

District 64 Special Education Findings & Recommendations

May 21, 2018
Board of Education Meeting
Mike Padavic, Interim Director of Student Services

Overall Observations

D64 2020 Vision Strategic Plan:

- Goal is to become a school system vs. a system of schools
- Student Services Department is continuing to work toward consistency among schools

Special Education Staff:

- Work hard to make sure students are improving
- Have adopted a growth mindset

Resources:

The District has appropriate resources for students and staff to improve student growth.

Staffing

Current Status:

Rebuilding and /or strengthening communication within buildings across the District

Recommendations:

- Monthly department meetings so all staff hear the same messages
- Attend weekly Special Education building meetings
- Schedule regular trimester meetings with related services staff and Teacher Assistants
- Weekly staff newsletter updates
- Be visible and accessible

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Professional Development

Recommendations:

- Continue to offer co-teaching training
- Restorative Justice practices
- Facilitated IEP training
- Diversity/disability awareness training
- Mentoring of new staff with job alike partner

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Parents/Guardians

Recommendations:

- Continue parent ed workshops
- Continue Parent and Teachers Talking Together (PT3) working groups
- Conduct an annual parent survey
- Develop a D64 Special Education PTO
- Develop a District 64 Special Education Parent Handbook
- Expand D64 website resources for parents

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Department & Curriculum

Recommendations:

- Continue to review implementation of tiered interventions to ensure fidelity
- Focus on social emotional and behavioral supports across all tiers (aligned with District 64 *2020 Vision Strategic Plan*)

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Continuum of Services

Recommendations:

- Create a team to review the continuum of services currently available
- Discuss opportunities to change or maintain existing services

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Behavioral Support at Tier 2 and Tier 3

Recommendation:

Hire a K-8 Behavior Interventionist to support work currently being done by outside consultants

- Functional Behavior Assessments
- Behavior Intervention Plans

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Standardization of Practice

Recommendations:

- Explore expanding Best Buddies and Special Olympics
- Provide ongoing training on IEP goal writing
- Provide ongoing and consistent training for Teacher Assistants
- Explore developing a Teacher Assistant Handbook
- Review the materials and resources for instructional classrooms across D64

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District Investment in Special Education

Hiring Considerations for 2018-19 School Year

In addition to K-8 Behavior Interventionist:

- Additional social worker to share caseloads at larger elementary buildings
- Dean at Emerson to support the current administrative team with the growing enrollment

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Next Steps

Preparing for 2018-19 School Year

- Weekly meetings with Dr. Frost to ensure a smooth transition to her role
- Dr. Frost's review of my findings and the Audit Report
- Dr. Heinz and Dr. Frost will meet with other administrators during the summer months to prioritize action steps

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Questions?

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