were asked last month to please view the recorded training and complete this. Please complete it if you haven't already done so. Thank you.**

- LINK: [RECORDING OSE-NJDOE APQI-R 2023-2024 Overview Presentation](#)
- LINK: [Teacher in Autism Program Self-Review](#)
- LINK: [Autism Program CST Review](#)

LDM/S Program PD Opportunities

LDM/S Program support for pilot schools (Chancellor, Cleveland and Flagg Elementary Schools) includes creating small group instruction with para supports that embeds accommodations and other IEP Goals. Special Education Teachers will be trained on how to incorporate Learning Ally to provide their students access to grade level reading materials. Teachers will also be provided 3 additional workshops by Learning Ally. An OSE staff will provide coaching sessions to assist with specially designed instruction to include Learning Ally and para supports.

Learning Ally Launch PD

January Launch PD Sessions Scheduled by principals.

PARAPROFESSIONALS PD OPPORTUNITIES

The Office of Special Education is hosting district wide training for paraprofessionals to enable and empower them to develop the skills needed to be successful in their role. Permanent special education paraprofessionals are receiving year-long training and access to the 321 Insight Platform to increase their knowledge of supporting special education students. On a monthly basis, current and newly hired per-diem special education paraprofessionals are offered (1) virtual training session occurring after school or on a Saturday. The on-going virtual and in person training is delineated below.

321 Insight Per-Diem Paraprofessional Virtual Training

Hosted by the Office of Special Education

Session 37: Thursday January 4, 2024

4:00 - 5:30 pm

Session 38: Thursday January 4, 2024

6:00 - 7:30 pm

- [Registration Link](#) & [Flyer Link](#)

321 Insight Permanent Paraprofessional Virtual Training

Hosted by Office of Special Education

Session 5 (virtual): Restructuring the Environment: Applying the Learning

Participants will:

- Identify what may be “trouble spots” in their classrooms
- Collaboratively strategize how to restructure the environment for a more positive impact

January 8, 2024

9:30-10:45 am

Permanent Special Education Paraprofessionals

Virtual-Webex

- Meeting link:
<https://nboe.webex.com/nboe/j.php?MTID=m548adc88f9942e1bd47e77d52bbd7abc>
- Meeting number: 2631 915 6131 Password: 8twQByK8Mv3

PreK DISABLED PROGRAM PD OPPORTUNITIES

Teaching Matters Trainings (PSD Teachers only)

OSE is excited to announce that we are continuing our partnership with Teaching Matters for the 2023-2024 school year. Teaching Matters professional development sessions and in-class coaching began this November. See below for the list of PD topics, dates, and locations. PD sessions are open to all PSD teachers who are new to the program as well as any PSD teachers in need of additional training.

Data Driven Small Group Instruction & UDL

January 11, 2024

8:30 am - 3:00 pm

All PSD Teachers

Harold Wilson School

Registration for all Teaching Matters PD sessions is available on Whetstone/SchoolMintGrow. Please contact Cheryl Myrie with any questions.

ADDITIONAL TEACHER PD OPPORTUNITIES

EdPlan User Interface: Entering PLAAFPs and IEP Goals into EdPlan

This workshop is provided free by EdPlan and facilitated by the representatives of EDPlan. Participants must register to receive a webinar link from EdPlan. This course will review the importance of PLAAFP statements, the basics of SMART goal development and using EDPlan to create a measurable annual goal along with objectives and/or benchmarks.

January 4, 2024 and January 9, 2024

3:30 pm to 4:30 pm

Virtual Workshop

[PCG EdPlan Registration](#)

SPECIAL EDUCATION TEACHER ACADEMY (S.E.T.A.)

This workshop is dedicated to training special education teachers how to provide access to reading grade level novels and/or text books to their students who do not read on grade level. This workshop will address providing accommodations such as Text to Speech which is often an accommodation noted in IEPs. Join this session to learn about Learning Ally. See this [link](#) for additional information about Learning Ally.

The Special Education Teacher Academy (S.E.T.A.) is open to all special education teachers new to NBOE. Special Education teachers with less than 4 years at NBOE can continue to attend. Please register in SchoolMint Grow if you are attending.

