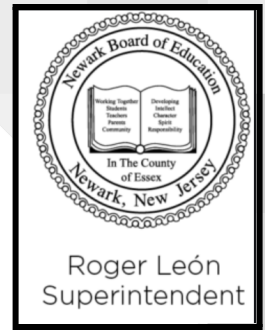


Newark Board of Education Office of Special Education

April 8, 2024

Marilyn Mitchell, Director of Special Education



Teacher Talk OSE Updates Monthly Highlights

6th Annual Autism Acceptance Month Kick-Off: Tuesday, April 9, 2024



The Office of Special Education (OSE) will hold our **6th annual Autism Acceptance** kick-off on **Tuesday, April 9, 2024**. Our theme is **“Make It Personal, Autism Acceptance.”** This year, the Office of Special Education will use the Infinity Symbol, to represent the infinite potential of individuals with autism, as well as their limitless possibilities and abilities. The district’s goal is to promote autism awareness, acceptance, inclusion and self-determination for all students, and to encourage the community, educators, families, and friends to create a more inclusive world.

We encourage educators, students and parents to discuss and initiate inclusive practices to successfully educate and accept ALL children including students on the autism spectrum. We are sharing the OSE April 2024 Autism Calendar of Events & Activities for Students & Families for sharing with school staff, teachers, students and their families, filled with workshops, fun information for the students and much more! Also included are the upcoming virtual parent workshops for April-Autism Acceptance Month!

Office of Special Education Autism Acceptance Calendars & Activities

- [OSE April 2024 Autism Calendar of Events & Activities for Students & Families](#)
- [QR Codes OSE April Calendar 2024 3 Languages](#)
- [OSE 2024 Autism Acceptance Virtual Parent Workshops](#)
- [OSE 2024 Talleres virtuales para padres sobre aceptación del autismo](#)

Office of Special Education Professional Development

AUTISM PROGRAM PD OPPORTUNITIES

Autism Supports by Star Autism

On behalf of the Office of Special Education, we want to welcome you back from Spring break. As we continue to best support our students on the Autism Spectrum with evidence based practices, the Star trainers will be visiting this month to work in our district schools with Autism Programs.

In-Class Consultations (In-Person) Scheduled:

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.

- Coaching Visit Week of April 15-18, 2024



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.

April 16, 2024

3:00 -4:00 pm

[Virtual Link](#)

Contact: Katherine Agurto, OSE Supervisor, Email: kagurto@nps.k12.nj.us or Jennifer LoConti, OSE Autism Teacher Coach, Email jloconti@nps.k12.nj.us

DEAF AND HARD OF HEARING PROGRAM PD OPPORTUNITIES

Clerc Center Trainer Visit #3 in April 2024



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) or Dejanee Martinez, Teacher of the Deaf Coach (dmmartinez@nps.k12.nj.us).

- Visit 3: April 23-25, 2024

Child Study Team Member Mandatory PD Opportunities

New CST PD

Friday, April 12, 2024

Central Office

8:30 am - 3:00 pm

OSE DC Meeting

Tuesday, April 16, 2024

Virtual

8:30 am - 1:00 pm

Social Workers & Psychologists

Short Term Solution Focused Counseling

Thursday, April 18, 2024

Virtual:

8:30 am - 3:05 pm

Related Service PD (OTs, PTs, SLSSs)

Thursday, April 18, 2024

Location: Harold Wilson - Media Center

8:30 am - 3:05 pm

7th, 8th grade & High School Goalbook PD

Tuesday, April 24, 2024

Location: Virtual

10:00 am - 11:00 am

PARAPROFESSIONALS PD OPPORTUNITIES

Hosted by the Office of Special Education

The Office of Special Education is hosting district wide training for paraprofessionals to enable and empower them to develop the skills needed to be successful in their role. Permanent special education paraprofessionals are receiving year-long training and access to the 321 Insight Platform to increase their knowledge of supporting special education students. On a monthly basis, current and newly hired per-diem special education paraprofessionals are offered (1) virtual training session occurring one Thursday per month. The on-going virtual and in person training is delineated below.

Per-Diem Paraprofessional Virtual Training

Session 50: Thursday April 18, 2024

4:00 - 5:30 pm

Session 51: Thursday April 18, 2024

6:00 - 7:30 pm

- [Registration Link](#) & [Flyer Link](#)

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

ADDITIONAL TEACHER PD OPPORTUNITIES

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. This course will review the importance of PLAAFP statements, the basics of SMART goal development and using EDPlan to create a measurable annual goal along with objectives and/or benchmarks.

Wednesday, April 10, 2024

(see link below for April and May dates)

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, April 16, 2024

4:00 pm to 5:30 pm

Virtual: Link will be emailed

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
- ESY Paraprofessionals
- ESY Related Services
- Summer Case Assignments (CSTs needed)

ESY applications are open on Frontline. Please also alert your paraprofessionals about the upcoming applications.

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	