

Enclosure: 12.1
BOE Meeting Date: June 3, 2010



*Office of Student
Services*

*Update on Special
Education Review by
Dr. Black*

Special Education Program Review

Dr. Black & Al Sabin

RECOMMENDATION # 1 COMPLETED

*Reorganize CSE committee structure in order to provide more consistency district-wide.
Create a more centralized organizational structure for the District's Committee of Special Education. Maintain the active involvement of building administrators.*

ACTIVITIES

A) This committee structure might have two CSE Chairpersons; one for grade K-6 and one for grade 7-12. These newly created Chairperson positions would run CSE meetings in buildings in coordination with building Principals, and support district-wide consistency in program options and student service recommendations.

B) The District should continue to operate a District Committee on Special Education, chaired by the Director & Assistant Director of Student Services. This would provide an additional forum for dispute resolution in difficult cases where the committee can not reach consensus.

C) Review job description and duties of current Assistant Director of Student Services. By redefining this position to include the role of K-6 OR 7-12 CSE Chair, the District may need to hire one additional Assistant Director to cover the other half of the grade levels CSE.

TIMELINE/RESPONSIBILITY

A) Review budget implications

B) Clarify and if necessary revise job descriptions for personnel in Office of Student Services and Principals relative to CSE responsibilities

C) Implement new CSE Committee Structure

September 08
Superintendent

Board of Education
Office of Student Services

Business Office

ACTIONS 2007-2008

- Staff Chat with all stakeholders
- Reviewed budget with Mike, Alice, Ralph, Judy – March, April, May, 2008
- Met with J. Fenaughty, Educational and Management Consultant, on May 7, to discuss proposed office review including: scope of services, job descriptions, CSE responsibilities, methodology
- Implement new CSE Committee Structure: *Change timeline to September 2009*

ACTIONS 2008-2009

- ✘ Office Study conducted October 2008- results pending
- ✘ Staff Chat with all stakeholders
- ✘ Proposed CSE chairperson positions: Preschool-5 grade Chairperson, 6-12 grade/ASD Consultant
- ✘ Board of Education approved May 2009

ACTIONS 2009-2010

- ✚ Implementation of new CSE structure July 2009

RECOMMENDATION # 2

COMPLETED

Implement a district-wide model of prevention/pre-referral intervention using building-based teams.

ACTIVITIES

A) Establish a district-wide model for prevention and pre (CSE) referral interventions in each building. Identify district and building personnel that can support, implement and document prevention/pre-referral interventions.

B) Create formal linkages between LRE consultants, ASD consultants, AIS personnel, school psychologists, social workers, reading teachers, and related service providers – and building-based teams for prevention/pre-referral interventions. These personnel would be valuable members of regularly meeting building-based intervention teams. This would provide consistent district-wide support for students and make efficient use of existing resources.

C) Provide staff in each building with training on RTI (Response to Intervention).

TIMELINE/RESPONSIBILITY

A) Design building-team model June –December 2008

B) Implement building-team model January 2009

Office of Student Services Assistant Superintendent Principals

ACTIONS 2007-2008

- Staff chat with all stakeholders
- Discussed with Ralph, Judy, Alice and Mike – March 12, April 2, April 9, 2008
- May 8, at administrative council meeting I presented that every building will have a Child Study Team in place by the end of October 2008.
- Conversations with SETRC Trainer regarding scheduling a Child Study Team training for all 7 buildings in September or October – this will help to ensure consistency among the teams
- Response to Intervention Task Force created; Response to Intervention should be implemented by September 2009

ACTIONS 2008-2009

- ✘ Stephanie Pelcher- Director, Syracuse Teacher Center and Coordinator of School –Based Intervention Teams, provided training October 23, 2008 for all building principals and one team member
- ✘ Building teams will be assembled and implementation will begin January 5, 2009
- ✘ Stephanie Pelcher will provide training to all 7 buildings and their teams on February 6, 2009
- ✘ Response to Intervention task force in place with recommendations coming to the Board of Education in late December or early January

ACTIONS 2009-2010

- Classroom Intervention Model (CIM) is being implemented; additional training was offered September 23, 2009 for all CIM team members. Additional training will be offered in February 2010
- Response to Intervention Committee is in place and meeting dates have been established

RECOMMENDATION # 3

COMPLETED

Adopt a consistent reading program in the elementary schools.

