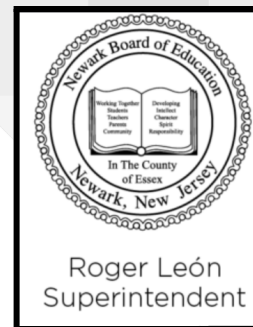


Newark Board of Education

Office of Special Education

September 11, 2023

Marilyn Mitchell, Director of Special Education



Teacher Talk OSE Updates

Bi-Weekly Highlights

Training for Long-Term Substitutes placed in Special Education Classrooms (NEW)

Contact: Marilyn Mitchell, Office of Special Education

Email: mmitchell@nps.k12.nj.us and kagurto@nps.k12.nj.us

The Office of Special Education will provide special education training to substitutes placed in vacant special education classrooms. Our goal is to provide substitutes with the information and skills necessary to effectively conduct classroom activities in the teacher's absence. We will need your assistance in identifying long-term substitute teachers to attend our bi-monthly training. Please complete [Substitute teacher training](#).



Paraprofessional Professional Development

The Office of Special Education is excited to announce that paraprofessionals districtwide will be participating in training to enable and empower them to develop the skills needed to be successful in their role. We understand that paraprofessionals are critical to achieving academic, social, emotional and functional outcomes for students with exceptionalities. For the 2023-2024 School year, paraprofessionals will receive year-long training and access to the 321 Insight Platform that contains videos and relevant materials, and will learn new strategies that can be immediately applied. The videos all include summaries and discussion/self-study guides for extending the learning, and Insight Sheets, planning forms, and tracking tools to offer additional ways to implement best practices in their respective schools.

Upcoming PD for Child Study Team Members

CST Staff Development Day #1

Child Study Team (CST) members will meet on September 30th from 8:30 am to 3:00 pm for the first Staff Development Day at Luis Munoz Marin Elementary School. This full day session will provide updates regarding OSE Policy, Procedures and expectations for the 2023-2024 school year. The Office of Special Education will notify each child study team member.

- Wednesday, August 30, 2023

8:30 am to 3:00 pm

New CST PD

New CSTs recently hired for the 2023-2024 school year and select CSTs hired during the 2022-2023 school year will be invited to the New CST Orientation. The dates below are mandatory for the invited New CSTs. New CSTs are to meet at Central Office, Special Education Department, 4th Floor, 765 Broad Street, Newark, NJ.

- Thursday, August 31, 2023 8:30 am to 12:00 pm
- Tuesday, September 5, 2023 8:30 am to 12:00 pm
- Tuesday, September 12, 2023 8:30 am to 3:00 pm
- Thursday, September 14, 2023 8:30 am to 3:00 pm
- Monday, September 18, 2023 8:30 am to 3:00 pm

CST Workshop

This session is for CSTs that manage students with DLM in their IEPs. This is a mandatory workshop.

- Monday, September 25, 2023 9:00 am to 12:00 pm

CST Workshop: NJDOE FBA TRaining

This workshop will be in-person. CSTs will be notified by their SLT OSE supervisor.

- Friday, September 29, 2023 8:30 am to 11:30 am
- East/Central Teams & South/West Teams Location: TBD

Upcoming PD for Teachers

SPECIAL EDUCATION TEACHER ACADEMY

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. The Office of Special Education will send invites to teachers. Information will also be posted in Principal Points and Teacher Talk. S.E.T.A. is monthly from 3:30 pm to 5:30 pm. Please have teachers register for this workshop within Whetstone. Administrators or teachers can contact Candice Wells with questions (c1wells@nps.k12.nj.us)

AUTISM PROGRAM UPDATES

STAR Autism Supports



On behalf of the Office of Special Education, we want to welcome you back for our 2023-2024 school 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 will have 2 model classrooms in each school with an autism program. Cohort 2 Teachers will resume 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. The STAR Program includes detailed lesson plans, teaching materials, data systems and a curriculum-based assessment for teaching in the six curricular areas of receptive language,

expressive language, spontaneous language, functional routines, academics, and play & social skills. Our goal is to increase the number of teachers annually so we can begin to use common language, resources and data when discussing the indicators and characteristics of an autism program.

