Special Education Update
Interim Superintendent’s Report
to the
Board of Education
February 9, 2022

Staffing

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<tr>
<th></th>
<th>Elementary</th>
<th>Middle</th>
<th>High</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Special Education Teacher Vacancies</td>
<td>6.0</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>1.0</td>
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<tr>
<td>Speech Language Pathologist Vacancies</td>
<td>0</td>
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<tr>
<td>Special Education Instructional Assistant Vacancies</td>
<td>23.0</td>
<td>10.0</td>
<td>10.0</td>
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Department of Justice Update

- Interviewed and selected a candidate for the position of BCBA Supervisor. Candidate credentials being reviewed by the DOJ.
- Training occurred for all administrators on the electronic system for reporting restraints. The electronic system is now in place and will be used instead of paper physical restraint incident forms.

Department of Justice Update (continued)

- Notified in writing all parent(s)/guardian(s) of currently enrolled students who have been subjected to seclusion and/or physical restraint of the offer to receive therapeutic and instructional compensatory services.
- Held meeting with SRO Supervisors to share highlights from the agreement and answer any questions.
Restraint Data

Since December 1, 2021, there have been a total of 19 incidences of restraint. Thirteen involved students with disabilities (IEP or 504 Plans); six involved students without disabilities.

Ukeru® Training

- Several staff members will attend training in Ukeru® next week.
- Ukeru® training focuses on communicating effectively with students, verbal and nonverbal, to defuse stressful, escalating behaviors.
- Training also includes Safe Blocking®—the only trauma-informed, restraint-free blocking technique.
Maryland State Department of Education (MSDE)

- Continue weekly meetings with key staff to discuss supports for implementing changes to restraint practices in FCPS and receive additional guidance.
- MSDE to provide an exemplar on a Multi-tiered System of Supports for student behavior.

Upcoming Community Event - Guy Stephens

- Guy Stephens, Founder of Alliance Against Seclusion & Restraint will present on his journey to implement positive change in school systems to raise awareness and provide alternatives to restraint and seclusion.
- Co-presented by The Arc of Frederick County, Frederick County Public Schools, Special Education Citizens Advisory Committee (SECAC), & The Alliance Against Seclusion & Restraint
- March 2, 2022, 6:00 pm at the ARC
Frederick County Public Schools

Collaboration with national organizations

- Council for Exceptional Children (CEC)
- Council of Administrators of Special Education (CASE)
- Crisis Prevention Institute (CPI)

Collaboration with national organizations (continued)

- Collaboration serves as a think-tank and consult to share best practice strategies and resources.
- Discussed strategies used nationally to attract, hire, and retain special education teachers.
- Discussed possible training opportunities for verbal intervention and de-escalation, and nonviolent crisis intervention.