ACTIVITIES

A) The District textbook adoption committee should consider the adoption of consistent instructional materials at the elementary level in the form of a Reading/Language Arts series. Selection of such a series should consider the availability/integration of more intensive remediation materials for students with/and without disabilities.

B) Review how SWD receive AIS services and the potential need to identify an alternate reading program for students not successful in any program adopted district wide.

TIMELINE/RESPONSIBILITY

Review/Adopt Elementary Reading Series
September 2009-June 2010
District Textbook Committee

ACTIONS 2007- 2008

- Staff chat with all stakeholders
- Superintendent, Assistant Superintendent, and the Director of Student Services will be meeting with reading teachers on June 16.
- Timeline for textbook/program adoption tentative to begin February 2009

ACTION 2008-2009

- ✘ Data has been compiled regarding all of the reading programs and handwriting programs used pre-k –6 grade
- ✘ ELA Fair coming on March 27 Superintendent Conference Day

ACTIONS 2009-2010

- ✚ October 2009: Special Education Teachers at Gardner Road Elementary will be exploring a supplemental reading program per the School in Need of Improvement status through the Comprehensive Education Plan
- ✚ October 2009: Elementary reading series adoption is in the planning stages
- ✚ March 2010: Special Education teachers at Gardner Road adopted a Direct Instruction reading program; SRA – Language for Learning (pre k-1 grades), Reading Mastery (1-3 grades), Corrective Reading (3-12 grades)
- ✚ February 2010: Charge goes out to form an ELA adoption committee, with full implementation planned for September 2011; Assistant Superintendent will be providing updates regarding this adoption
- ✚ February 2010: Staff chats by the Director of Elementary Education and Assistant Superintendent regarding the ELA adoption
- ✚ March 2010- September: Committee formed, training offered, implementation

RECOMMENDATION # 4

COMPLETED

Provide 15:1 level of special education services in all elementary buildings.

ACTIVITIES

- A) Begin planning to provide 15:1 level of special education service in each elementary school building.
- B) Inventory existing Resource Room and 15: 1 staffing across all elementary buildings and reallocate staffing assignments as students requiring 15: 1 services are maintained in their home school.
- C) This shift may require some additional staffing (e.g. one or two additional special education teachers). However, special education teachers in the elementary buildings could serve as both .resource room teachers for some periods/students while also providing 15: 1 classroom instruction in reading/math for other periods/students.

TIMELINE/RESPONSIBILITY

- A) Study/plan for implementation (e.g., space and staffing)
September 2008-June 2009
- B) Implement 15: 1 level of services in each elementary building.
September 2008

Office of Student Services
Elementary Building Principals

ACTIONS 2007-2008

- Staff chat with all stakeholders
- *Change timeline to September 2009*
- Discussion with Karen Donahue of the State Education Department, on March 28 , to begin a dialog about moving the 15:1's back to their home schools
- Collect data of students and their home schools to understand the impact on the special and general education staff

ACTIONS 2008-2009

- ✘ Conversations with 15:1 teachers at Gardner Road Elementary School to move this process forward: meeting dates were September 18, October 9, and November 6
- ✘ Conversations with parents of students that would be returning to home schools were completed

ACTIONS 2009-2010

- ✚ Full implementation of 15:1 level of services are provided in each elementary building

RECOMMENDATION # 5

COMPLETED

Expand support for 15:1 co-teaching opportunities at the High School level. Create more co-taught program options in the high school for students requiring a 15:1 level of service.

ACTIVITIES

A) Provide staff development on co-teaching models, differentiated instruction, and instructional adaptations/modifications for high school special educators and the general education teachers that they currently/might partner with. This staff development should involve experienced/skilled co-teachers from the intermediate, middle, and high schools as session co-facilitators and mentors.

