



An Overview of Special Education Programs and Services for 2022/23

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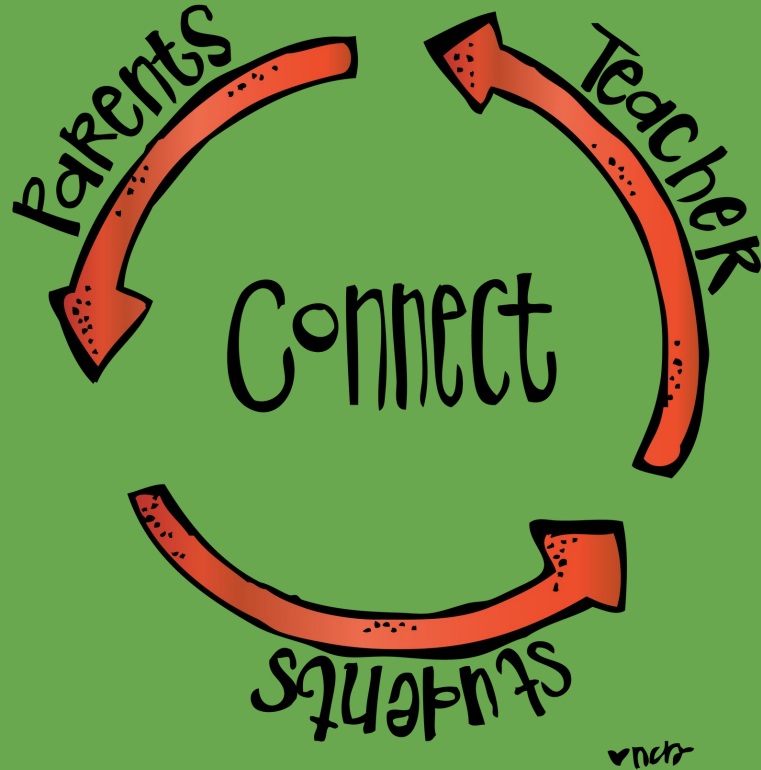
Mr. Greg Lau

Special Education Secondary Supervisor

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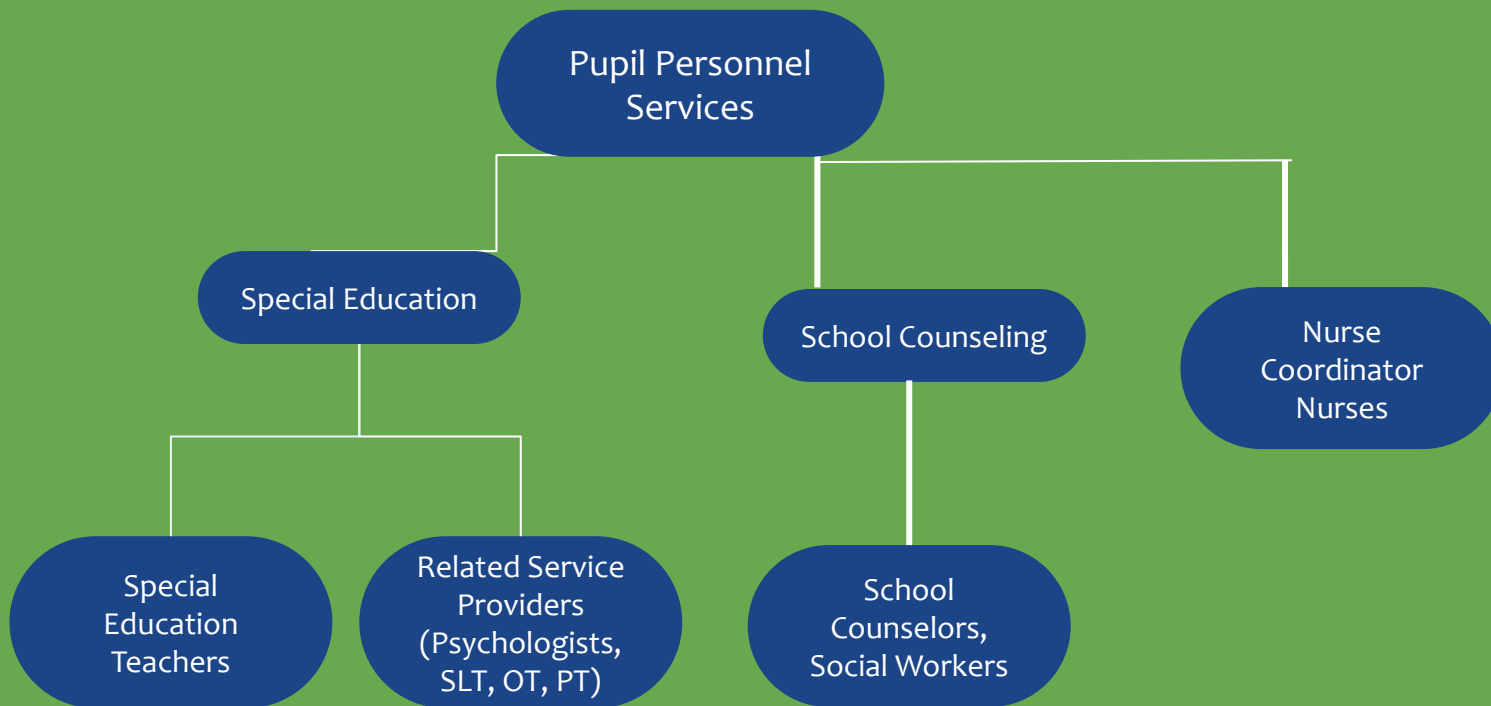