Tuesday, January 23, 2024

4:00 pm to 5:30 pm

Virtual: Link will be shared with registered participants

EdPlan: Completing Progress Reports

This workshop is provided free by EdPlan and facilitated by the representatives of EDPlan. Participants must register to receive a webinar link from EdPlan. Participants will review using the Progress Reporting Wizard to complete the report to document the progress made by students on their IEP goals and objectives.

January 25, 2024 and January 30, 2024

3:30 pm to 4:30 pm

Virtual: Link will be shared with registered participants

[PCG EdPlan Registration](#)

Handle with Care Training (Autism and ERI Program)

At this time, priority is being given to paraprofessionals and educational staff supporting the Autism and ERI programs, and security officers. To learn more about the program you can review the HWC Official Web Page by clicking here [HANDLE WITH CARE® Behavior Management System](#). The HWC training provided in the district is a **2 day training being conducted at Harold Wilson**.

- **Day #1- VERBAL TRAINING-** focuses on preventing behavior issues and de-escalation techniques that school staff can use to address students who are having difficulty. These verbal and non-verbal de-escalation skills enable staff to reduce tension, and create and maintain a calm and safe environment for all. (Max 60 participants).
- **Day #2- PHYSICAL TRAINING-** participants will focus on a variety of avoidant and protective physical techniques, as well as the passive Primary Restraint Technique (PRT). The PRT is therapeutic hold only to be used when a student is deemed a danger to themselves or others. The PRT is an easy to learn, orthopedically safe, and effective standing method that offers unprecedented mechanical advantage without pain or injury to students or staff. (Max 20 participants). Staff should dress comfortably to actively participate in the physical activities of Day #2, including wearing rubber soled shoes or sneakers.

The Registration Google Form to register your staff for the NBOE's HWC Training can be accessed using this link: <https://forms.gle/AhQxxSLeqU8KUcmU7>

Please note that you have to select a Day #1 and then a Day #2 for each staff member that you register. Day #1 training must occur before Day #2 training can be selected.

Occasionally, changes may have to be made to your date selections, especially for Day 2 as there is a maximum participant number of 20 staff members. If your selected dates cannot be honored, you will be contacted directly by email. Please contact Dr. Joseph Bresnahan with any questions.

Child Study Team Member Mandatory PD Opportunities

DALS -Pearson Training (CSTs must register in advance)

Thursday, January 11, 2024
South West Ward CSTs

8:30 am to 11:30 am
[Registration Link](#)

Thursday, January 11, 2024
East Central Ward CSTs

12:00 pm to 3:00 pm
[Registration Link](#)

Tuesday, January 16, 2024
North Ward CSTs

8:30 am to 11:30 am
[Registration Link](#)

Tuesday, January 16, 2024
High School CSTs
HS SLS to attend Related Services PD and choose a different DALS PD date

12:00 pm to 3:00 pm
[Registration Link](#)

Wednesday, January 19, 2024
OOD, IEC, Specialized Schools and Make Up Session

8:30 am to 11:30 am
[Registration Link](#)

Related Service Providers

Tuesday, January 16, 2024
Virtual: Link forthcoming

12:00 pm to 3:00 pm

Social Workers and Psychologists

Wednesday, January 17, 2024
Location: TBD

8:30 am to 3:00 pm

New CST PD

Wednesday, January 24
Location: Central Office

8:30 am to 3:00 pm

Assessment in the IEP: Essential Elements and DLM

Tuesday, January 30, 2024

9:00 am to 12:00 pm

Virtual: Link will be shared with CST who are mandated to attend

OSE Staff

OSE Supervisors	OSE Program Specialists
North Ward SLT and ID Program: Dr. Shirley Fonseca	
East Central Ward & MD/MDMI Program: Cristina Pennetti	MD/Multiple Disability Medical Impairment Program & District DLM Coordinator: Maria Jara
South West Ward & Emotional Regulation Impairment Program: Dr. Joe Bresnahan	Emotional Regulation Program: Devvon Crawford and Aaron Brown
High School and Transition: Kear French	Transition Program: LaPrice Weatherington
Autism Program and Auditory Impairments Program: Katherine Agurto	Autism Program: Jennifer LoConti
OSE Professional Development, LDM/S and Resource Programs: Candice Wells	
Preschool Disabled and OOD CST: Cheryl Myrie	Preschool Disabled Program: Amy Woods
Related Services & Assistive Technology Initiative: Nicole Ford	