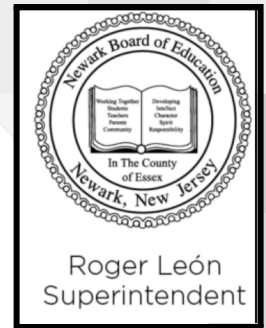


# Newark Board of Education

## Office of Special Education

November 6, 2023

Marilyn Mitchell, Director of Special Education



## Teacher Talk OSE Updates

### Monthly Highlights

#### Celebrating School Psychologists

During the week of November 6–10, 2023, schools nationwide will celebrate National School Psychology Week (NSPW) to highlight the critical work school psychologists do to help students thrive. This is a time to recognize and show appreciation for our NBOE school psychologists, who support students' learning and mental and behavioral health, promote positive and inclusive school climates, serve on school safety and crisis teams, and collaborate with families, teachers, and administrators to improve student outcomes.



#### 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. Check out the resources below to prepare activities to shout out your schools collaborations between students in general education and students with disabilities. Also, highlight the collaboration between the teachers of special education and teachers of general education to support diverse learners. OSE will send to all schools a Principal's Packet for Inclusive Schools Week by mid-November.

- **Inclusive Schools Week Template**

Collect pictures, make a copy of this [template](#) and shout out your school's endeavors for Inclusive Practices. Include a brief summary on each slide and return to [a1woods@nps.k12.nj.us](mailto:a1woods@nps.k12.nj.us) and [c1wells@nps.k12.nj.us](mailto:c1wells@nps.k12.nj.us).

- **Great Things Happening in Inclusive Schools**

Check out resources shared nationally with schools across the states. Resources include daily activities for elementary schools and high schools. Create weekly announcements and broadcast daily. Click here for more ideas: [Inclusive Schools Network \(ISN\)](#)

- Introduction to [Inclusion Basics](#) (mini course video)
- Webinar Series provided by Inclusive Schools Network (click this [link](#))
- Ways to celebrate Inclusive Schools Week (click this [link](#))
- What's your schools level of Inclusive practices (check out [ISN Self-Reflection Tool](#))

## 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 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](mailto:kagurto@nps.k12.nj.us)) or Jennifer LoConti, Autism Teacher Coach ([jloconti@nps.k12.nj.us](mailto:jloconti@nps.k12.nj.us)).

### Office of Special Education Bi-Monthly Autism Professional Learning Community (PLC)

The Office of Special Education is excited to announce that beginning in November 2023, the Autism Program will be working with school based administrators to determine days and times for the **autism teachers** to meet bi-monthly for PLC sessions with Jillian Slater, Board Certified Behavior Analyst (BCBA). Emphasis on **managing challenging behaviors** will be a focal point for these sessions. The Autism team will continue to provide instructional PLCs for the 2023-2024 school year. Contact: Katherine Agurto, OSE Supervisor, Email: [kagurto@nps.k12.nj.us](mailto:kagurto@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 2 Part 2 November 6-9, 2023
- Visit 3 Part 1 November 27-30, 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](mailto:kagurto@nps.k12.nj.us)) or Jennifer LoConti, Autism Teacher Coach ([jloconti@nps.k12.nj.us](mailto:jloconti@nps.k12.nj.us)).

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

The Office of Special Education is offering the teachers in the Autism Program a recorded overview of the APQI-R and how it will be used to move all classrooms to high quality.

Tuesday, November 21, 2023

Recording Forthcoming

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## 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.

#### *Creative Curriculum and Effective Adaptations*

November 2, 2023

New PSD Teachers/PSD Teachers Needing a Refresher

8:30 am - 11:30 am

Marion Bolden Center

#### *Monitoring Progress to Goals*

November 2, 2023

New PSD Teachers/PSD Teachers Needing a Refresher

12:00 pm - 3:00 pm

Marion Bolden Center

#### *Additional Supports for Monitoring Progress to Goals*

December 8, 2023

All PSD Teachers

8:30 am - 3:00 pm

Marion Bolden Center

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

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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
- November 1, 2, 8, 9, and 16, 2023
- Link for registration-<https://forms.gle/4BcanrSrZxtbfsrL6>
- [Flyer Link](#)

### ***321 Insight Permanent Paraprofessional Virtual Training***

- Hosted by Office of Special Education
- November 6, 2023 9:30-10:45 am
- 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**

### ***Using Patterns of Strengths and Weakness to Identify SLD***

Monday, November 6, 2023

South West, East Central, OOD Teams & IEC Teams

8:30 am to 3:00 pm  
Marion Bolden Center

### ***New CST PD***

Monday, November 13, 2023

Mandatory PD for new CSTs

8:30 am to 3:00 pm  
Harold Wilson

### ***Rutgers Reach Grant for Speech Language Specialists***

Monday, November 13, 2023

12:00 pm to 3:00 pm  
Harold Wilson

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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 providing 'access to curriculum'. Please bring a printed copy of an IEP to this workshop.

Tuesday, November 21, 2023  
New Special Education Teachers

3:30 pm to 5:30 pm  
Marin Elementary School

### 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.

Wednesday, November 15, 2023

3:00 pm to 4:00 pm

### 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.

Wednesday, November 15, 2023

3:30 pm to 4:30 pm

Wednesday, November 29, 2023

2:00 pm to 3:00 pm

Tuesday, December 12, 2023

3:30 pm to 4:30 pm

[PCG EdPlan Registration](#)

Virtual Workshop

### 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	