

Hampton Elementary School

Special Education

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Monthly Board of Education Update

March 23, 2022

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HES Special Education Use of Resources Update:

As mentioned in my previous update, I have been working to improve the use of personnel resources in terms of assignments, responsibilities and scheduling to ensure all opportunities to improve student learning and performance are utilized with fidelity in the most effective way for our students. This past month, I have started to implement some changes within the building. These changes have included adjusting paraprofessional assignments to ensure student growth and achievement within the least restrictive environment. It is my theory of practice that if we provide our students with the proper support, we will see not only academic growth but also growth in the independence for our students as well as more natural inclusion in the regular education setting for our students who require specialized instruction.

We have also begun to adjust case management responsibilities. We have looked to divide the caseload case management responsibilities based on the number of students, the age of our students, the needs of students and researched best practice. This has required us to adjust the caseloads of our resource room teacher, speech and language pathologist and our preschool teacher. This adjustment to services allows our preschool students to receive their specialized instruction in the classroom with their peers, as our preschoolers learn best from observing the modeling of their classmates.

It is important to note the paraprofessional staff were able to meet with the appropriate certified and non-certified staff to support the transition for each change in placement. We will continue to work with all staff involved in the changes to ensure they have proper training and support with this transition in assignments and responsibilities.

CT-SEDS Update:

This month I have started the SEDS training required for all special educators in Connecticut. The focus of this initial training is to ensure all special education staff

understand the legal requirements within the IEP and the reasoning behind the new design of the new Connecticut Individualized Education Plan. I am truly impressed with the level of content included in the training thus far, as it reinforces the purpose behind IDEA and special education laws. Our staff will be attending the training in May. I am looking forward to the training for special education staff and feel that it is a comprehensive process to ensure all staff in all districts have the same level of understanding of IDEA and the requirements to ensure our students are receiving the support they require and are legally entitled to receive.

While the training Hampton Elementary School Special Education staff will be essential to ensuring we are following all of the expectations put forth, this current training is not focused on the new data system, rather it is focused on the purpose and the reasoning behind the changes and the expectations for compliant IEPs. The special education staff will require further training at the beginning of the school year to learn about how to use the new data system.

More information on CT-SEDS can be found on the CT SDE website with the following link:

<https://portal.ct.gov/SDE/Special-Education/New-IEP/New-IEP-CT-SEDS>