

Exceptional Times

Department of Exceptional Children

Rowan-Salisbury Schools

A MESSAGE FROM THE DIRECTOR

Welcome back! I am very excited about the 2018-2019 school year! We have a lot of exciting things planned! This summer we reviewed your feedback from the progress monitoring training and heard you loud and clear. You need more resources to help you with data collection, progress monitoring, and writing IEP goals. As a result, we have partnered with a company called EduLync that provides resources for teachers with regard to instructional planning, assessments, annual goals, and progress monitoring. EduLync staff will be providing professional development for EC teachers in mid to late September. Details will follow in the weeks

ahead. This year monthly EC teacher meetings will be held by community. Your EC Program Specialist will provide you with details on location(s) and time(s). We want this time to be devoted to professional development as opposed to “sit and get” sessions. We are hopeful this will be an effective way for providing you with knowledge and skills you can immediately take back to your classrooms and implement for the benefit for all students. I hope everyone has a wonderful start to the school year, and I look forward to seeing you and your students when visiting your buildings and classrooms.

WORDS TO LIVE BY.....

“The only true disability is a crushed spirit.”

--Aimee Mullins

“Every child deserves a champion; an adult who will never give up on them, who understands the power of connection and insists they can become the best they can possibly be.”

--Rita Pierson

Curriculum News

Have you noticed our different departmental structure this year? You now have 2 General Curriculum Specialists, Sarah Brown and Angela Barbetto, available to help support you and your students.

Sarah Brown has worked in the school system 16 years, 10 of which have been at the district level. She received her Bachelors from UNCG in Sociology with an add-on license in Exceptional Children and AIG. She received her Masters from Appalachian in Curriculum and Administration. Sarah assists with a variety of professional development in the district and will be working with the North, South, and West communities.

Angela Barbetto has worked in the district 20 years, and she received her Bachelors from UNCC in Psychology with an add-on license in Exceptional Children. She will be working with the East, Southeast, and Salisbury Communities.

Compliance Tip of the Month

Don't forget all IEP meetings must be scheduled using a written invitation to conference that provides 7 to 10 days adequate notice. ***Note that a phone call cannot replace the written invitation to conference.***

Provide two notices to the parent/guardian prior to the IEP meeting, with the first notice being that written invitation. A phone call can suffice as the second notice. However, if in a situation in which documentation is critical, send a second written notice.

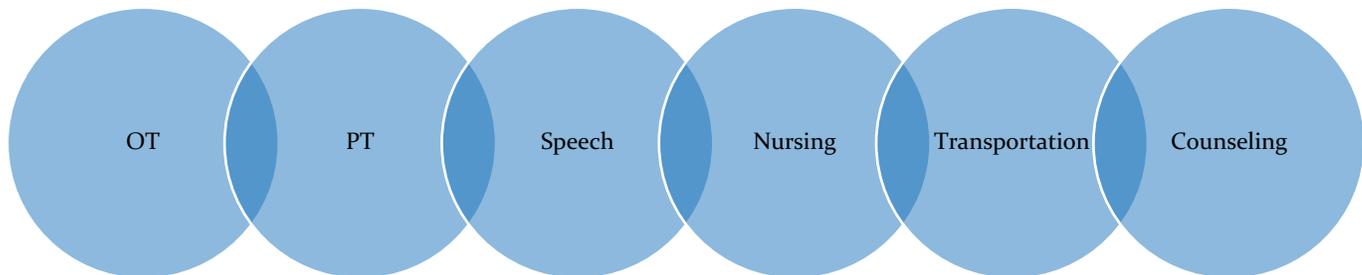
Don't forget for children aged 14 and older, they are to receive a written invitation to conference too.

Also, be sure to invite all relevant personnel like the OT, PT, speech pathologist, school psychologist, APE teacher, HI teacher, VI teacher, and so forth.

If no invitation is sent and/or adequate notice is not provided, the case would be considered non-compliant.

We value...
each child's
unique gifts
and
abilities.

Let's Talk About Related Services:



Between your Curriculum Specialists and Related Services providers, you have a multitude of resources for meeting student needs. Related services are supportive services designed to help a student with special needs benefit from special education. Students with disabilities may be entitled to one or more related services while other students may require none. Related services are provided at no cost by schools for children with Individualized Education Plans (IEPs). We are your speech-language pathologists, occupational therapists, physical therapists, nurses, and counselors/psychologists, and so forth. Transportation is also considered a related service. Related service providers may work with special education students in a variety of settings. Our services are driven by the unique needs of each student. For some students, services may be delivered in the general education classroom. This is known as push-in services. Others may need their services delivered in the resource room, gym, or occupational therapy room. This is referred to as pull-out services because the child is removed from the general program. A student's IEP may contain a mix of pull-out and push-in services and supports. As your related services providers, we are looking forward to partnering with each of the communities to support students in achieving their functional and educational goals.



TEACHER SHOUT-OUT

This month we are celebrating a phenomenal general education teacher at North Rowan Elementary School, Ms. Ericka Miner-Becton.

Ms. Miner-Becton is a light in the darkness, a “queen,” and a gift. She has an open mind, a heart of gold, and a listening ear. She holds high expectations for each of her students, and she is committed to seeing each one succeed. At the end of last year, she opened her arms and her classroom to the unexpected and in turn a student soared. The student thrived in her care, succeeding when others were convinced he was lost. His head, once lowered, rose high as he walked, and he began speaking

with confidence and calm, rather than anger and frustration. Finally, he knew the taste of success and could relish in his accomplishments. Yet, he feared sliding back to that place he knew once before. Someone believed in him.....finally....again. She helped him see the person he could be. For that, she touched the life of not only him but also our team. In turn, we are forever grateful and so thankful for our general education partners. Alone we can do so little, but together we can do so much!



“Children are likely to live up to what you believe of them.”
--Lady Byrd Johnson

Stay tuned:

- **Opportunities for professional development will be announced in the weeks ahead.**
- **This fall we will be preparing for an EC Program Review to be conducted during an on-site visit by personnel with NCDPI’s Exceptional Children Division in the spring of 2019. We will arm you with key information you need to know in preparation for the visit.**
- **ECATS is on hold for now.....but it’s still coming!**

The Rowan-Salisbury Exceptional Children’s Department will work as a collaborative team to provide all students inspiring, engaging and innovative personalized educational experiences to promote positive student growth and post-school outcomes in a globally diverse society.

*Rowan Salisbury Schools
Department of Exceptional Children
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