INTRODUCTIONS





STRUCTURE & ROLES





PPS OFFICE STAFF

- Lois Micelli x1154 & Sally Tedesco x1151
- Please contact Lois and Sally regarding general questions about:
 - Referral process
 - Paperwork
 - Prescriptions
 - Forms (consents, amendments, medical...)
 - CPSE, CSE or 504 meeting schedules/changes
 - Copies of IEPs, evaluations, exit summaries...



Special Ed Building Liaison

- Colonial: *Diana LaScalia & Cathy Rodriguez*
- Hutchinson: *Elizabeth Belanfante & Monique O'Hare*
- Prospect Hill: *Kara Weiss & Sarah DeSoye*
- Siwanoy: *Kerri Ann Weaver & Kim Asfendis*
- Pelham Middle School: *Jennifer Kitay*
- Pelham Memorial High School: *Jessica Waters*



Role of the Special Ed Building Liaison

Share information **provided by the Supervisors** to their respective building

- About upcoming SEPTA Meetings
- Special Events
- Will attend SEPTA meetings as a teacher representative

NOTE: If there is ever a question regarding your child's IEP or services, always contact the classroom teacher , case manager, etc.



WE WELCOME ...

- AnnaMarie Nardone- Psychologist- Colonial ES
- Lindsey Ferris- School Counselor- Elementary Schools
- Olga Medina- Special Ed Teacher- PMHS
- Angela Snyder- Social Worker- PMS
- Lila Zahed- Social Worker- PMHS



When you first suspect your child may have a disability...

First Step- Talk with your child's classroom teacher, school psychologist, principal, pediatrician to get their perspective and talk about MTSS.

- **What is MTSS**

- MTSS stands for Multi-Tiered System of Supports.
- A general education initiative.
- It's a framework a school uses to give targeted support to struggling students.
- MTSS is designed to help identify struggling students early and intervene quickly.
- It focuses on the "whole child."
 - Academic growth, behavior, social and emotional needs, and absenteeism.



MTSS and CSE Referral Process

- MTSS is a framework schools use to provide targeted support to struggling students.
- The goal of MTSS is to intervene early so students can catch up with their peers.
- It screens all students and aims to address academic and behavior challenges.
- After providing tiered levels of support for a period of time and collecting data, the MTSS team may refer a student for a special education evaluation. Progress monitoring data is collected in order to make this determination.
- Parents and caregivers do not have to wait for students to go through all phases of MTSS before requesting an evaluation. They can ask for an evaluation at any point.
- Effective July 1, 2012, all school districts in NYS must show documented evidence that a student has gone through the MTSS process to determine if a student in grades K-4 is a student with a learning disability in the area of reading.



CPSE/CSE Initial Referral Process

1. Student is registered/ enrolled in Pelham UFSD
2. Student is referred to the CSE or CPSE (by the parent or MTSS school team)
3. PPS office sends home a referral packet
4. Parent signs consent for evaluation (Set of proposed evaluations are based on areas of concern)
5. Student undergoes a comprehensive set of evaluations
6. Committee meets to review evaluations, discuss student needs, and make recommendations as to eligibility for special education services

By regulation, the CSE has 60 days from time of received signed consent to evaluate and hold a meeting.



Members of the CPSE/CSE Committee

Parent of the child

When appropriate the student (typically by 8th grade)

Chairperson

School psychologist

Special education teacher

General Education Teacher

Related Service Provider (as appropriate)

Parent Member (at request of the parent)



Parent Members

As of the 2012/2013, NYSED no longer required parent members as mandated members of the CSE

A parent can request a parent member attend and must do so in writing at least 72 hours prior to the meeting.

Must be a parent of a student with a disability, who resides in the district, or a neighboring school district or

A parent of a student with a disability that has been declassified within the last five years.

CPSE parent member must have a child enrolled in CPSE or elementary school.

Cannot be a parent employed by the school district.

A parent member, like all CSE members have to be appointed yearly by the Board of Education.

Terminology often confused with "Parent Advocate"- (may be employed by a law firm, is a lawyer, gets paid in an advocate role)



What is the Role of the Parent Member?

The primary role of the parent member is to be a support to the parent of the student with a disability at a CSE meeting

- provides important support and information to the parent during the CSE meeting
- has an understanding CSE procedures
- helps parents with any questions
- participates in the discussion and decision making from the perspective of a parent of a student with a disability.
- While not required, parent members typically go through parent training workshops and receive certification to be a parent member (
- Any parent interested in parent member training can call the Hudson Valley Special Education Parent Center at WIHD, Cedarwood Hall - Valhalla NY 914-493-7665 for information on upcoming training.



504 vs IEP

Section 504 Accommodation Plan

- Required by Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973 (Civil Rights Law)
- Provides Accommodations for a disability
- Main Focus is on how the student is learning and what can be done to remove barriers and how the student can access the learning environment.
- Any disability can obtain a plan if it interferes with their ability to learn in general education.
- Provides reasonable accommodations for students
- Created by a team that includes:
 - Parent (and Student if in HS)
 - Classroom teachers
 - School Psychologist
 - Counselors (Secondary Only)
 - Related Service Providers (As needed)
- Plan includes Specific accommodations, supports & services for the student.
- Will be reviewed bi-annually(if no expected changes expected year to year, and with parent agreement); or can be reviewed annually if requested by parent or building team.



504 vs IEP

Individualized Education Program (IEP)

- Required by Individuals with Disabilities Act (IDEA- Education Law)
- Provides special education and related services to meet students needs through specialized instruction.
- Student needs to have 1 or more of the 13 specific disabilities to qualify.
- Main focus is on what the student is learning.
- Guarantees free & appropriate public education in the least restrictive environment.
- Reviewed annually and re-evaluated for service eligibility every 3 years.
- Created by a team that includes:
 - Parent (and Student if in HS)
 - General Education Teacher
 - Special Education Teacher
 - School Psychologist
 - Counselors (Secondary Only)
 - Related Service Providers (As needed)
- IEP includes:
 - Present-Levels statements including strengths and needs
 - Annual educational goals
 - Programs and services required to address the goals
 - Accommodations to school/learning environment and testing
 - Modifications to academic program



2022/23 Special Education Programs and Services

- Related Services (Speech/Language, OT, PT, Counseling, Behavior Intervention, Hearing, Vision, etc.)
- Resource Room
- Consultant Teacher
- Integrated Co-Teaching (Secondary and Grades 3-5 @ Hutchinson)
- Special Classes (See Next Slide)
- Out of District Placements



SPECIAL CLASSES 2022/2023

PROGRAM	LOCATION	RATIO
SPECIAL CLASS K-2	HUTCHINSON	12:1+2
SPECIAL CLASS K-2	COLONIAL	8:1+2
SPECIAL CLASS 3-5	SIWANoy	8:1+2
SPECIAL CLASS	PELHAM MIDDLE SCHOOL PELHAM HIGH SCHOOL	15:1
THERAPEUTIC SUPPORT PROGRAM	PELHAM MIDDLE SCHOOL PELHAM HIGH SCHOOL	CONSULTANT TEACHER / 5:1 SKILLS CLASS
FOUNDATIONS OF LEARNING	PELHAM MIDDLE SCHOOL PELHAM HIGH SCHOOL	8:1+1 12:1+1
Academic Skills Learning Center	PELHAM MIDDLE SCHOOL PELHAM HIGH SCHOOL	8:1



CASE MANAGERS

- Individualized to the student
- Develop and “own” the IEP
- Attend CSE meetings and report out for the team
- Ensure that all others understand the student and the document
- Serve as the liaison to general education teachers, counselor, related service providers, administration, and parents



FOR QUESTIONS/CONCERNS, PLEASE CONTACT...

Special Education Services:

- Case Manager / Classroom Teacher / Service Provider
- Supervisors and Principal
- Assistant Superintendent, PPS

Section 504 Services:

- Case Manager
 - K-5: Psychologist
 - 6-12: School Counselor
- Classroom Teacher
- Principal
- Assistant Superintendent, PPS



PPS/Special Education Website

- www.pelhamschools.org/teaching-and-learning/ppsspecial-education
- Includes Information on:
 - Staff List with Contact Information by school
 - Programs and Services Overview (Including Link to SEPTA Presentation)
 - Referrals and Committees Information
 - Committee on Preschool Special Education (CPSE)
 - Committee on Special Education (CSE)
 - Section 504
 - Copy of the NYS Procedural Safeguard Notice for Parents



Looking Ahead....

- Continually shifting our special education programs and services to meet the needs of our students
 - Expansion of ICT in elementary schools
- Professional Development
 - Increasing resources of assessments, curriculum, and assistive technology
- Partnering with families and students to increase self-advocacy and independence in order to best prepare students for the post-secondary world
 - Collaboration with SEPTA



QUESTIONS

