

GROTON-DUNSTABLE REGIONAL
SCHOOL DISTRICT
PUPIL PERSONNEL SERVICES
2008/2009 SCHOOL YEAR

SUMMARY OF PROGRAMS & ACTIVITIES

1. EARLY CHILDHOOD PROGRAM

BOUTWELL EARLY CHILDHOOD CENTER

Staff members:

- Director
- 4 Early Childhood/Special Education Teachers
- Speech/Language Pathologist
- Occupational Therapist/District
- Physical Therapist/District
- Paraprofessionals 11FT/PT
- Nurse

Students:

- 50 students with Individual Education Programs (IEPs)
- 21 children will transition to Kindergarten
- 3 children made sufficient progress to come off of their IEPs

The staff at Boutwell continues to successfully service students with multiple learning and physical challenges. Student services range from related services including speech/language, occupational therapy, and physical therapy for children who come in for those services only, to full programs for children who attend the program 4 1/2 days.

2. SPECIAL EDUCATION PROGRAM

SWALLOW UNION ELEMENTARY SCHOOL

Staff members:

- Team Chairperson/.6 C.O.T.A. /District
- 2.5 Special Education Teachers Physical Therapist/District
- Speech/Language Pathologist/Part-time Paraprofessionals 17 FT/PT
- Speech Assistant/Part-time/District Guidance Counselor
- Occupational Therapist/District Nurse

Students:

- 68 students with IEPs
- The Partner Program with the New England Center for Children provides in-house programming for 6 District children with Autism spectrum disorder. The program is run by and staffed by NECC.

SWALLOW UNION ELEMENTARY CONTINUED

- 22 new students with IEPs
- 3 students use augmentative communication devices
- Special education teachers provide ongoing training to teachers and paraprofessionals in use of the augmentative devices.
- 2 district-wide in-service training sessions for augmentative communication.
- Special education teachers and 3rd grade teachers participated in District literacy skill development course offered by the District.

FLORENCE ROCHE ELEMENTARY SCHOOL

Staff members:

- Team Chairperson/.6
 - 5 Special Education Teachers
 - Speech/Language Pathologist/Part-time
 - Speech Assistant/Part-time/District
 - Occupational Therapist/District/Part-time
 - Certified Occupational Therapy Assistant/District
- Physical Therapist/District
Paraprofessionals 25 FT/PT
1.5 Guidance Counselors
Nurse
Health Assistant

Students:

- 72 Students with IEPs
- 3 new special education teachers.
- R+ program, meeting the goals of the program.
- Enhanced processes for identifying children with learning challenges at an early stage.
- Transition process in place for incoming students for 9/09

MIDDLE SCHOOL

Staff members:

- Team Chairperson
 - 8 Special Education Teachers
 - Speech/Language Therapist/District
 - Occupational Therapist/District
 - Physical Therapist/District
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- Paraprofessionals 22 FT/PT
3 Guidance Counselors
School Social Worker/District
2 Nurses

Students:

- 122 Students with IEPs
- Student Support Center (SSC) was successfully launched.
- Co-teaching has been implemented for a second year, with plans to expand for the 2009/2010 school year.
- Small group settings are offered for students who need extensive modifications to the curriculum that cannot be provided in the co-taught model.
- Paraprofessionals support students in general education classes.

MIDDLE SCHOOL CONTINUED

- Special Education Teachers and Paraprofessionals provide academic support in the Learning Centers.
- The Middle School has a designated Special Education Teacher who provides a phonetically based reading program to those students in need of intensive reading instruction.
- For the 2009/2010 school year the STEP and SSC programs will merge to provide a comprehensive program.
- Transition meetings are underway for students who are moving up to the high school and for the students who will be entering the middle school next year.

HIGH SCHOOL

Staff members:

- Team Chairperson/.8
 - 5 Special Education Teachers
 - Related Service Providers/District
 - Paraprofessionals 8FT/PT
- 3 Guidance Counselors
 - Drug & Alcohol Counselor/PT
 - Nurse
 - Health Assistant

Students:

- 75 Students with IEPs
- Special education staff uses collaborative approach to meet needs of students.
- Goal is to help students reach independence.
- Parent involvement and participation in the Team process is essential.
- Supported classrooms that are co-taught or have the services of a paraprofessional are available for students.
- Learning Center support is available based on student need and as indicated in the IEP.

HIGH SCHOOL CONTINUED

- Efficacy of the High School support model is given evidence by the fact that all students who took the MCAS for their tenth grade year (2008) passed and have met that graduation requirement.
- Life Skills classroom for students with more complex needs provides students with a strong emphasis on vocational training.

2009/2010

- The Learning Center will offer incoming freshman an introduction to the expectations and opportunities at the High School as well as instruction in study and organization skills.
- The P.A.V.E. (Providing Academic and Vocational Experiences) Program, based on the life skills model, will offer a continuum of educational services from academics through vocational preparedness as well as integrated personal, social and communication skills

3. GUIDANCE

- A District Guidance Coordinator oversees the practices and procedures of the Guidance Department.
- The Guidance Department focused on three major areas for improvement during the present school year.
- Professional Development
 - Collaboration with Fitchburg State College for a course for Guidance Counselors. Projects completed by the counselors include:
 - Elementary: Developmental Guidance Curriculum
 - Middle School: aligning Guidance with ‘Turning Points 2000’
 - High School: improving college selection process
- Development of a 504 manual
- Transition planning for smooth building to building transitions for incoming students.

4. NURSE/HEALTH

- A District Nurse Coordinator oversees the practices and procedures of the Nurse/Health Department.
- 2008/2009 school year finds nursing trends in the Groton-Dunstable Regional School District reflective of the current times including:
 - Swine Flu
 - Stresses on families due to the economic times
 - Medical conditions that include life threatening allergies, asthma, developmental disorders, diabetes, seizure disorders, and an increase in anxiety in students as young as elementary school.

NURSE/HEALTH CONT'D

Grant:

- the Nurse Coordinator participated in the Essential School Health Services Grant, partnered with the Gardner School System, to collaborate with other nursing leaders and Public Health Advisors from the School Health Services Unit on a regular basis thereby keeping current in school health issues and trends.
- Grant provided funds for stadiometers and new scales for the individual schools to assist in meeting MDPH guidelines of calculating BMI's (body mass index) for all students in grades 1, 4, 7 & 10.
- Grant paid for in-service education for nurses through the Northeastern University School Health Institute.

2009/2010:

- Nurses anticipate continued collaboration with the School Physician and Nurse Practitioner and review and updating of the Nursing Procedure Manual.
- Nurses anticipate updating of computerized health record information system.

THE GROTON-DUNSTABLE REGIONAL SCHOOL DISTRICT SPED PAC

- Special Education administration and staff work collaboratively with the Sped PAC to provide information and support to parents of children with special needs. The Sped PAC has opened a Resource Center in Prescott that is open to all parents who have questions or concerns about special education as well as a resource of materials and references available to parents and staff.