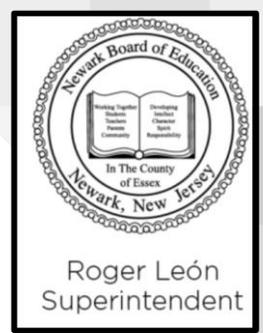


# Newark Board of Education

## Teacher Talk

November 8, 2021

Marilyn Mitchell, Director of Special Education



## Teacher Talk OSE Updates

### Bi-Weekly Highlights

#### Celebrating Diverse Abilities During the Month of November

During the week of November 8-12, 2021 schools throughout the United States will celebrate [National School Psychology Week \(NSPW\)](#) to highlight the important work School Psychologists and other educators do to help all students thrive. This year's theme is "Let's Get in Gear." The theme's acronym provides a challenge to grow both personally and professionally. It encourages us to engage in best practices and advocate for children's access to mental health and learning supports. To rise implies resilience and renewal despite the challenges of the past. Remember to shout out your School Psychologist.

#### Preparing to Celebrate Inclusive Schools Week 12/6/21 to 12/12/21

*Did you know that New Jersey has one of the [lowest rates of inclusion](#) in the country? In 2018, only 44.9% of students with disabilities were included in general education for 80% or more of the day. The only state with a lower inclusion rate was Hawaii. The Office of Special Education takes pride that our schools engage in inclusive practices everyday.*

The Office of Special Education would like for schools in the district to shout out and highlight daily or monthly activities that embrace their students who are exceptional learners. Let's use the first week of December to share out and celebrate your school's year long activities. "Inclusive Schools Week is an annual event sponsored by the Inclusive Schools Network (ISN) and [Stetson & Associates, Inc.](#), which is held each year during the first full week in December. Since its inception in 2001, Inclusive Schools Week has celebrated the progress that schools have made in providing a supportive and quality education to an increasingly diverse student population, including students who are marginalized due to disability, gender, socio-economic status, cultural heritage, language preference, and other factors. The Week also provides an important opportunity for educators, students and parents to discuss what else needs to be done in order to ensure that their schools continue to improve their ability to successfully educate all children." <https://inclusiveschools.org/inclusive-schools-week/>

- Celebrate how your school continues to engage with Inclusive Practices. Share this [Inclusive Schools' Celebration Template](#) with your staff and share back the finished

slide deck with a1woods@nps.k12.nj.us at the Office of Special Education.

- Check out the resource below to use during Inclusive Schools Week and beyond.
  - [Inclusive Schools Week Celebration Guide 2021](#)

## Important DLM Information

“The Dynamic Learning Maps (DLM) assessments are based on the Essential Elements and measure a student’s performance on alternate achievement standards. Essential Elements are grade-level-specific expectations related to college-and career-readiness standards for students in the general population. The DLM assessments measure performance on the Essential Elements. Students who participate in the DLM assessments are not precluded from participating in the menu of options available to meet the state assessment requirement for graduation .”(NJDOE 2021-2022 guidelines)

The window for students who participate in the Dynamic Learning Maps Assessment is now open and will close on December 17th. All available student data will be erased on the closing assessment date with no opportunity for retrieval. If your school has students whose IEP indicates Essential Elements please check to see that your teachers have already begun to assess students.

Completing the DLM Instruction and Assessment Planner Guidance Document

- [Instruction and Assessment Planner/Running Reports In Kite Educator Portal](#)
- [DLM-InstructionalPlans-Creating.pdf](#)

## OSE Initiative Updates

### [NJETA Preschool Inclusion Grant](#)

The Office of Special Education was awarded a Preschool Inclusion Grant to provide Universal Design for Learning Training to Preschool Teachers by New Jersey Inclusive Education Technical Assistance Group (Montclair State University). We have identified 14 sites to participate in this wonderful opportunity. [Selected Schools](#). At these schools, one preschool general education teacher and all of the preschool disabilities teachers in the building will participate. As a result of participation in this technical assistance package, participants will receive knowledge and guidance in: defining the principles of UDL; designing goals, assessments, methods and materials with flexibility and learner variability in mind; and applying UDL principles to lesson planning and classroom instruction.

### [2021-22 K-2 Special Education Literacy Initiative](#)

The Office of Special Education is excited to kick off its K-2 Literacy Initiative for targeted self-contained special education classes for the 2021-22 school year. To assist with these efforts, OSE has purchased the 95 Phonics Core Program by the 95th Percent Group. [Please click here for a list of schools participating in this initiative.](#) Teachers have already received an Introduction Training as well as a full day Implementation Training. Classroom instruction has

begun and our next full training will take place on January 10<sup>th</sup> and will focus on the *Science of Reading*.

## STAR Autism Project 2021-22

The Newark Board of Education is pleased to announce that the Office of Special Education has new support for the district's Autism Program, STAR (Strategies for Teaching based on Autism). This is an innovative program that will offer support to specific teachers in primary and secondary programs, who were identified by OSE.

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.

OSE will have one model classroom in each school with an Autism Program. Our goal is to increase the number of teachers to receive STAR coaching annually, so we can begin to use common language, resources and data when discussing the indicators and characteristics of an Autism Program.

