

To: Hamden School Community
Re: Update re: Plans for IIC Classrooms

Hamden Public Schools remains committed to meeting the needs of all students in their least restrictive environment. As we continue to improve the delivery of the continuum of special education services and work toward ensuring more meaningful inclusive opportunities for all students, we will periodically update you regarding our plans.

As part of the 3R redistricting initiative, the long-term plan is for Wintergreen to become a K-5 elementary school. Because of the size of the facility, Wintergreen will afford us with the opportunity to provide our IIC programs with a consistent home within a general education school setting. The classrooms will be embedded among their same grade general education counterparts. Resource support services will also continue to be available as part of the special education continuum of service. In addition to providing students and families with stability and a sense of belonging in a consistent school community, this will also provide greater opportunity for responsible and meaningful inclusive opportunities as required through individualized education programs.

Specialized personnel resources will be dedicated to support the students of Wintergreen and ongoing professional development focused on differentiation and maximizing inclusion will be provided for all Wintergreen staff. Students will have the opportunity to flexibly move between the continuum of special education support services as their needs dictate within their existing Wintergreen general education community.

Based on the information currently available to us, the timeline for implementation is contingent on several upcoming building projects:

2019-2020:

- Alice Peck will undergo a full renovation. During this time, the existing Alice Peck community will move to the Wintergreen School. HCLC will be housed there as well until re-districting takes place.
- West Woods building project will begin. West Woods students will remain in their current school during construction.

2020-2021:

- Alice Peck community will return to Alice Peck School.
- Ridge Hill will undergo a renovation. During this time, the Ridge Hill community will move to Wintergreen School.
- Hamden Middle School construction will take place to allow for the movement of 6th grade to the middle school for the following year. Students will remain on-site at Hamden Middle School during construction.

2021-2022

- All building projects are scheduled to be completed and re-districting will occur. This will include moving the IIC classrooms to Wintergreen School.

The above timeline is subject to change and is contingent on State approval of funding for the building construction projects and completion according to the information provided to us thus far. Should anything change, we will be in communication with you as soon as practical.

In the meantime, the IIC classrooms will remain in the schools throughout the district as it will not be possible to move them to Wintergreen until redistricting takes place. This is critical in order to ensure that students attending the IIC classes are afforded with meaningful inclusive opportunities in the general education setting at Wintergreen. Until then, we will make every effort to align programming and minimize disruption for students to the extent possible.

Jody Goeler
Superintendent

Christopher Melillo
Assistant Superintendent

Kimberly Pearce
Director of Pupil Personnel
Services