

Newark Board of Education

Office of Special Education

October 10, 2023

Marilyn Mitchell, Director of Special Education

Teacher Talk OSE Updates

Monthly Highlights

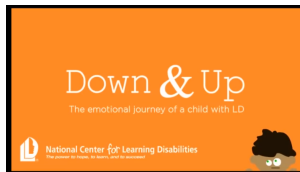
Celebrating Physical Therapy Month



October marks the start of National Physical Therapy Month, a multi-week celebration of physical therapy health benefits. Physical therapists (PTs) work with people of all ages to assist a person in reaching their maximum potential with safe functional movement to promote active participation at home, school, and in community environments. You can think of a physical therapist as your "movement expert," who can have a positive impact on a child's development. Please give a shout out this month to the PT working with your students!



October is also Learning Disability Awareness and Dyslexia Awareness Month



Approximately 1 in 59 students have a learning disability. Nationally, about 10% of students have dyslexia. Did you know that 1 in 5 students have a learning difference such as ADHD? Students with learning differences 'can do' and have strengths. Check out the video "The Power of Kind Words" and share with staff. Click this [link](#) to view the video. A great resource to support students with reading disabilities is [Learning Ally](#). Check out the additional resources provided by the [US Office of Disabilities](#).

Preparation for Inclusive Schools' Week: December 4-8

Nationally, Inclusive Schools Week is celebrated during the first full week in December. This year, Inclusive Schools Week will take place from December 4 to December 8. The Inclusive Schools Network and Stetson & Associates are two organizations that lead the promotion nationally regarding inclusivity. The theme this year is "Draw Me In". This year, the Office of Special Education is collaborating with the Office of Visual and Performing Arts to engage in inclusive activities in the Arts. The activity will ask schools to consider how they can have all students engage in this year's Inclusive Schools Theme. The Office of Special Education will share information on a monthly basis in order to help schools prepare in getting their student body to be involved. Please see your principal to indicate your interest.

Phonics Collaboration with OSE and ELA to Support Special Education Teachers in Grades K to 2nd

Special Education Teachers in self-contained classrooms are receiving phonic kits to support their students with disabilities. Self-contained classrooms may be multi-grade level. See the chart below to determine which kit your special education teacher of multi-grade levels was provided with. Special Education Teachers are to attend professional development with their colleagues. Please reach out to both Candice Wells and Lisa Trobaugh with any questions. All SIPPS materials have been shipped and Foundation materials are on order.

Grade Level	Foundations	SIPPS
K	✓	
1st	✓	
2nd		✓
3rd		✓
K-1	✓	
1-2		✓
2-3		✓

Goalbook Toolkit

Goalbook Toolkit supports educators with design of instruction to support diverse learners. This year the recommendation has been for schools to create a 5 person team that consists of the I&RS coordinator, an Academic Interventionist, a General Education, Special Education Teacher and a school administrator. Content available in Goalbook Toolkit is aligned to state standards and research-based frameworks for differentiated instruction including the Universal Design for Learning. Educators can customize thousands of instructional strategies and resources to help all students overcome individual learning barriers. (Goalbook webpage 2021). Selected members of your team will have access to use Goalbook Toolkit to assist with determining supports for students who have been identified via the I&RS process.

Currently, Learning Disability Teacher Consultants (LDTCs) have access. All CST Social Workers and psychologists will be trained this year.

The Office of Special Education is collaborating with the Office of Student Life to provide access to Goalbook. Your OSE SLT supervisor will follow up with an email this week so that you can review your current team and register new users. Please contact Candice Wells (OSE) and/or Jessica Silva (OSL) with any questions.

Review the chart below to learn more about what is available within [Goalbook](#). Principals will select their five staff to have access to Goalbook.

