



# Newark Board of Education

## Office of Special Education

December 4, 2023

Marilyn Mitchell, Director of Special Education

## Teacher Talk OSE Updates

### Monthly Highlights

#### Celebrating Inclusive Schools' Week (ISW): December 4-8

Thank you to all schools participating in Inclusive Schools Week. Please keep in mind to share back your school's [ISW slide deck](#) to highlight your school's climate and culture for Inclusivity. All slide decks will be merged and shared out via the NBOE webpage. Below are additional resources to share with staff during Inclusive Schools Week.

- [Inclusive Schools Week 5-day Challenge](#)



NJ Coalition of Inclusive Education in collaboration with NJDOE will host a winter Inclusion Leadership Conference on January 19, 2024. Registration is free for school administrators. See their flier for additional information. <https://www.njcie.org/register>

Thank you to all schools that have submitted their Inclusive Schools Slide deck. A master slide will be available for viewing on the NBOE webpage.

Winners from the Draw Me In contest will be shared in January.



### New DOE Mandate: Child Outcome Summary



The NJ DOE has launched a new initiative, the Child Outcome Summary (COS), to measure the outcomes of only newly classified preschoolers with a disability. The COS requires a team of people with knowledge of the child's functioning to meet and rate the child's skills in 3 areas: Positive Social Emotional Skills, Acquisition and Use of Knowledge, and Use of Appropriate Behaviors to Meet Needs. Team members include any staff with knowledge of the student's functioning (such as teachers, CST members, and related service providers) as well as parents. PSD Teachers and CSTs who service students in the PSD program have received training and are currently implementing the COS process. All COS entry data is due to the Office of Special Education by November 30th. More information about the COS can be found on the [DOE website](#)

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## Office of Special Education Professional Development

See additional workshop details below

### AUTISM PROGRAM PD OPPORTUNITIES



#### Autism Program Virtual Monthly Office Hours SY 23-24

The Office of Special Education is excited to announce that every first Tuesday of the month, the Autism Team will be providing office hours for staff working with students with autism 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 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](mailto:kagurto@nps.k12.nj.us)) or Jennifer LoConti, Autism Teacher Coach ([jloconti@nps.k12.nj.us](mailto:jloconti@nps.k12.nj.us)).

### 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 3 Part 2 December 11-14, 2023

## [Introductory Overview of the Autism Program Quality Indicators Revised \(APQI-R\)](#)

The Office of Special Education offered the teachers and CST in the Autism Program a recorded overview of the Autism Program Quality Indicators-Revised (APQI-R) and how it will be used to move all classrooms to high quality. The (APQI-R) is a guidance document developed by the New Jersey Department of Education (NJDOE) that is meant to serve as a resource for Local Educational Agencies (LEAs) in developing, implementing, and evaluating quality programming for all students on the autism spectrum disorder (ASD). Please find the link to the recording and the respective Google Form- Review Link for Teachers and CST in the Autism Programs. **AU Teachers and CST have been asked to please view the recorded training and complete this review by December 1, 2023.**

- LINK: [RECORDING OSE-NJDOE APQI-R 2023-2024 Overview Presentation](#)
- LINK: [Teacher in Autism Program Self-Review](#)
- LINK: [Autism Program CST Review](#)

## DEAF AND HARD OF HEARING PROGRAM PD OPPORTUNITIES



### [Clerc Center Trainer Visit #2 in December 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 December 5th-7th. 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 Apply concepts learned through language use training from the Clerc Center (i.e. language separation, language allocation, language planning, etc.). Please reach out to Katherine Agurto, OSE Supervisor with any questions ([kagurto@nps.k12.nj.us](mailto:kagurto@nps.k12.nj.us)) or Dejanee Martinez, Teacher of the Deaf Coach ([d.mmartinez@nps.k12.nj.us](mailto:d.mmartinez@nps.k12.nj.us)).

- Visit 2: December 5-7, 2023

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## PreK DISABLED PROGRAM PD OPPORTUNITIES

### [Teaching Matters Trainings \(PSD Teachers only\)](#)

OSE is excited to announce that we are continuing our partnership with Teaching Matters for the 2023-2024 school year. Teaching Matters professional development sessions and in-class coaching begins this November. See below for the list of PD topics, dates, and locations. PD sessions are open to all PSD teachers who are new to the program as well as any PSD teachers in need of additional training.

## *Additional Supports for Monitoring Progress to Goals*

December 8, 2023

All PSD Teachers

Registration for all Teaching Matters PD sessions is available on Whetstone/SchoolMintGrow. Please contact Cheryl Myrie with any questions.

8:30 am - 3:00 pm

Marion Bolden Center

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## **PARAPROFESSIONALS PD OPPORTUNITIES**

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 November, current and newly hired per-diem paraprofessionals will be offered (1) virtual training session occurring after school or on a Saturday. Permanent paraprofessionals will participate in on-going virtual and in person training as delineated below.

