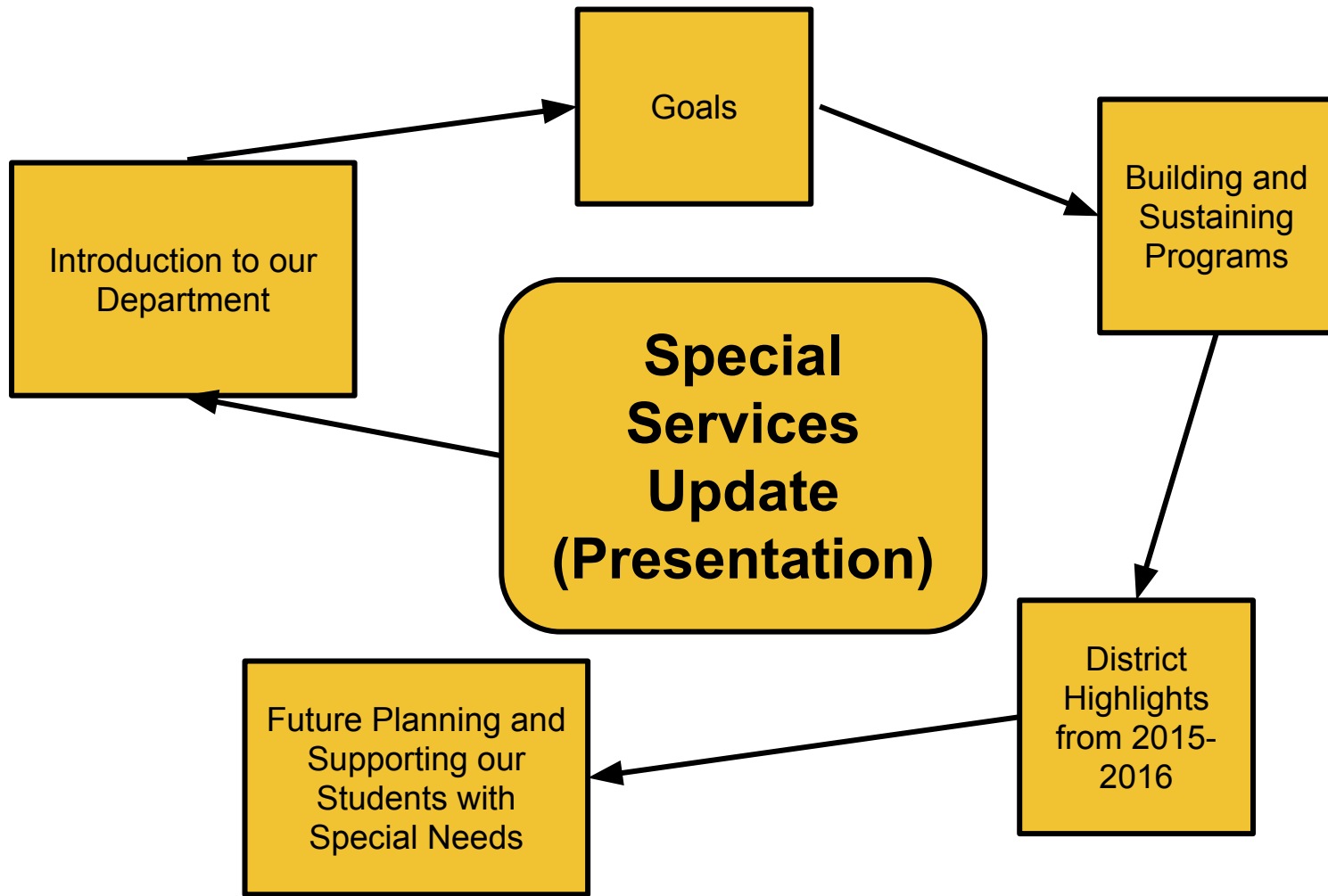


West Milford Public Schools Office of Special Services

April 19, 2016

Dr. Elizabeth McQuaid
Director of Special Services

Dr. Jonathan Hesney
Supervisor of Special Services



Introduction to our Department

Goals

Building and Sustaining Programs

Special Services Update (Presentation)

District Highlights from 2015-2016

Future Planning and Supporting our Students with Special Needs

INTRODUCTION TO OUR DEPARTMENT

INTRODUCTION TO OUR DEPARTMENT

WM Special Services

Students with special needs in district and out-of-district, Director of Special Services, Supervisor of Special Services, Child Study Team members, psychologists, LDTCs, social workers, Special Education Teachers PreK-12, Nurses, special class aides, occupational therapists, physical therapists, speech and language pathologists, behaviorists, special services secretaries, and home instructors.