Autism Program PD Sessions

STAR (Primary Grades PSD-5th) 2 Day Virtual Workshop 9/9/23 & 9/23/23:

This comprehensive two-day virtual workshop provides participants with detailed examples and practice activities on how to implement the evidence-based practices identified in the National Standards Report (2009). The STAR Program (Arick, Loos, Falco and Krug, 2015), a research-based curriculum is used to provide examples. Appropriate content connected to the common core curriculum is presented and detailed information on the three evidenced-based instructional methods of discrete trial training, pivotal response training and teaching through functional routines are shared. Participants will learn how to implement these strategies through structured lesson plans and a curriculum scope and sequence. The workshop will include extensive data collection systems and participants will learn to collect and use data for instructional decision making. Workshop topics will include the use of a powerpoint lecture, video examples, presenter demonstration and participant "hands-on" practice. **Registration by invitation only.**

- Session 1: Saturday, September 9, 2023 9:00 am to 3:00 pm
- Session 2: Saturday, September 23, 2023 9:00 am to 3:00 pm

LINKS (Secondary: Grades 6-12th) 2 Day Virtual Workshop 9/16/23 & 9/30/23:

This two-day workshop provides participants with information on how to implement evidence-based practices for secondary students using the Links Curriculum (Arick, Hoffman and Magee-Arick, 2012). Participants will learn to use a process for assessing and teaching functional routines that has been documented in the research. Extensive information will be given on selecting and individualizing routines and teaching specific skills to support success during routines. Participants will learn how to use the evidence-based strategies of discrete trial training, use of visual supports and the use of modeling strategies to teach critical skills necessary to support success during daily functional and academic routines. Presenters will identify specific skills to teach using a research-based assessment system and will then demonstrate how to teach these skills using the most appropriate instructional strategy. The Links Curriculum includes extensive data collection systems and participants will learn to collect and use data for instructional decision making, tracking student progress and writing IEP Goals. Video examples and video practice activities will be incorporated into the workshop. An on-line computerized system will be demonstrated with hands-on practice by the participants. **Registration by invitation only.**

- Session 1: Saturday, September 16, 2023 9:00 am to 3:00 pm
- Session 2: Saturday, September 30, 2023 9:00 am to 3:00 pm

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.

- Visit 1: October 3-5, 2023
- Visit 2: November 6-9, 2023
- Visit 3: December 11-14, 2023

TRAINING SERIES for CST and Paraprofessionals in the Autism Programs

rethinkEd Applied Behavior Analysis (ABA) On-Demand

Child Study Team members and paraprofessionals working in Autism Programs can support their students and respective teachers by accessing the on-demand ABA Learning Modules in RethinkEd's lesson library. CST and paraprofessionals can increase their skill set in the area of ABA and learn more about evidence-based support for learners with Autism Spectrum Disorder. Special education teachers that support the Autism Program all currently have access to ReThink.

Case managers and paraprofessionals for students with Autism Spectrum Disorder have 2 Training options:

- Basic Training: Educators can earn a certificate for 8-hours of professional development upon completion of all 11 Basic Training modules.
- Advanced Training: Educators can earn a certificate for each individual training module, amounting to 40-hours of professional development upon completion. This course can also be used to satisfy the RBT Certification coursework requirements.

If you would like access to the ABA On-Demand Training Series or if you have any questions, please reach out to Katherine Agurto, OSE Supervisor (kagurto@nps.k12.nj.us) or Jennifer LoConti, Autism Teacher Coach (jloconti@nps.k12.nj.us).

OSE Staff

OSE Supervisors	OSE Program Specialists
North Ward SLT: 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: Candice Wells	
Preschool Disabled and OOD CST: Cheryl Myrie	Preschool Disabled Program: Amy Woods
Related Services & Assistive Technology Initiative: Nicole Ford	