

## Special Education & Student Services News: February/March 2010

### **Mid-Year Updates**

*Wow! We are at the mid-point of the school year. It has been a very busy half with many accomplishments. We have purchased and put in place curriculum and materials in our elementary SDCs, both Mild/Moderate and Moderate Severe, in order to align across the sites. We have completed many 504 trainings for the schools. We successfully submitted data through SEIS for our December Special Ed count to CDE. Our linkages with CAA continue to strengthen as we work collaboratively on training, curriculum, and RtI<sup>2</sup>.*

*Looking forward to the second half of the year as we continue to finalize our procedures, build relationships, and become an even stronger department.*

*Fondly,  
Janet*

### **Reviewing Disproportionality in TRUSD**

A recent request was made by CDE to conduct a self-review to monitor the district's disproportionality issue. Based on the CDE data, TRUSD is over represented with African Americans in both SLD and ED categories.

As a result of this finding, the department will monitor the referrals and identification of students in these categories. We will also work closely with the CAA department as they continue to work on the implementation of the Student Assistance Process (SAP) and Response to Instruction and Intervention (RtI<sup>2</sup>).

### **Additional Self-Review Findings**

An additional benefit of the Self-Review was an opportunity to review 20 student files. A couple of pertinent issues resulted in the reviews: the lack of properly documented health information, including vision and hearing results, and not fully constituted IEP teams.

Please remember to document vision and hearing information on the IEP and have a completed Health and Developmental report on initials and triennials.

### **Some Great Websites to Visit**

- [www.rti4success.org](http://www.rti4success.org) Response to Instruction and Intervention (RtI<sup>2</sup>)
- [www.rtinetwork.org](http://www.rtinetwork.org) Response to Instruction and Intervention (RtI<sup>2</sup>)
- [www.fcrr.org](http://www.fcrr.org) Reading Interventions
- [www.iris.peabody.vanderbilt.edu](http://www.iris.peabody.vanderbilt.edu) Teaching modules for RtI<sup>2</sup> and progress monitoring
- [www.pbis.org](http://www.pbis.org) Positive Behavior Supports
- [www.uoregon.edu/~ivdb](http://www.uoregon.edu/~ivdb) Building Effective Schools Together (BEST)

### **File Conversion**

As you know, we are still in flux with our special ed files. All four previous districts had different systems for maintaining confidential files. We are working on a plan to have a single process and location for the permanent files. We have a file system being built in Bay B, in the district office to house the files, and when completed, we will align files to a single system.

Please bear with us through this transition. It is our goal to have this all in place for the 2010/11 school year. You can direct questions/comments to your coordinator.

## Department Meetings

### PSYCHOLOGISTS

February 26  
March 24

### COORDINATORS

February 2 & 16  
March 2, 16, & 30

### SP ED PROG SPECIALISTS

February 5, 11, & 25  
March 19 & 26

### SP ED DEPT CHAIR SECOND

February 8  
March 8

### SDC TEACHERS ELEM

March 11 or 12

### Pre K SDC TEACHERS

April 9

### SP/LANG THERAPISTS

February 5  
March 3

### RSP TEACHERS ELEM

March 5  
April 16

### SP ED DEPT CHAIR SECOND

February 8  
March 8

### STU SVCS COORDINATORS

February 5  
March 5

### NURSES

February 10  
March 10

### HEALTH ASSISTANTS

March 24

### SARB REGION 1

February 11 & 23  
March 2, 9, & 23

### SARB REGION 2

February 1 & 8  
March 1 & 15

### SESS ADVISORY COMMITTEE

March 19

### MEDI-CAL ADVISORY

February 11  
March 11

### DCOST

February 4, 11, 18 & 25  
March 4, 11, 18, & 25

## NPS Enrollment

The department staff has been working hard to provide appropriate supports and services for special education students in less restrictive settings than NPS.

As a result of these efforts, we have seen more than a 30% reduction in our numbers of students served in NPS. Not only is this a positive outcome for our students, it results in a generous cost savings to the district. It costs upwards of \$35,000 per student, per year, in an NPS placement, so the savings is significant.

## American Recovery & Reinvestment Act (ARRA)

Districts have received additional stimulus funding from the federal government this year.

Our department has developed an outline and budgeted for ways to use this one-time funding to support our special education programs.

We have targeted technology, curriculum alignment, adaptive materials, and professional development (particularly behavior, RtI<sup>2</sup>, and Autism).

We will continue to monitor needs across our programs in order to provide for our students. Please direct any ARRA funding questions to Janet Balcom.

## Professional Development

### 504 Training

January 26, January 28, February 18, or February 25, 3:45-5:15 pm  
District Office, Bay A: Pine Room  
Please contact Xeng Her at 566-1600, ext 1390, to attend

### SEACO Update/Steps to Success

Thursday, February 4, 4:00-6:00 pm  
District Office, Bay A

The training will be offered to elementary moderate/severe SDC teachers.

### Behavior Support Plan Training

February 12 and 26, 8:00-3:00 pm  
Location: TBD

Audience: Psychologists, Program Specialists, Sp Ed Coordinators

### Effective Teacher Class

Wednesdays, February 24 through March 24, 2010, 4:00-6:00 pm  
District Office, Bay A .

Attendees will focus on behavior management, classroom procedures and routines.

Participants in this 5-session class will receive "The First Days of School" book and a resource binder.

Teachers may register on My Learning Plan.

### Handwriting Without Tears

Friday, February 26, 4:00-8:00 pm, and Saturday, February 27th, 8:30-3:30.  
This training is offered to elementary SDC teachers  
Each teacher's training dates and times will be based on the grade-level curriculum purchased for his/her students.