STAR virtually trained the selected teachers on October 20<sup>th</sup> and provided follow up for those teachers on the 21<sup>st</sup> and 22<sup>nd</sup>. The STAR trainers will continue to work throughout this school year on a monthly basis. The teachers were excited to receive their STAR kits and look forward to being part of this NBOE Initiative.

## EdPlan Updates (New user interface and Translation features for families)

EdPlan, formerly known as EasyIEP, now has a new user interface for both teachers and CSTs. CSTs have been trained on the new user interface and Public Consultant Group Education will offer PD sessions for teachers during November and December. In addition, the Office of Special Education will offer OSE Office Hours to support teacher's writing of data driven PLAAFPs and Standards-aligned IEP Goals. This shift to writing higher quality IEPs is now supported through the new interface available within EdPlan. In addition, Translation is now available within EasyIEP. Information sent home through EdPlan Connect or IEPs accessed by parents remotely can be translated if the home language is indicated within the EdPlan Platform. The available languages are Creole, French, Spanish and Portuguese. Please keep in mind that the English version of the IEP is the legal document that requires signatures.

- [New User Interface Recording by PCG](#)
- [PLAAFP Rubric](#)
- [IEP Goal Writing Hints](#)
- [Standards-based IEP Goals and Objectives](#)
- [Standards Aligned IEP Goals](#)

## OSE Staff

OSE Supervisors	Program Specialists
North Ward SLT: Dr. Shirley Fonseca	Autism Program: Susan Marshall
East Central Ward: Cristina Pennetti MD/MDMI Program	Emotional Regulation Program: Devvon Crawford
South West Ward: Dr. Bresnahan Emotional Regulation Impairment Program	K2 Literacy Initiative and LD Program: Lisa Trobaugh
High School and Specialized Schools: Transition Program	MD/Multiple Disability Medical Impairment Program: Aida Vasquez District DLM Coordinator
Auditory Impairment Program: Katherine Agurto	Preschool Disabled: Amy Woods
OSE Professional Development: Candice Wells OSE Instructional Team (Program Specialists)	Transition Program: LaPrice Weatherington
Related Services: Nicole Ford Assistive Technology Initiative	

## **OSE Office Hours**

Office Hours are available for both general education and special education teachers

3:15 pm to 4:00 pm

*IEP Development 11/16*

[Candice Wells](#)

<https://nboe.webex.com/meet/c1wells>

General education and special education teachers are invited to learn about “Writing IEP Goals”.

[Registration Link](#)

PCG presents the EdPlan New User Interface on 12/7, 12/14 and 12/21 at 4 pm

Teachers can meet with Megan McCormick and learn about the new user interface available for PLAAFP and IEP Goals. See the link below to register.

[Dec.7, 2021 PCG Registration Link](#)

[Dec.14, 2021 PCG Registration Link](#)

[Dec.12, 2021 PCG Registration Link](#)

## **Upcoming Professional Development Opportunities Facilitated by OSE**

Teachers must be approved by their building principals to attend OSE workshops that occur during the school day. OSE sends email invites to CSTs.

### **Child Study Team PD Sessions**

11/9/21 CST Monthly Meeting

- South West Ward at 8:30 am
- East Central Ward at 12 pm

11/10/21 CST Monthly Meeting

- High School and Specialized Schools at 8:30 am
- North Ward at 12 pm

11/15/21 New CST Training “Data Driven PLAAFPS and IEP Goals”

11/15/21 IEC CST Training

### **Special Education Teacher Academy (S.E.T.A.)**

11/30/21 at 4:00 pm

Participants will get an overview of working with paraprofessionals and related service providers(SLP/OT/PT- Fine

& Gross Motor strategies for SUCCESS in the classroom for Teachers & Paraprofessionals) and Writing Standards-aligned IEP Goals. Email invitations for S.E.T.A. have been sent. Please contact Candice Wells with any questions.

The Office of Special Education will also host monthly OSE Office Hours in which other general education and special education teachers can attend.

#### Prior Professional Development Provided by OSE

- [10-20-21 EE, Classroom Instruction and Supports Follow Up](#)
  - [NJDOE DLM Participation Guidelines SY21-22](#)
  - [Intellectual Functioning Tool](#)
  - [Adaptive Functioning Tool](#)
- 10-6-21 New Teacher Development -OSE Presentation
  - [What General Education Teachers Need to Know about “Connecting IEPs to Instruction: Components of an IEP” Recording](#)
  - [What General Education Teachers Need to Know about “Connecting IEPs to Instruction: Components of an IEP slide deck](#)
- [10-5-21 Essential Elements, Classroom Instruction and Supports](#)
- DLM Professional Development
  - [21-22 DLM Guidance Document](#)
  - [21-22 DLM Instructionally Embedded Assessments](#)
  - [DLM Embedded Assessments PD Recording 9/24/21](#)
  - [How to Create DLM Rosters](#)

#### Archive

- [9-27-21 OSE Teacher Talk](#)
- [10-12-21 OSE Teacher Talk](#)
- [10-25-21 OSE Teacher Talk](#)