<p>Standards-Based Design We take each college and career readiness standard and create specific and measurable learning goals aligned to the standard. We presume competence and write the first goal at a grade level expectation.</p>	<p>Breadth of Content We take each state and Common Core standard, identify its “Essential” – or “Core Purpose” – and create IEP goals, resources, and strategies. Our repository includes content for Pre-K to Grade 12 in Reading, Writing, Math, and Speech, in addition to Behavior, Social and Emotional Learning, Autism,</p>	<p>Multiple Levels of Support We use strategies and supports aligned to the UDL framework to develop scaffolded instruction at mild, moderate and intense levels of support. Every standard has adapted goals so that teachers can start at the most appropriate level for students.</p>	<p>Instructional Strategies Aligned instructional strategies and resources aid teachers as they plan instruction. We place strategies at the fingertips of teachers to maximize access to the standards for every student.</p>
---	--	--	--

	Occupational Therapy, Alternate Academic and Life Skills, and Transition.		
<p>Strategies for Moderate/Severe Disabilities</p> <p>Alternate Academic and Life Skills resources help you address five distinct areas of support that prioritize autonomy with functional and academic skills development.</p>	<p>Detailed Explanations of Every Strategy</p> <p>Every strategy is aligned to the Universal Design for Learning framework and supplemented with real-world applications and downloadable resources which help you become a more versatile educator in the classroom.</p>	<p>Resources for Behavior and Social-Emotional Learning</p> <p>It is critically important at various stages of child development to maintain routines that promote a sense of safety and independence. Our Social and Emotional Learning strategies include resources that support students with behavioral challenges.</p>	<p>Become a Master (UDL) Strategist</p> <p>We publish UDL strategies based on practices we see used by master educators. All of our strategies are organized so you can quickly find a strategy based on the subject area, learning barrier, grade level, type of instruction, and instructional setting.</p>

Office of Special Education Professional Development Calendar

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
1	2 New CST Training 8:30 am -3:05 pm 321 Insight Para PD Admin Overview 1:00pm-2:00pm	3 FBA Training 8:30am-11:30am 12:00pm-3:05pm STAR Autism Teacher Training Visit	4 STAR Autism Teacher Training Visit	5 DLM IE Assessment Teacher Training 12:30-2:30 pm STAR Autism Teacher Training Visit	6	7
8	9 Schools Closed	10 New CST Training 8:30 am -3:05 pm Gallaudet - Deaf Ed Teacher Training Visit	11 Vizzle Admin Overview 3:00 pm-4:00 pm Gallaudet - Deaf Ed Teacher Training Visit	12 Intro to Vizzle 3:00 pm-4:00 pm Gallaudet - Deaf Ed Teacher Training Visit	13 New CST Training 8:30 am -3:05 pm	14
15	16 New CST Training 8:30 am-3:05 pm	17 S.E.T.A Chancellor 3:30 pm-5:30 pm	18 STAFF Development Day #3	19 SEPAC meeting 6:00pm-8:00pm	20	21
22	23 LRE Training 8:30 am-1:30 and 12:00-3:05 pm STAR Autism Teacher Training Visit	24 STAR Autism Teacher Training Visit	25 STAR Autism Teacher Training Visit	26 LRE Training 8:30 am-1:30 pm and STAR Autism Teacher Training Visit	27 New CST Training 8:30 am to 3:05 am STAR Autism Teacher Training Visit	28
29	30 New CST Training 8:30 am -3:05 pm	31	1	2	3	4

Upcoming 321 Insight PD for Paraprofessionals

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. Permanent paraprofessionals will receive a year-long training and access to the 321 Insight Platform to increase their knowledge of supporting special education students. In October, newly hired per-diem paraprofessionals will be offered (1) virtual training session occurring after school or on a Saturday. Permanent paraprofessionals will participate in their second session on Staff Development Day October 18, 2023.

321 Insight Per-Diem Paraprofessional Virtual Training

- October 11 and 12, 2023
- Link for registration-<https://forms.gle/4BcanrSrZxtbfsrL6>

321 Insight Permanent Paraprofessional In-Person Training

- Wednesday, October 18, 2023
- 8:30 am-11:30 am or 12:30 pm-2:30 pm
- Locations: Elliot Street School or Bruce Street School for the Deaf
- Participants will receive messaging regarding their assigned time and location.

