

Sudbury Public Schools District-Wide Special Education Evaluation

Conducted By:

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April 11, 2016

Methodology

- Review of pertinent written documents, 4 hours for this activity
- Walk Through of all the schools with principals and visits to special education instructional settings, full day
- Observation of specific special education programs and inclusion settings, 2.5 days were allocated to this activity
- One on One Interviews with 35 Individuals, including 7 focus groups. These individuals represented a cross section of school-based personnel, general and special education staff, administrators and parents. two day for this activity
- Report development and follow-up meetings, 40 hours for this activity

Positions Interviewed

- Superintendent of Schools
- Assistant Superintendent
- Interim Director of Special Education
- Special Education Administrator/Consultant
- Principals, 3
- Early Childhood Administrator
- Assistant Business Manager
- Team Chairpersons, 4
- Special Education Teachers, 2

Positions Interviewed (cont.)

- General Education Teachers, 2
- Guidance Counselor
- School Psychologists, 2
- Speech/Language Pathologists, 2
- Occupational Therapist
- Physical Therapist
- Board Certified Behavioral Analyst
- Consultant
- Administrative Assistants, 2

Positions Interviewed (cont.)

- SEPAC Chairperson
- Parents, 6

Commendations

- There were 28 specific commendations
- These commendations recognized specific programs, approaches and efforts made by administration and staff in serving the needs of students with disabilities

Factors Effecting Special Education Programming and Services

- Census and Needs of the students, 14.9%
- Increase in the Severity of Needs
- Inclusion Practices
- Out of District Placements
- Advocacy and Legal Issues
- Administrative Leadership
- Technology/Assistive Technology
- Educational Experience

Findings

- 28 Findings as a result of the review of documentation, walk through and interviews
- The Findings are the foundation for the Recommendations

Outcomes: Recommendations

There are 13 recommendations that address the following areas:

1. Increase in on-site supervision of special education staff & programs
2. Team Chairperson's positions be consolidated
3. Review Mission of existing special education programs
4. Decision to move forward on Tiered System of Instruction district-wide

Outcomes: Recommendations

5. Evaluation of the Integrated Preschool Program
6. Dedicated professional development for specific program needs and grade levels
7. A study to determine need for a Language-Based/Learning Disability Program
8. Transition practices at all levels
9. Parental awareness/training
10. Data collection & analysis practices

Outcomes: Recommendations

11. Establishment of entrance/exit criteria for all programs & services
12. Administrative practices
13. Development of criteria for assigning and retaining teaching assistants are assigned