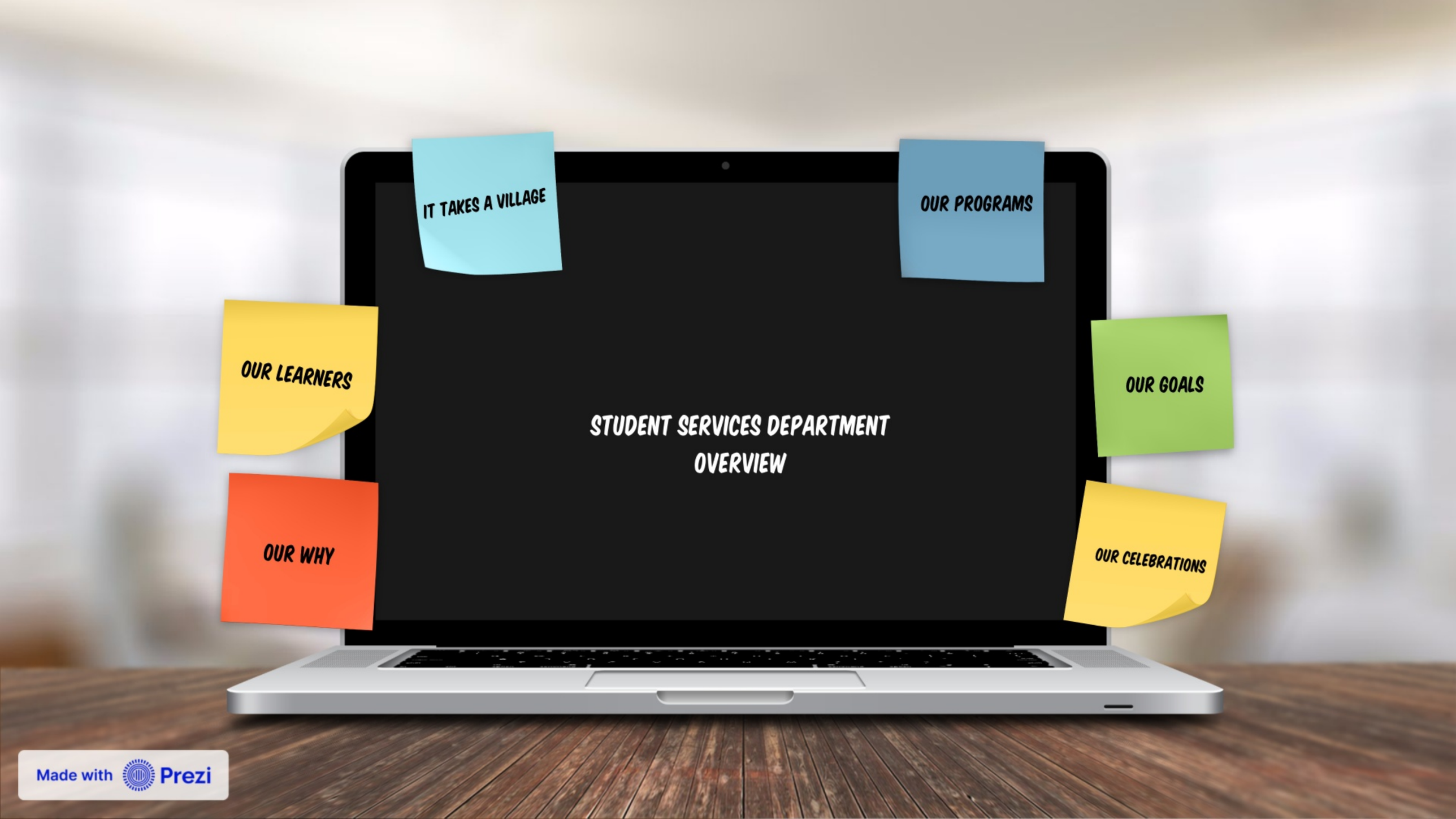


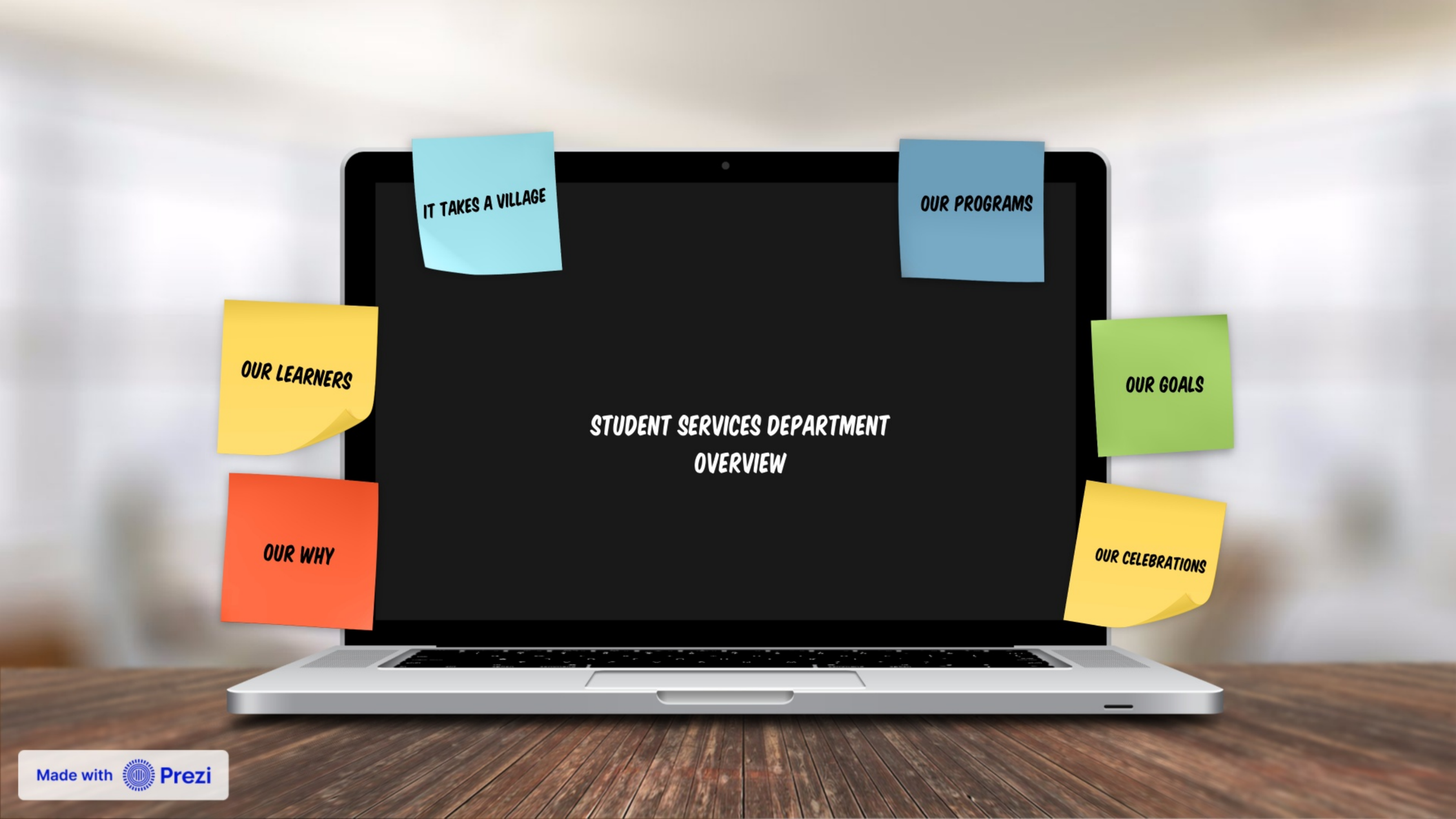
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COUNT ON ME- TOGETHER IN EVERY STEP