### *321 Insight Per-Diem Paraprofessional Virtual Training*

Hosted by the Office of Special Education

December 7, 9 & 14, 2023

- See Link for registration-<https://forms.gle/4BcanrSrzXtbfSrL6>
- [Flyer Link](#)

### *321 Insight Permanent Paraprofessional Virtual Training*

Hosted by Office of Special Education

December 4, 2023 9:30-10:45 am

- Participants will receive messaging regarding the webex link to access.

Contact: Katherine Agurto, OSE Supervisor

Email: [kagurto@nps.k12.nj.us](mailto:kagurto@nps.k12.nj.us)

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## **Additional Child Study Team Member PD OPPORTUNITIES**

### *Goalbook for CST Social Workers, Psychologists and Related Service Providers*

Monday, December 4th, 2023

*Morning PD Session*

Social Workers & Related Service Providers

8:30 am to 11:00 am

Virtual: Link forthcoming

*Afternoon PD Session*

Psychologists

12:00 pm to 2:30 pm

[Virtual Link](#)

## [December CST Meeting](#)

Wednesday, December 13, 2023  
EC, SW & N Ward CSTs

8:30 am to 10:30 am

[Virtual Link](#)

High School CSTs and 8th Grade Case Managers  
Unpacking the NJDOE Transition ToolKit  
School

8:30 am to 2:50 pm  
Central High

## [New CST PD](#)

Report Writing  
Thursday, December 14, 2023

8:30 am to 3:00 pm  
To Be Determined

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## **ADDITIONAL TEACHER PD OPPORTUNITIES**

### **[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. Please register in SchoolMint Grow if you are attending. This session will be dedicated to Creating Small Group Instruction with para supports. This session also embeds strategies for classroom management and behavior management.

Tuesday, December 12, 2023  
New Special Education Teachers (less than 4 years at NBOE)

3:30 pm to 5:30 pm  
Location: Spencer Elementary

### **[EdPlan User Interface: Entering PLAAFPs and IEP Goals into EdPlan](#)**

This workshop is provided free by EdPlan and facilitated by the representatives of EDPlan. Participants must register to receive a webinar link from EdPlan.

Tuesday, December 12, 2023  
[PCG EdPlan Registration](#)

3:30 pm to 4:30 pm  
Virtual Workshop

### **[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, December 14, 2023

3:00 pm to 4:00 pm

## Foundation Supports for Teachers:

Special Education Teachers who are currently using Foundation are also encouraged to sign up for the resources below provided by Wilson.

Recognizing that limited time and distance are barriers to in-person sessions for many, Wilson® now offers live, interactive support to educators, no matter where they are located. Called [Virtual Implementation Support \(VIS\)](#), this professional learning is geared toward teachers who are new to Foundations® or Just Words®. It is delivered over the course of a school year by a highly-qualified team of Wilson Literacy Specialists and Wilson Credentialed Trainers. This Level-specific online community of practice allows for the time and space needed to deepen skills, learn practical tips, and connect with peers across the country.

The online format is well-suited for use by a variety of schools and districts; this includes rural districts looking for professional learning and large urban districts expanding support to teachers in schools beyond the district's designated demonstration site with onsite coaching. "We're looking at the next generation of Wilson® support," shared Mark Foran, Senior Director of Professional Learning for Virtual Implementation. "This lets us engage with more teachers and impact more students to help them become fluent, independent readers."

- Special Education teachers already trained should click [this link](#) to Sign Up and receive additional follow ups from Wilson
- Click [this link](#) to visit the Wilson Implementation Support webpage

The Office of Special Education and The Office of English Language Arts are collaborating to purchase additional kits for all special education teachers that support kindergarten and first grade.

## Handle with Care Training (Autism and ERI Program)

At this time, priority is being given to paraprofessionals and educational staff supporting the Autism and ERI programs, and security officers. To learn more about the program you can review the HWC Official Web Page by clicking here [HANDLE WITH CARE® Behavior Management System](#). The HWC training provided in the district is a **2 day training being conducted at Harold Wilson**.

- **Day #1- VERBAL TRAINING-** focuses on preventing behavior issues and de-escalation techniques that school staff can use to address students who are having difficulty. These verbal and non-verbal de-escalation skills enable staff to reduce tension, and create and maintain a calm and safe environment for all. (Max 60 participants).
- **Day #2- PHYSICAL TRAINING-** participants will focus on a variety of avoidant and protective physical techniques, as well as the passive Primary Restraint Technique (PRT). The PRT is therapeutic hold only to be used when a student is deemed a danger to themselves or others. The PRT is an easy to learn, orthopedically safe, and effective standing method that offers unprecedented mechanical advantage without pain or injury to students or staff. (Max 20 participants). Staff should dress comfortably to actively participate in the physical activities of Day #2, including wearing rubber soled shoes or sneakers.

The Registration Google Form to register your staff for the NBOE's HWC Training can be accessed using this link: <https://forms.gle/AhQxxSLeqU8KUcmU7>

**Please note that you have to select a Day #1 and then a Day #2 for each staff member that you register. Day #1 training must occur before Day #2 training can be selected.**

Occasionally, changes may have to be made to your date selections, especially for Day 2 as there is a maximum participant number of 20 staff members. If your selected dates cannot be honored, you will be contacted directly by email. Please contact Dr. Joseph Bresnahan with any questions.

## 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	