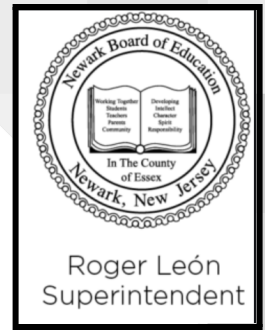


Newark Board of Education

Office of Special Education

March 25, 2024

Marilyn Mitchell, Director of Special Education



Teacher Talk OSE Updates

Monthly Highlights

AUTISM AWARENESS & ACCEPTANCE



Save the Date: The Office of Special Education (OSE) is pleased to announce that our **6th Annual Autism Acceptance Kickoff** date will be on Tuesday, April 9, 2024. The goal of Autism Acceptance Month is for our district staff, students and families, to be more inclusive of our Autism community and to increase understanding and acceptance of children and adults who have Autism.

This year's theme will be **"Make It Personal, Autism Acceptance."** We will use the infinity symbol, which represents the infinite potential of individuals with autism, as well as their limitless possibilities and abilities. The symbol, intended to represent the infinite and diverse nature of the autistic community, has become a widely recognized symbol of autism acceptance and neurodiversity. OSE will be supporting our district

teachers with resources to have their learners engage in inclusive activities and to increase awareness, education and compassion for their peers with Autism. More information is forthcoming. Katherine Agurto, OSE Autism Supervisor (kagurto@nps.k12.nj.us) or Jennifer LoConti, Autism Teacher Coach (jloconti@nps.k12.nj.us).

WE NEED YOU!!!! OSE is hiring for the Extended School Year Program

This summer, the Extended School Year (ESY) will run from June 27 until August 2nd (with July 4 and July 5, 2024 off). For teachers, mandatory Summer PD will be held on June 24 and June 25, 2024. Mandatory PD will be held on June 24 for ESY Paraprofessionals. Additional professional development sessions will be offered and announced by OSE.

Available positions by the Office of Special Education are listed below.

- ESY Teachers (application now open)
- ESY Paraprofessionals (application now open)
- ESY Related Services
- ESY Case Managers (application now open)

- ESY Special Education Department Chair
- Summer Case Assignments
(2 teachers and CST members to conduct summer evaluations and hold IEP meetings)

ESY applications are open in Frontline for ESY case managers and paraprofessionals. Please also share information with your paraprofessionals and continue to lookout for updates on the NBOE webpage.

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 one Tuesday per 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.

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).

March 26, 2024

3:00 -4:00 pm

[Virtual Link](#)

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 were asked last month to please view the recorded training and complete this. Please complete it if you haven't already done so. Thank you.**

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

Participants will receive a 1 hour PD certificate on Schoolmint Grow upon completion of this training and respective Google Form.

Child Study Team Member Mandatory PD Opportunities

Related Services Office Hours (Progress Track)

Tuesdays, March 26

2:00 pm -3:00 pm

**Office Hours are for providers who require additional assistance*

ADDITIONAL TEACHER PD OPPORTUNITIES

DLM Year End Assessment Office Hours

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

Monday, March 25, 2024

3:00 pm to 4:00 pm

Virtual Link: <https://nboe.webex.com/meet/majara>

EdPlan: Completing Progress Reports

This workshop is provided free by EdPlan and facilitated by the representatives of EDPlan. Participants must register to receive a webinar link from EdPlan. Participants will review using the Progress Reporting Wizard to complete the report to document the progress made by students on their IEP goals and objectives.

March 27, 2024

Various Times

Virtual: Link will be shared with registered participants

[PCG EdPlan Registration](#)

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.

SPECIAL EDUCATION TEACHER ACADEMY (S.E.T.A.)

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 workshop is dedicated to creating Progress Reports in EdPlan. This workshop will be presented by Ms. Megan McCormick from EdPlan. Please register in SchoolMint.

Tuesday, March 26, 2024

4:00 pm to 5:30 pm

Virtual: Link will be emailed

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	