This year, our theme song is "Count on Me" by Bruno Mars. It is a reminder that our greatest strength lies not just in what we do, but in how we do it. “You can count on me like 1, 2, 3, I’ll be there…”

- Our students can count on us — for patience, consistency, and care to bring out their absolute best.
- Our families can count on us — to listen, to partner, and to believe in their children.
- We can count on each other — because this work takes a team that lifts and leads with heart.

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WE SUPPORT DIVERSE LEARNER NEEDS

In District 97 we have:

186 students receiving multilingual education support

- Albanian, **Arabic**, Cantonese (Chinese), Dutch/Flemish, Farsi (Persian), **French**, German, Georgian, Indonesian, Haitian-Creole, Italian, Japanese, Jamaican English Creole, Kinyarwanda, Korean, Lithuanian, **Mandarin** (Chinese) , Marathi, Polish, Portuguese, **Russian**, Serbian, Shona, **Spanish**, **Tagalog**, Telugu, Turkish, Ukrainian, Urdu, Yoruba

462 students with Section 504 plans

- Diabetes, ADHD, Anxiety, Depression, Seizure Disorder, Autism

1082 students receiving special education services

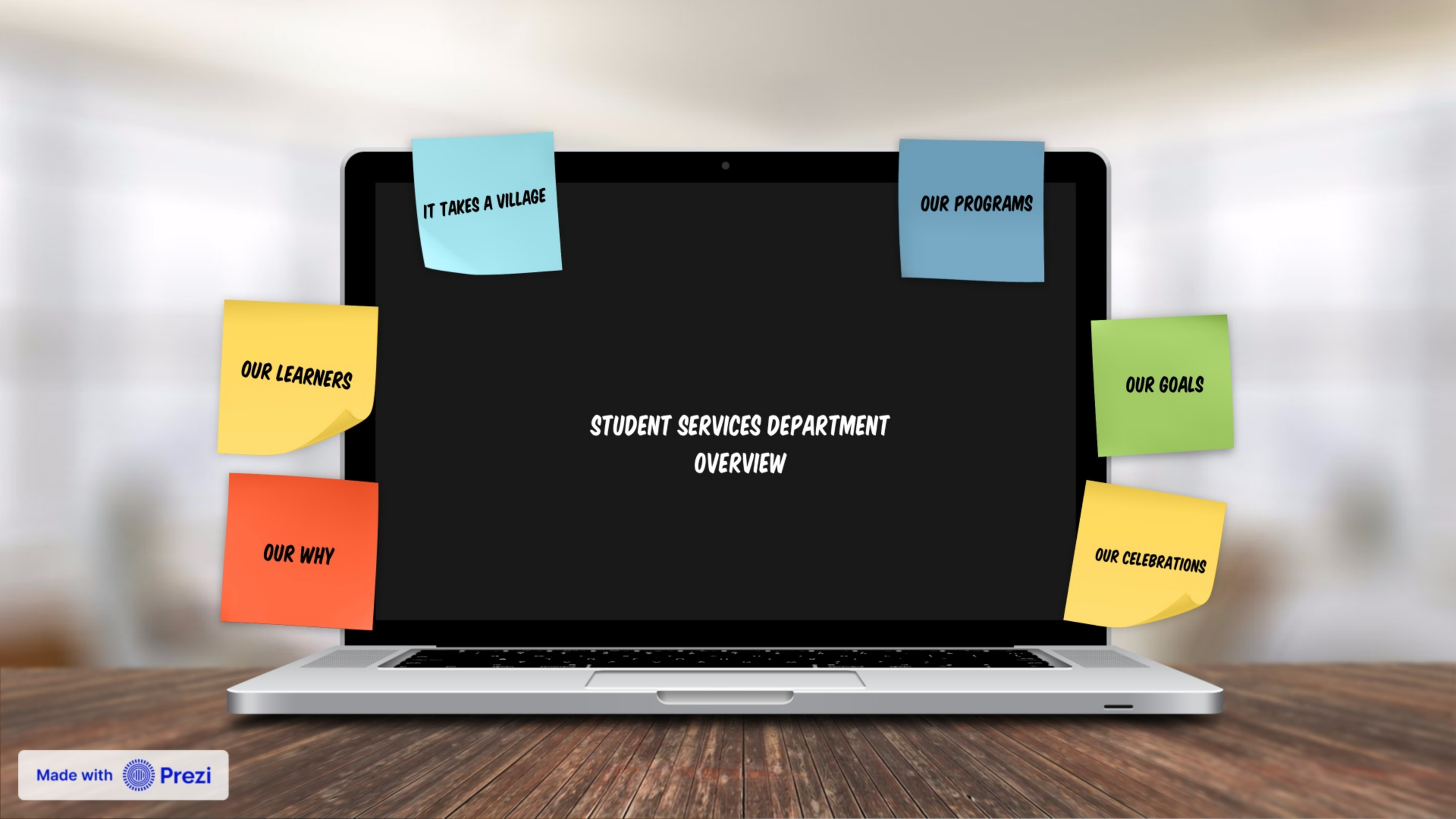
- Autism, Deafness, Developmental Delay, Emotional Disabilty, Hearing Imparment, Intellectual Disability, Multiple Disability, Orthopedic Impairment, Other Health Impairment (OHI), Specific Learning Disability, Speech and Language Impairment, Traumatic Brain Injury, Vision Impairment