B) Examine/initiate scheduling process to place students in appropriate small clusters in general education content area classes supported by a special education teacher or assistant, while also providing an academic support period(s) for students and common planning time for teachers.

C) Create additional opportunities for special education teachers from the middle school and high school to communicate/collaborate on challenges and strategies to meet the needs of 15: 1 students and plan for transitions.

TIMELINE/RESPONSIBILITY

A) Planning and Staff Development

March 08 – September 09

B) Design schedule/model

April 08 – August 08

C) Implement expanded co-teaching model for 15:1 students.

September 08

Office of Student Services
High School Administration

Guidance Staff
Staff Development Coordinator

ACTIONS 2007-2008

- Staff chat with all stakeholders
- Middle School and High School special education teachers, guidance, social workers and school psychologist met April 24 and May 12, 2008 to discuss 8th graders in the 15:1 program coming to the High School
- Middle school 15:1 students came to have lunch and a take a tour of the High School
- Conversations with Jim Black and Al Sabin about possible staff development
- This recommendation will be ongoing

ACTIONS 2008-2009

- ✘ Ongoing conversations with the high school staff about continued review of programs and support for those programs
- ✘ This recommendation was put on hold around December due to the State Performance Indicator for Transition

ACTIONS 2009-2010

- ✚ October 15, 2009, Student Services Director & Assistant Director met with the High School Principal and Special Education staff members of the 15:1 program to discuss next steps

- ✚ January 12, 2010, Director of Secondary Education, Assistant Director of Student Services and Special Education staff from the High School attended school visits in Rochester to schools of similar size to acquire the knowledge of how special education services are provided to students with disabilities at the High School level

- ✚ March 10-12, 2010, Director and Assistant Director of Student Services attended the CNYSEA Conference in Albany, NY and participated in Co-Teaching workshops

- ✚ March 16, 2010, Assistant Director met with the High School Principal to share information gained from the Rochester school visits and the CNYSEA conference

- ✚ April 21-24, 2010, Director and Assistant Director of Student Services attended the CEC National Conference in Nashville, TN and participated in Co-Teaching workshops from presenters around the United States

- ✚ July/August 2010, Co-Teaching workshop will be offered to all secondary level regular education and special education staff

RECOMMENDATION # 6

COMPLETED

Review the range of currently available options for students requiring 12:1+1 services at the High School level.

ACTIVITIES

A) Consider additional in-district program options housed in the high school for high school students requiring 12:1+1 services.

B) Convene a study group to examine the existing 12:1+1 secondary program options to determine if they meet the needs of the range of students. This study group should include representation of the following: students, parents/families, in-district special educators, BOCES and other current service providers, district and building administrators

TIMELINE/RESPONSIBILITY

A) Convene a study group to review existing 12: 1+1 secondary program options for students in the Horseheads CSD and make recommendations for any additional program needs.

September 08 – January 09
Office of Student Services
High School Administration

ACTIONS 2007-2008

- Staff chat with all stakeholders
- Meeting held November 5 2007, and January 24 & February 8 , 2008
- This is a proposed budget item included in the 2008-2009 budget
- 12:1:1 will be located at High School to begin in September 2008

RECOMMENDATION # 7

COMPLETED

Expand staff development activities to enhance understanding of special education services and effective instructional practices for students with disabilities.

ACTIVITIES

- A) The following topics of need/interest were identified frequently during staff and parent interviews and surveys:
- B) Use and role of paraprofessionals/teacher assistants supporting students with disabilities in general education classrooms.
- C) Understanding special education laws and regulations and IEP development.
- D) Understanding the District's continuum of services and service delivery options.
- E) Models and strategies for co-teaching.
- F) Strategies for differentiating assessment and instruction.
- G) Understanding of effective instructional practices/techniques for students with specific disabilities.