COLLABORATION:

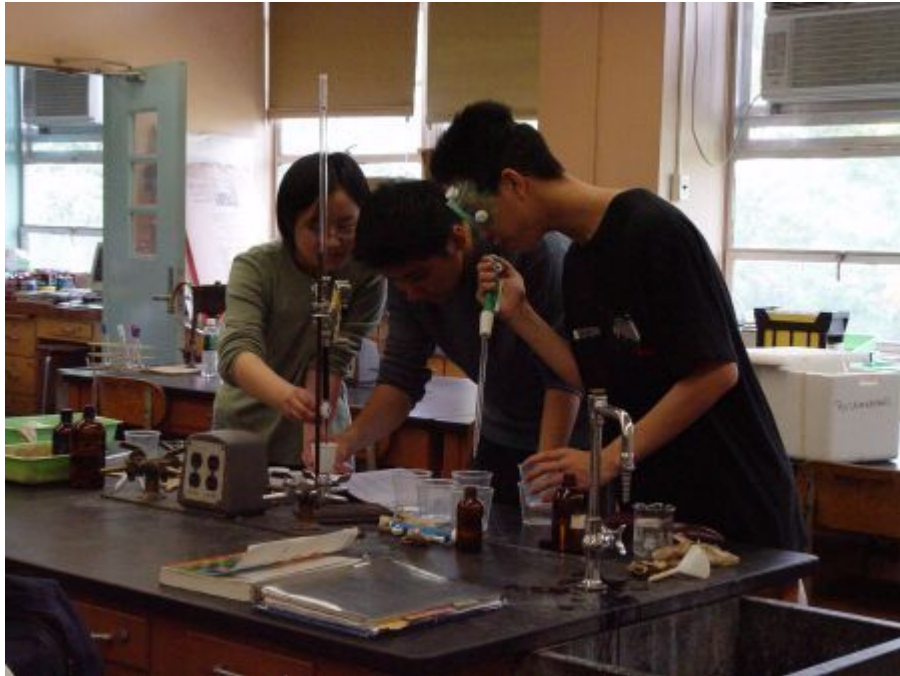
Two or more people working together towards shared goals



DISTRICT GOALS



Create awareness and opportunities for students and staff participation in areas related to STEAM



Students with IEPs are able to access and participate in STEAM related curriculum work with supports as needed

Special Education teachers are highly qualified in Science and work with the Science department

Special Education teachers participate in professional development affiliated with STEAM



Enhance district climate and culture to foster student achievement and recognition through collaboration with all stakeholders.

Increased S.E.P.A.C. participation

Conducted proactive roundtable meetings

Hosted district symposiums

Joined community outreach efforts





Develop and implement an effective and timely communication plan



Special Services Website

Special Services Honeywell

Twitter @DrMcQuaidWM

DEPARTMENT GOAL

- NJDOE LRE SETTLEMENT ACTIVITIES
AND MONITORING IN LRE



<http://www.nj.gov/education/specialed/idea/lre/lawsuit/SettlementAgreement.pdf>



Least Restrictive Environment (LRE)

Individuals with Disabilities Education Act (IDEA) Law states that students with disabilities receive their education, to the maximum extent appropriate with nondisabled peers. Special classes, separate schools or removal from the general class should only happen when the student's disability is such that supplemental aids and services cannot provide an appropriate education.

The general education classroom is the least restrictive placement along the continuum, but it is not the least restrictive learning environment for every child.

LRE is determined by the IEP team on an individual basis. No individual may unilaterally determine a student's placement.

CST/case managers will continue to consider the LRE for all students. Ongoing NJDOE settlement activities will continue through the 2016-2017 school year.

BUILDING AND SUSTAINING PROGRAMS



West Milford Autism/Applied Behavior Analysis (ABA) Program

District started program in the 2015-2016 school year

Preschool-
Ms. Alyssa Swan

Kindergarten-
Ms. Karyn Reinhold



HIGHLIGHTS

- Intensive therapy services
- Behavioral support (BCBA)
- Increased inclusion
- Ongoing monitoring of student performance data



Highlander Academy

HIGHLIGHTS

Therapeutic behavioral disabilities program serving grades 9-12

Currently serving 20 students

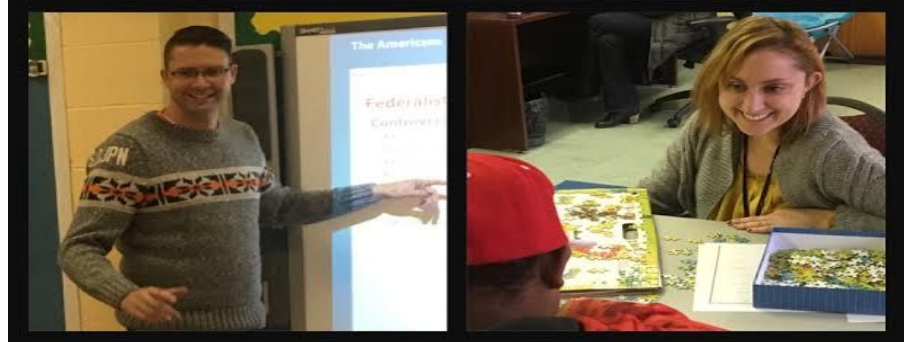
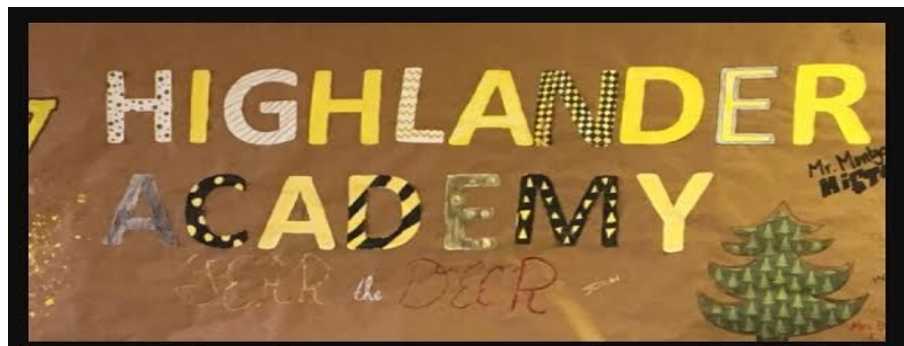
Group Counseling daily along with individual counseling

Specialized therapeutic support

Behavior motivational system

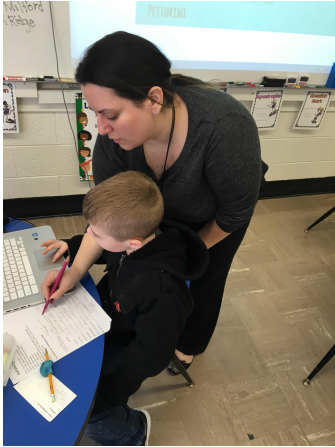
Highly qualified teachers

Multitude of mental health disorders



DISTRICT
HIGHLIGHTS 2015-
2016

ELEMENTARY SCHOOL HIGHLIGHTS



Increased co-teaching and in-class resource room opportunities

Sustainability of Inclusion Preschool and Behavioral Disabilities classes supported by BOE within the past 3 years

Best Practices in the area of therapeutic supports (i.e. yoga, handwriting development, etc.)

Recognition of High Performing Teachers



MACOPIN SCHOOL HIGHLIGHTS



Inclusive opportunities for students with special needs as they are involved in all character education and Macopin related activities (Chorus, Clubs, NB involvement, etc.)

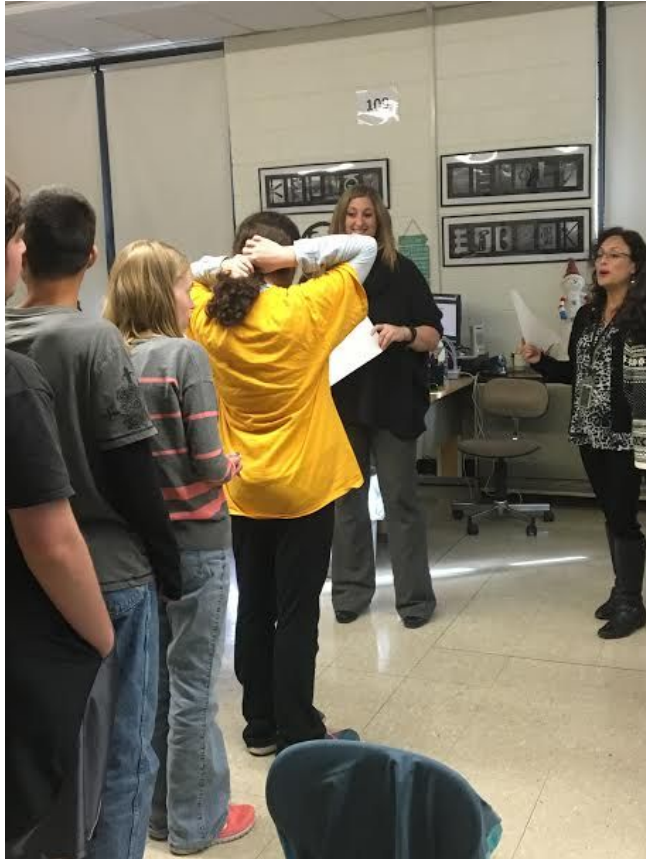
Ongoing preparation for high school in all content areas

CST/Guidance Collaboration

Developmental Reading

Transition

WEST MILFORD HIGH SCHOOL HIGHLIGHTS



Multiply Disabled (MD) Class at the High School

Structured Learning Experiences and Work Experiences expanded

Continue to support and implement co-teaching and in-class resource room

Increased involvement in clubs and sports

FUTURE PLANNING



Future Planning & Supporting our Students with Special Needs

Consider long term growth and sustainability of district programs

Continue to provide IEP mandated services

Implement the LLD Program to support students aging up to the High School from the Middle School Program

West Milford Board of Education

Alone we can do
so little;
together we can
do so much.

Helen Keller

THANK YOU
for your support!



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