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D97'S EQUITY POLICY IS REFLECTED IN OUR WORK

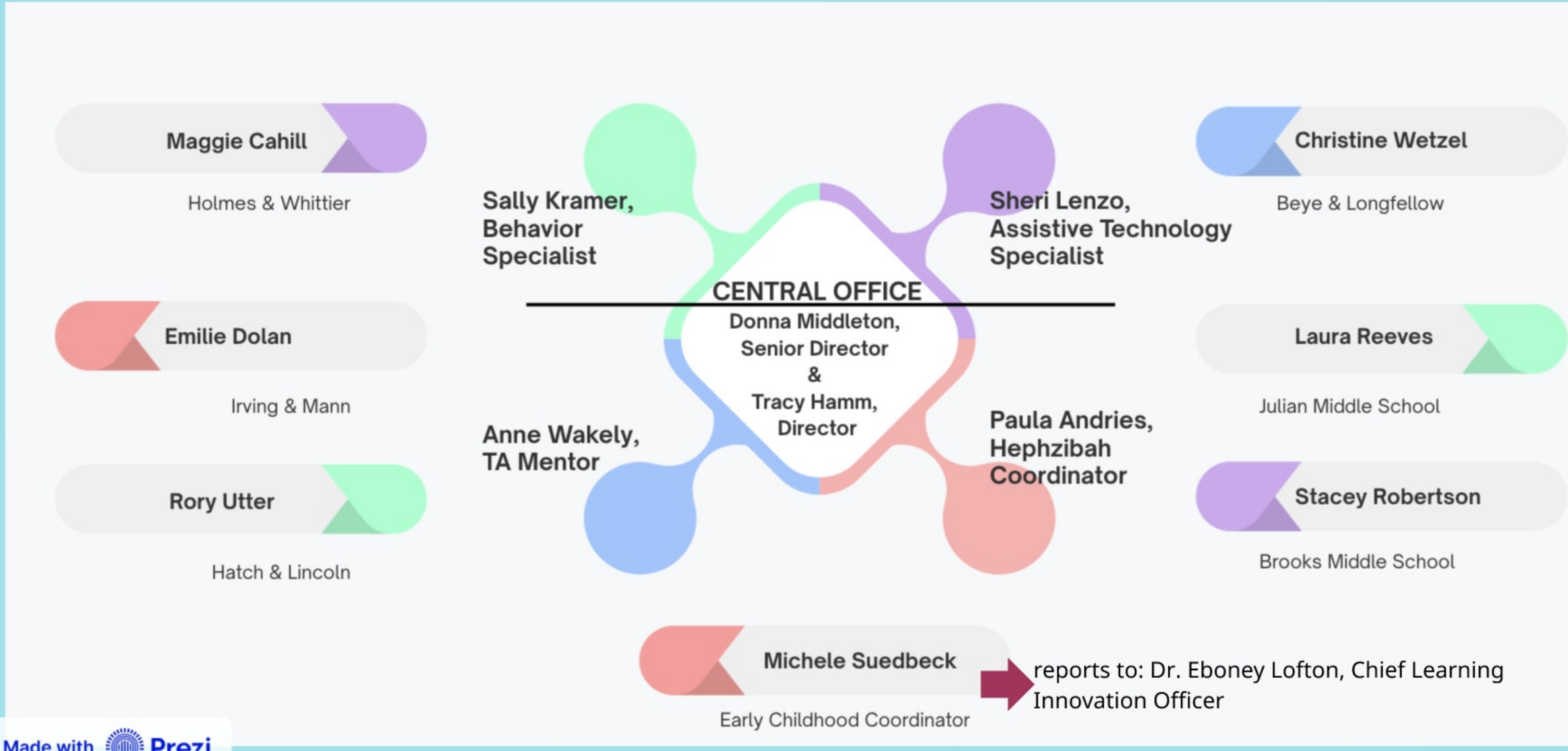
"The concept of educational equity goes beyond simple equality where all students are treated the same to fostering a barrier-free environment in which all students, regardless of their background or personal attributes, are extended opportunities and resources required for success."

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DIRECTORS, COORDINATORS & SPECIALISTS



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TEACHING AND ADMINISTRATIVE ASSISTANTS

Admin Assistant



Gabriel Haynes

Admin Assistant



Tamiko Lee

Admin Assistant



Claire Schroeder

Teacher Assistants



Anne Wakely

190 TAs across the district

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SPECIAL EDUCATION RELATED SERVICE PROVIDERS & TEACHERS

Elementary Teachers



Marta Mohammad

50 Elem. Teachers across 8 schools

Nurses



Lauren Giorango

10 Nurses one at each school

Occupational & Physical Therapists



Aurora Tabar

7.5 OTs & 1.5 PTs across the district

Psychologists



Matt Maciak

8 Psychs across the district

Social Workers



Abby Robot

22 SWs across the district

Speech & Language Pathologists



Sabrina Mandelbaum
Lauren McKeand

16 SLPs across the district

Middle School Teachers



Brooke Sefcik &
Jillian Williams

29 MS Special Education Teachers at Brooks & Julian

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MULTILINGUAL TEACHERS

Multilingual Lead Teacher



Angelica Degante

5 Elementary Multilingual Teachers

Multilingual Lead Teacher



Anna Missman

4 Middle School Multilingual Teachers

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504 CASE MANAGERS

Section 504 Plans Elementary

UDL Coordinators

Beye & Longfellow

Christine Wetzel

Hatch & Lincoln

Rory Utter

Holmes & Whittier

Maggie Cahill

Irving & Mann

Emilie Dolan

Section 504 Plans Brooks Middle School

Student Success Coaches

6th Audrey Schoen

7th Bernard Starks

8th Josh Roberts

Section 504 Plans Julian Middle School

Student Success Coaches

6th Becca Marie

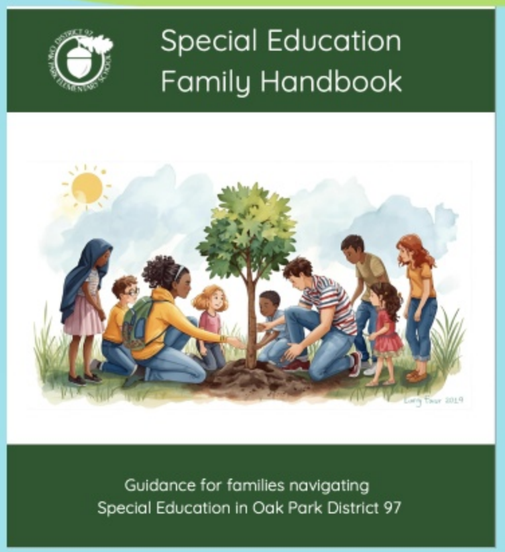
7th Kasey Flemings

8th Sergio Torres

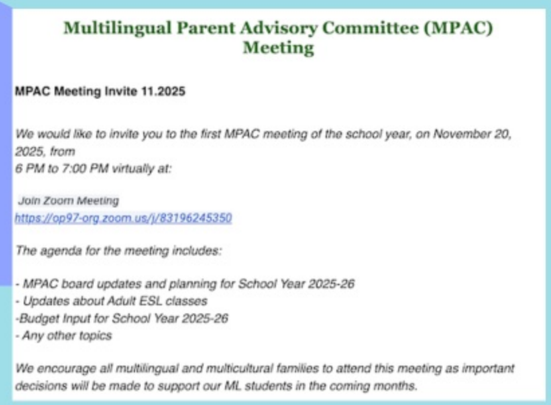
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FAMILY PARTNERSHIP

Special Education Parent Advisory Committee (SEPAC)



Multilingual Parent Advisory Committee (MPAC)



Multilingual Parent Advisory Committee (MPAC) Meeting

MPAC Meeting Invite 11.2025

We would like to invite you to the first MPAC meeting of the school year, on November 20, 2025, from
6 PM to 7:00 PM virtually at:

Join Zoom Meeting
https://op97-org.zoom.us/j/83196245350

The agenda for the meeting includes:

- MPAC board updates and planning for School Year 2025-26
- Updates about Adult ESL classes
-Budget Input for School Year 2025-26
- Any other topics

We encourage all multilingual and multicultural families to attend this meeting as important decisions will be made to support our ML students in the coming months.

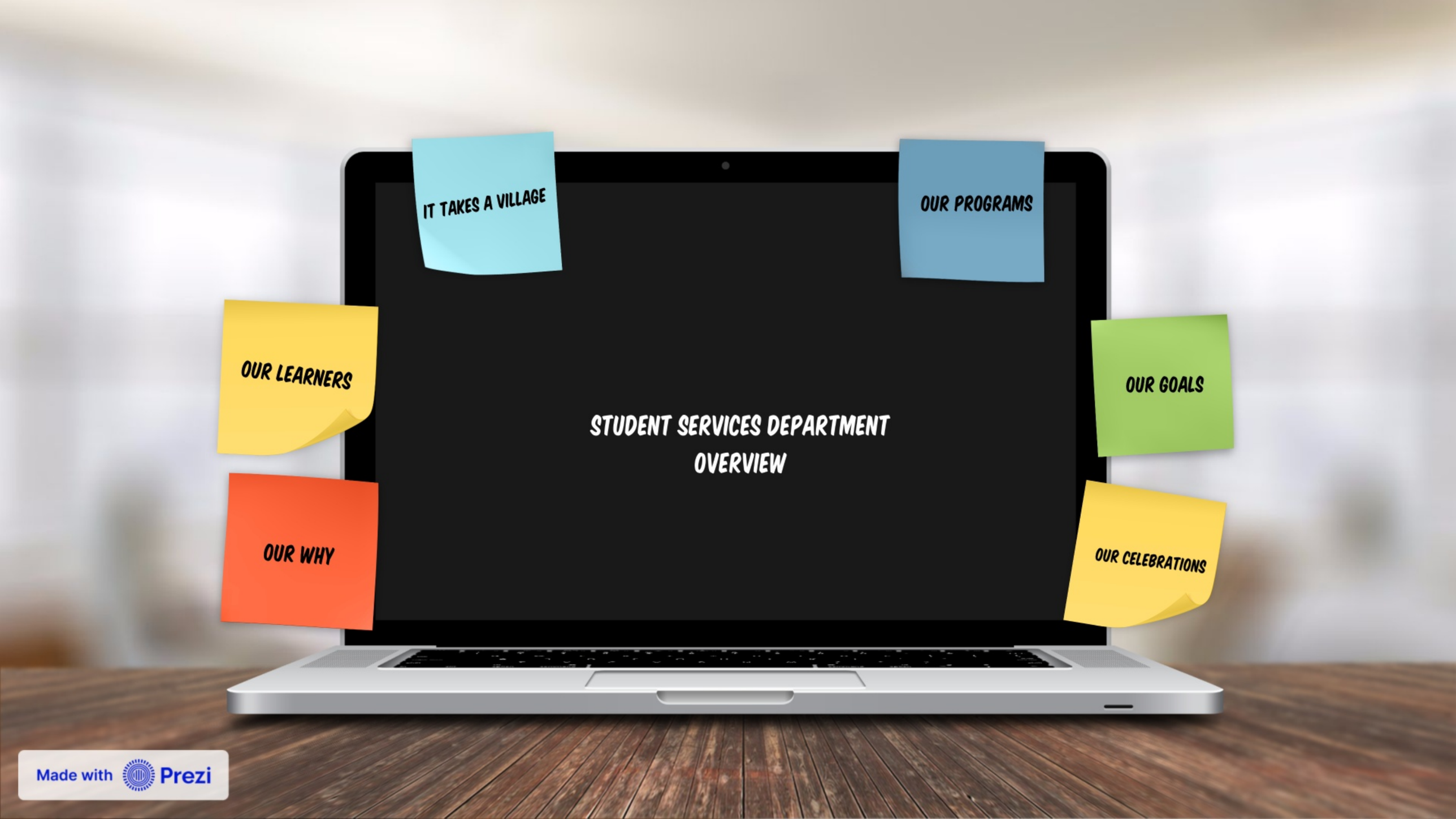
Special Education Parent Support Group



Student Night In



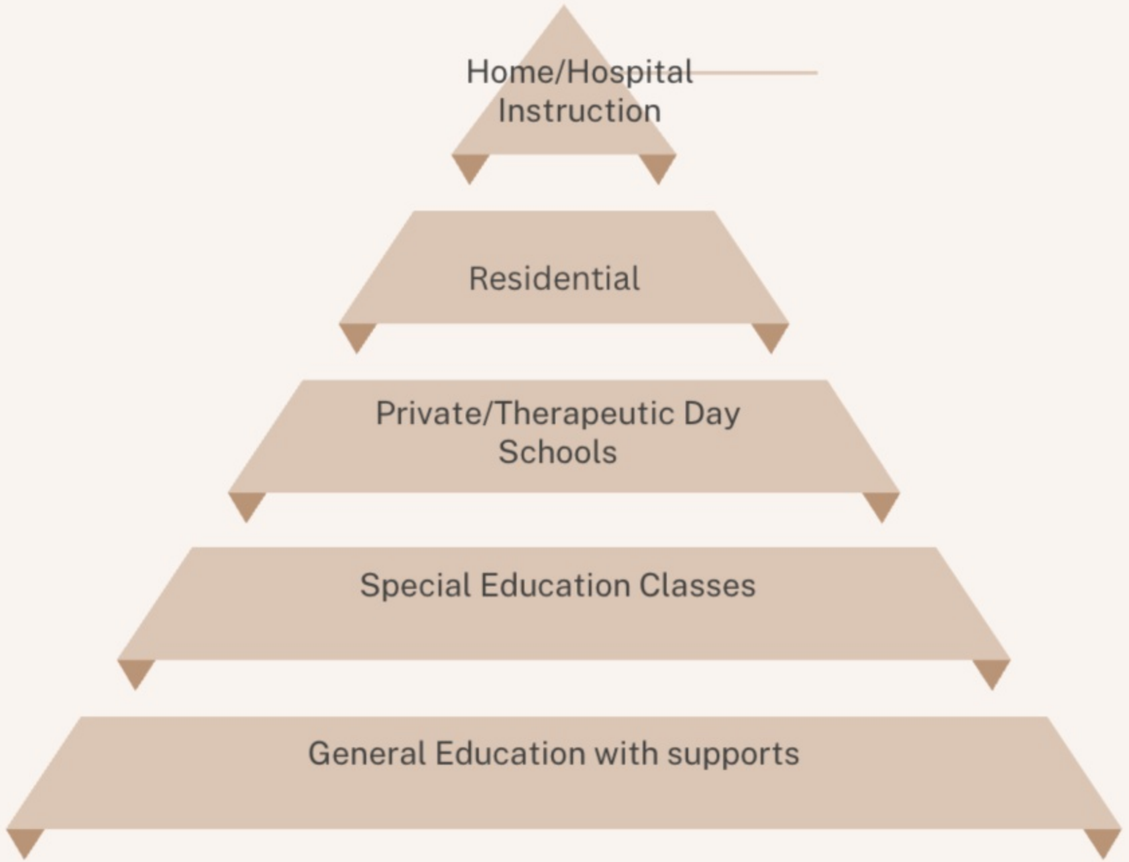
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EDUCATIONAL PROGRAMMING FOR SPECIAL EDUCATION

Continuum of Special Education Services



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EDUCATIONAL PROGRAMMING FOR SPECIAL EDUCATION

Continuum of Services in Special Education

All ten schools

Speech Only IEP

student has a disability in the area of speech & language, has identified goal(s), and does not require any other specially designed instruction

All ten schools

Resource

student is in general education for the majority of the school day; services are provided inside or outside general education or a combination

Beye, Holmes, Irving, Lincoln, Longfellow, Whittier, Brooks & Julian

Co-taught

student needs more consistent support to access the general education curriculum

Instructional

cross categorical special education classroom for students who need more support; smaller class size with higher adult to student ratio

Lincoln, Longfellow, Whittier, Brooks & Julian

RISE

special education classroom for students who need significant support to access the Essential Elements of grade level standards and are developing essential life skills

Holmes, Irving, Brooks & Julian

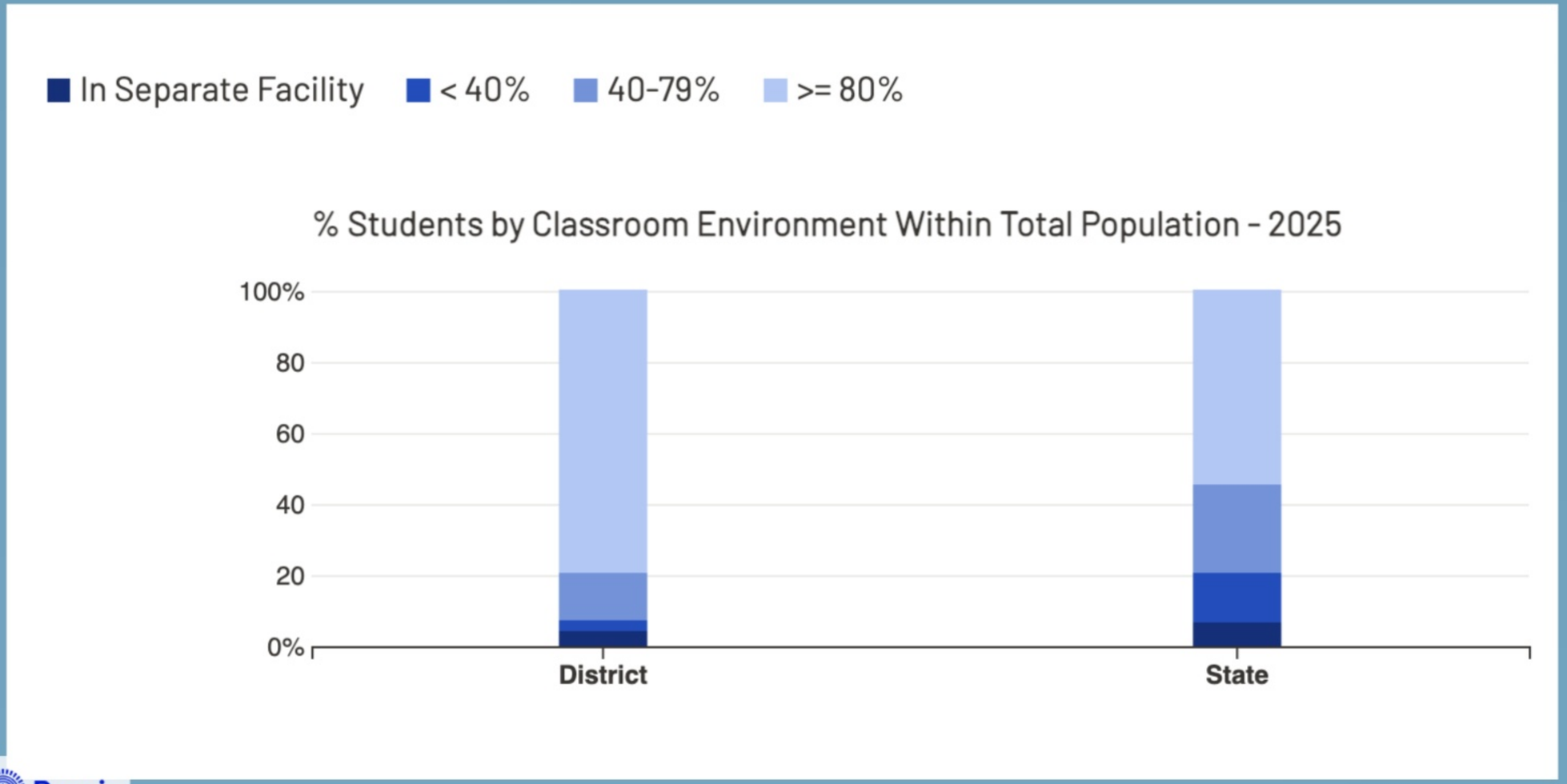
Therapeutic Day School

student has significant needs that can't be met in the public school setting

remains a D97 student with UDL Coordinator as the case manager

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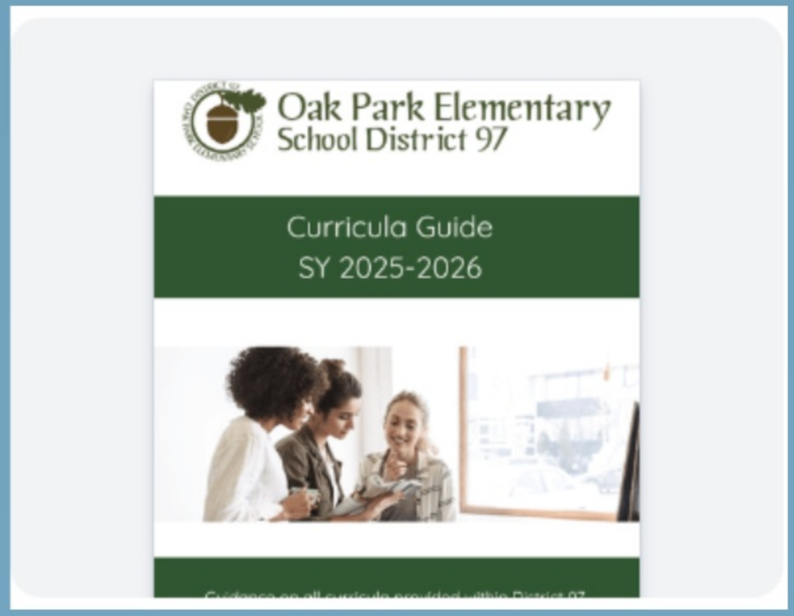
HOW DOES OUR DISTRICT COMPARE TO THE STATE?



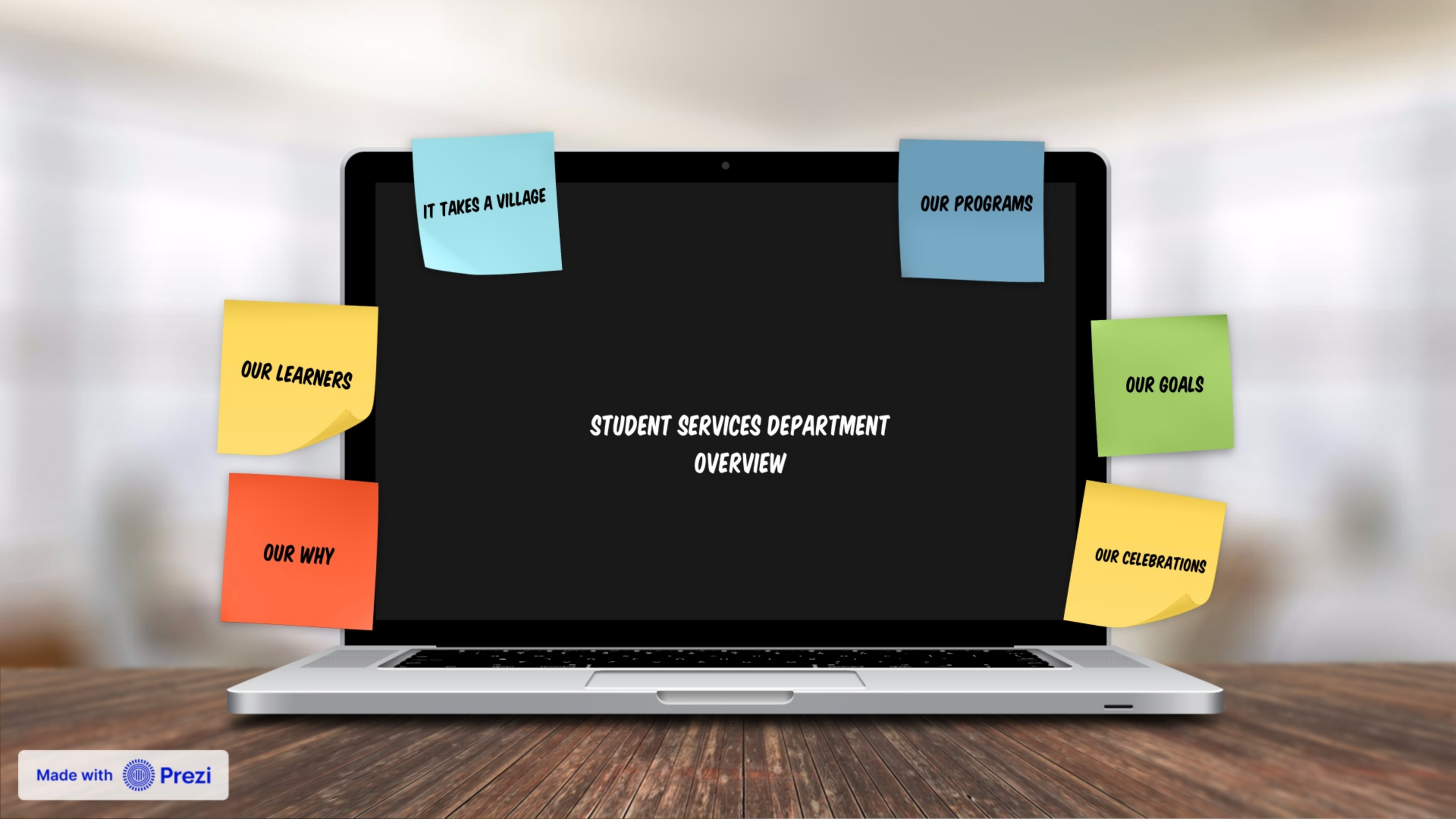
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EDUCATIONAL PROGRAMMING FOR SPECIAL EDUCATION

Specially designed instruction is customized teaching that is adapted in content, methods, or delivery to meet the unique learning needs of a student with a disability. Its purpose is to help the student access the general education curriculum and make meaningful progress toward their learning goals.



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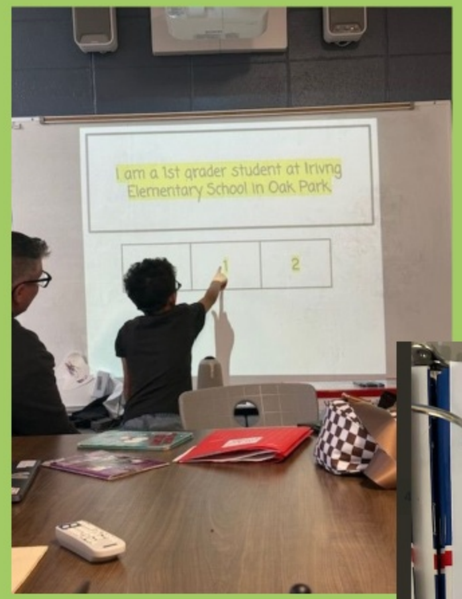


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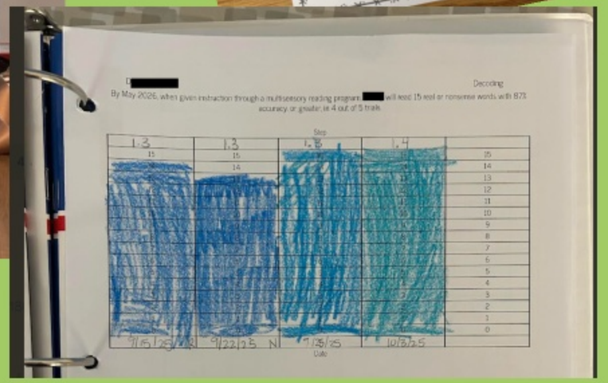
GOALS

Goal Priority - Involving Students

Student participation looks different from Early Childhood through 8th grade. The level and type of participation is individualized and shaped by each student's developmental stage, disability, personal comfort level, and their family's comfort and preferences.

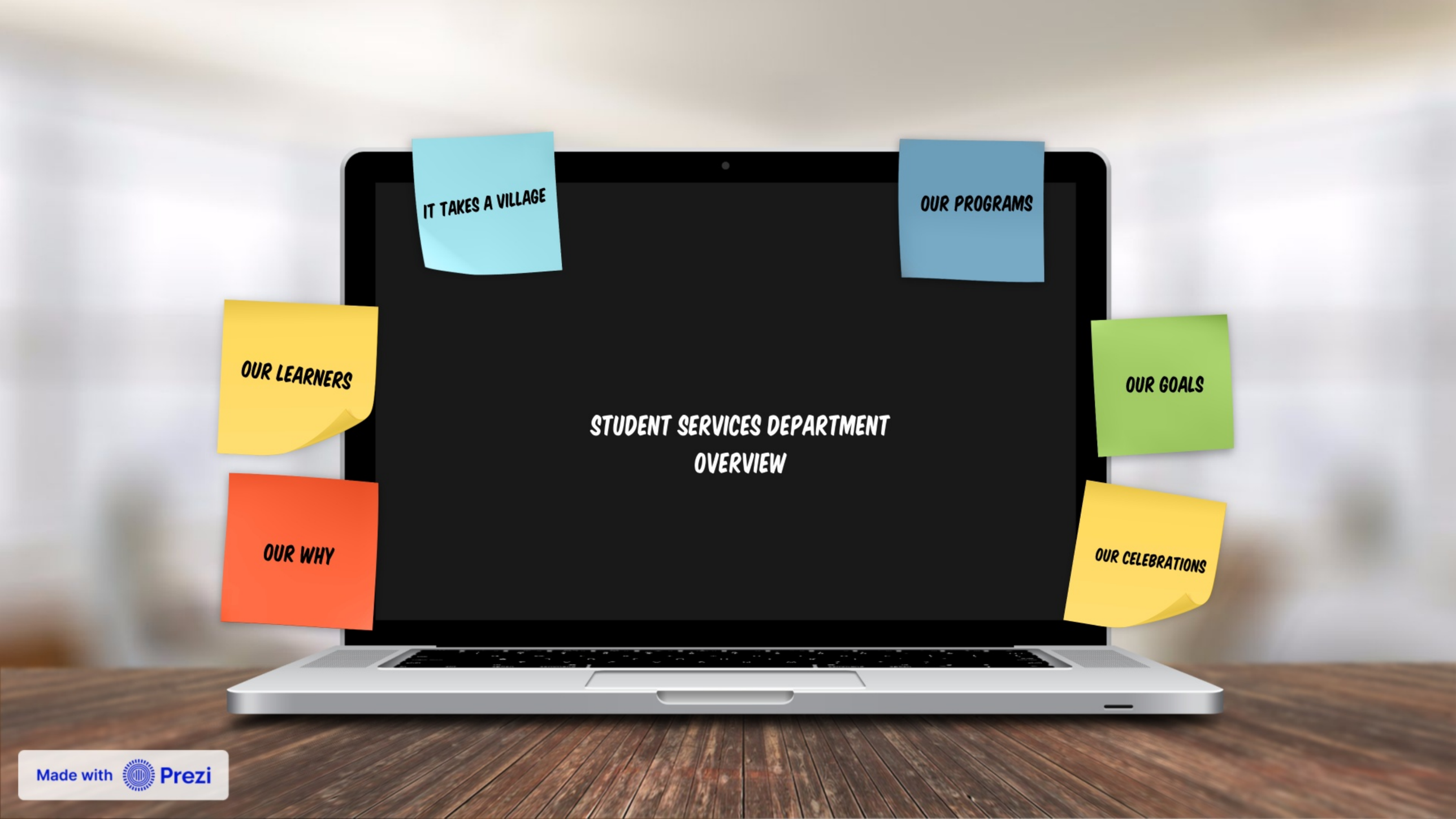








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CELEBRATIONS

Adult ESL classes

13 Special Olympic Sports offered in the district.

Reintegrating several middle school students back from therapeutic day schools

Started EC itinerant services in community preschools

THE NORA PROJECT
Proudly part of CEL

Young Athletes



Disability Awareness Presentations



Role aligned mentor matchups for all first year special education staff

PLCs for EC, co-teachers, instructional & RISE teachers

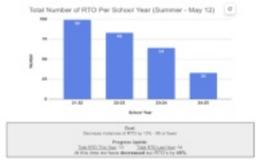
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86.7% of families rate their IEP experience as "very satisfied" (5 out of 5)

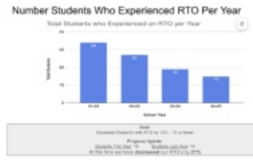
SY25 RTO Goal Accomplishments- Kudos to our district and school teams!

District's 97 goal was to reduce:

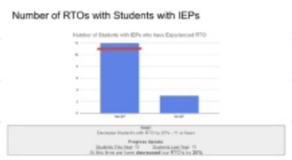
- The number of RTO incidences by 10
  - Goal Achieved- 48% reduction
  - D97 reduced instances of RTO from 64 to 33
- The number of students experiencing RTO by 10%
  - Goal Achieved - 21% reduction
  - D97 reduced the number of individuals experiencing RTO from 19 to 15
- The number of students with IEPs experiencing RTO by 25%
  - Shy of Goal Achieved - 20% reduction
  - D97 reduced the number of students with IEPs experiencing RTO from 15 to 12



Total # of RTO per school year



Number of Students who Experienced RTO per school year



Number of RTOs with Students with IEPs

Formed a Special Education Advisory Council w/ staff that meets monthly

9 teachers currently in Wilson Practicum
36 teachers Wilson Level 1 Certified

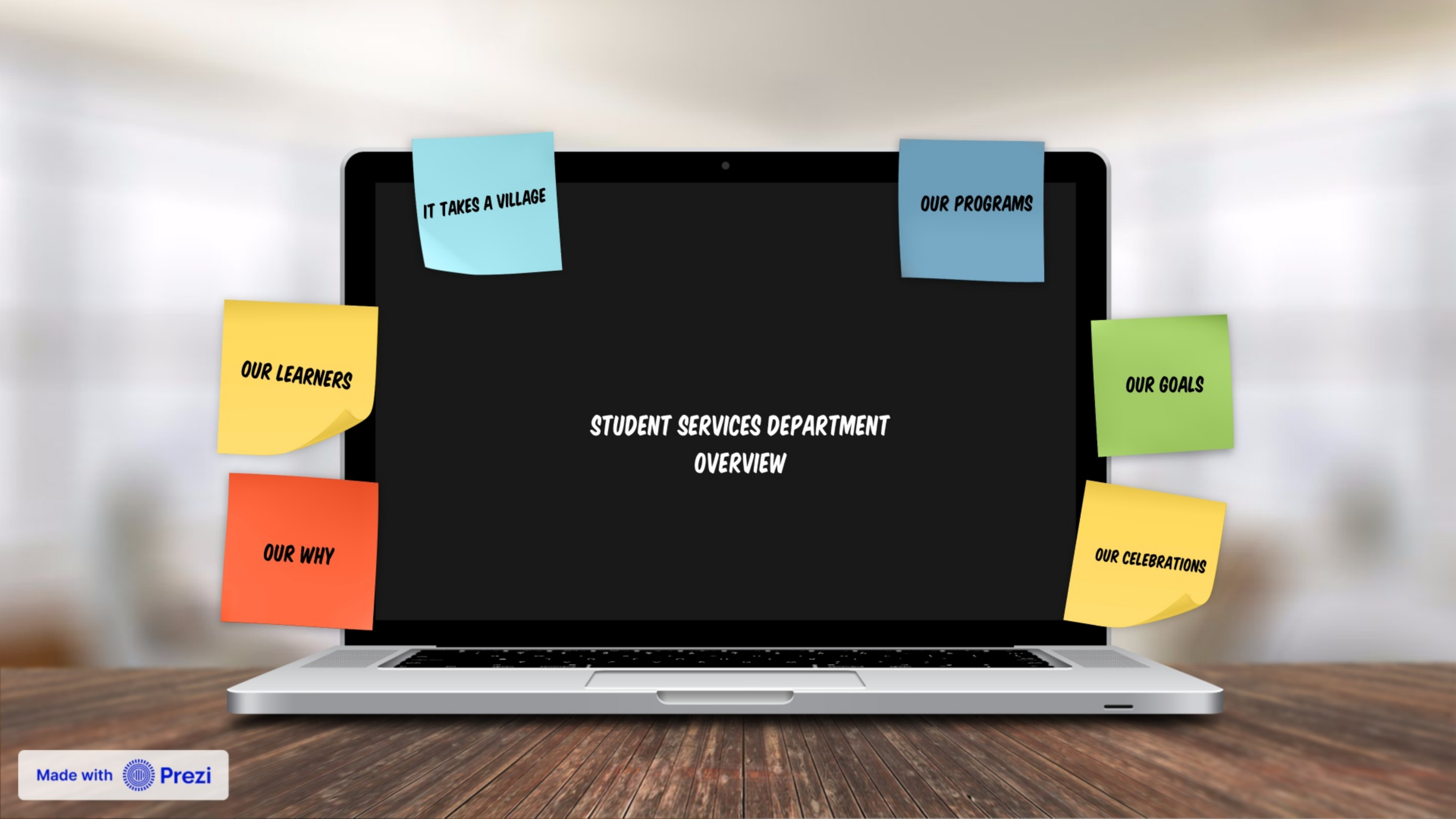
Monthly AAC training for families

Increased elementary co-taught classrooms

Best Buddies



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