

Our Approach

Phase I: Program Assessment and Review

Consultants experienced in all aspects of special education administration and programming will conduct a thorough review of district practices.

Organization of central office special education and related services staff including:

- Roles and responsibilities
- Inter-district communication practices
- Collaboration between special and regular education personnel
- Engagement of local, regional or national stakeholders to contribute to policies and support for excellence and equity in education

Procedures and protocols for delivery of special education services including:

- Child-find procedures
- Generation and Maintenance of Records
- Individualized Education Plan (IEP) development
- Programs, services and delivery models
- Criteria for students exiting special education
- Dispute resolution process

Financial needs necessary to administer services:

- Budget development and availability of current resources
- Capacity to project future expenditures
- Utilization of state and federal funds
- Purchasing process for material goods/services necessary to deliver special education services
- Staff assignments and utilization
- Professional development
- Parent and/or agency involvement

Phase II: Report of Findings

Upon completion of the review, the team will meet with district leadership to discuss initial findings and will assist in establishing district goals. A final written report with recommendations will be presented to the Board of Education.

Phase III: Implementation of Follow-Up

CES consultants will be available to assess district progress toward meeting established goals at 90 days, 6 months and/or 1 year post-implementation.

About CES

Cooperative Educational Services is a public educational authority pursuant to Connecticut General Statute 10-66 and is one of six Regional Educational Service Centers in the state.

The agency is governed by a Representative Council made up of Board of Education members from the 16 Fairfield County school districts served by CES: Bridgeport, Darien, Easton/Redding/Region 9, Fairfield, Greenwich, Monroe, New Canaan, Norwalk, Ridgefield, Shelton, Stamford, Stratford, Trumbull, Weston, