



CHELSEA

SCHOOL DISTRICT

SPECIAL EDUCATION

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To: Board of Education

From: Lisa Nickel

Re: August Board Report - Special Education

Date: 8/26/26

- The summer was a busy one for special ed as we offered Extended School Year opportunities for our students with the most significant needs, Prek-12th grade. We also supported incoming Young 5 and kindergarteners at Safety Town as well as Jump Start. Thank you to our amazing team of paraprofessionals who offered to work during the summer to support all of the programs as well as Alex Soule, Greg Stephens, Katy Fillion and Kim Goonis who were the lead teachers.
- For our newly hired staff who are not already certified in [Non-Violent Crisis Prevention](#) the full initial course was provided on Thursday, August 27th. This certification needs to be renewed every 2 years.
- We do still have a few paraprofessional positions to fill as we start the year. A special thank you to Madisen Miller, one of our paraprofessionals from South Meadow who received her teaching certificate through our para to teacher program as she will be a long term sub at Pierce Lake for our Young 5 students with disabilities needing special education services.
- Michelle Hilla and I provided training to each building regarding the MTSS process and the pathway to determining when to look at a 504 plan or to move to a special education evaluation. You can see the presentation [here](#).
- We have continued with our agreement with our neighboring district of Manchester to provide programs and services to their secondary students needing a resource room. This agreement will continue to be reviewed annually.
- [Training](#) was provided to all of our office administrative assistants regarding McKinney-Vento as well as homebound/hospitalization requirements as they are often the first to become aware of students who may be eligible for services or resources under these two areas.
- Andrea Cole and myself provided [training](#) for our new staff regarding support services available in the district as well as county wide. We shared the history and the law behind multilingual learners, 504 plans and special education. We close the training out with a fun interactive activity where they can apply their new knowledge to case scenarios that are actually famous people who had disabilities.

Respectfully,

Lisa Nickel, Director of Special Education