Contact: Katherine Agurto, OSE Supervisor
Email: kagurto@nps.k12.nj.us

Upcoming PD for Child Study Team Members

CSTs Staff Development Day #3

- Wednesday, October 18, 2023 8:30 am to 3:00 pm
- More details to follow

NJDOE LRE Training

- Monday, October 23, 2023 Harold Wilson
- East Central Teams 8:30 am to 11:30 am
- South West Teams 12:00 pm to 3:00 pm

- Tuesday, October 26, 2023
- North, IEC and OOD 8:30 am to 11:30 am
- High School & Specialized Schools 12:00 pm 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.

- Tuesday, October 10, 2023 8:30 am to 3:00 pm
 - Friday, October 13, 2023 8:30 am to 3:00 pm
 - Monday, October 30, 2023 8:30 am to 3:00 pm
-

Upcoming PD for Teachers

DLM Instructionally Embedded Assessment Office Hours

The Office of Special Education will offer DLM IE Assessment Office Hours for special education teachers with students who participate in DLM. Teachers will review DLM IE Assessment guidelines, DLM Essential Elements and will have the opportunity to ask questions.

- Thursday, October 19, 2023 3:00 pm to 4:00 pm
- Thursday, October 26, 2023 3:00 pm to 4:00 pm

Contact: Maria Jara, Teacher Coach MD/MDMI

Email: majara@nps.k12.nj.us

Cisco Webex Meetings: <https://nboe.webex.com/meet/majara>

Introduction to Vizzle (a supplementary resource for Au, ID, MD and MD/MI classes)

The Office of Special Education has obtained the Vizzle supplemental curriculum to support students and teachers in the Autism (AU), Intellectual Disabilities (ID), Multiple Disabilities (MD), and Multiple Disabilities/Medically Involved (MDMI) programs.

There will be an overview session to introduce teachers to the various components of Vizzle. Special Education Teachers who support the Au, ID, MD or MD/MI program will be compensated for attending this PD session.

- Thursday, October 12, 2023 3:00 pm to 4:00 pm
- Registration is forthcoming in SchoolMint

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. This session is in-person at Chancellor Elementary. Please register in SchoolMint Grow if you are attending. This session will be dedicated to providing 'access to curriculum'. Please bring a printed copy of an IEP to this workshop.

- Tuesday, October 17, 2023
- Chancellor Elementary School 3:30 pm to 5:30 pm



Autism Program Virtual Weekly Office Hours SY 23-24

The Office of Special Education is excited to announce that every Tuesday in September-October 2023, the Autism Team will be providing office hours for staff working with students with autism every Tuesday 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.

- Cisco Webex Link for every Tuesday from 3:00 -4:00 pm.:
<https://nboe.webex.com/nboe/j.php?MTID=mbe541293999ed063412bf7c4fba8868d>

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).

DEAF AND HARD OF HEARING PROGRAM UPDATES



Clerc Center Trainer Visit # 1 in October 2023

Gallaudet- Laurent Clerc National Deaf Education Center Trainer, Ms. Barbara Robinson, will visit our Deaf and Hard of Hearing Programs at Bruce Street School for the Deaf and Technology High School October 10-12. Barbara Robinson will meet with teachers to provide real time feedback and coaching related to agreed upon instructional practices (from 1:1 sessions and/or PLCs). **Focus Area:** Examine language use within school buildings and classrooms, and its impact on students' academic and social development. Please reach out to Katherine Agurto, OSE Supervisor with any questions (kagurto@nps.k12.nj.us) or Dejanee Martinez, Teacher of the Deaf Coach (d.mmartinez@nps.k12.nj.us).

- Visit 1: October 10-12, 2023

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.

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 2: Part 1 October 24-27, 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 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	