TIMELINE/RESPONSIBILITY

2008-2009 School Year

Ongoing

Staff Development Coordinator

Assistant Superintendent

Special Education Department Chairpersons

Office of Student Services

ACTIONS 2007-2008

- ◆ Staff chat with all stakeholders
- ◆ Arranged for Karen Donahue from the State Education Department to conduct an "Educational Benefit Activity" workshop for the psychologists and Special Education Coordinators on May 5, 2008

ACTIONS 2008-2009

- ✘ Karen Donohue from the State Education Department conducted an "Educational Benefit Activity" workshop for the 70 Special Education and Related Service Staff on October 29, 2008
- ✘ Curriculum Based Measurement will be the focus of assessment when writing our Individual Education Plans-training to be scheduled
- ✘ Coordinators meet monthly with Special Education staff offering a discussion which may include: laws and regulations, services delivery, instructional strategies as well as other items that may be requested

ACTIONS 2009-2010

- ✚ Summer professional development: Curriculum Based Measurement workshop offered July 14-16, 21-23. Other components in the workshops were: AimsWeb, Read Naturally, administering CBM probes, writing the present level of performance (PLEP's) which are incorporated into writing IEP goals
- ✚ Additional professional development: Curriculum Based Measurement workshop was offered September 15, 17, 22, 24, 29, 30.
- ✚ Coordinators meet monthly with Special Education staff discussing laws, regulation, service delivery, instructional strategies as well as other items that may be requested

RECOMMENDATION # 8

COMPLETED

Review the consistency and appropriateness of annual goals written for Individualized Education Programs (IEP's).

ACTIVITIES

- A) Provide administrative review of Annual goals and offer staff development on writing child centered annual goals.
- B) Provide staff development for working with parents on selecting priority IEP goals that address the affect that the student's disability has on his/her making progress in the general education curricula.
- C) Include models which include goals written with enabling objectives or benchmarks.
- D) Assure that assessment data is collected and reviewed as indicated for IEP goals.

TIMELINE/RESPONSIBILITY

July 08 – August 09

Special Education Department Chairpersons/Coordinators
CSE Chairpersons
Office of Student Service
Staff Development Coordinator

ACTIONS 2007-2008

- Staff chat with all stakeholders
- Karen Donahue from the State Education Department conducted an "Educational Benefit Activity" workshop for the psychologists and Special Education Coordinators on May 5, 2008
- The Educational Benefit Activity has been proposed to the state to conduct another workshop with the entire Special Education and related services staff during a Superintendent Conference day for the 2008-2009 school year
- This recommendation will be ongoing

ACTIONS 2008-2009

- ✘ Karen Donohue from the State Education Department conducted an "Educational Benefit Activity" workshop for the 70 Special Education and Related Service Staff on October 29, 2009
- ✘ Through this training our Individual Education Plans (IEP's) will focus on the present level of educational performance with will enhance our goals and over all quality of our IEP's
- ✘ Curriculum Based Measurement will be the focus of assessment and data when writing our Individual Education Plans (IEP'S) – training to be scheduled
- ✘ Curriculum Based Measurement of student progress, application for writing IEP's- training December 9, 2008
- ✘ This recommendation will be ongoing

ACTIONS 2009-2010

- ✚ Summer professional development: Curriculum Based Measurement workshop offered July 14-16, 21-23. Other components in the workshops were: AimsWeb, Read Naturally, administering CBM probes, writing the present level of performance (PLEP's) which are incorporate into writing IEP goals
- ✚ Additional professional development: Curriculum Based Measurement workshop offered September 15, 17, 22, 24, 29, 30

RECOMMENDATION # 9 COMPLETED

Review the age-appropriateness of BOCES programs housed at Center Street Elementary.

ACTIVITIES

A) Review issues of age appropriateness and program access. Consider options for more age-appropriate placement of these programs.

TIMELINE/RESPONSIBILITY

Director of Student Services and BOCES Representative(s)

Superintendent

June 2008

ACTIONS 2007-2008

- Staff Chat with all stakeholders
- Moving class to the Middle School – September 2008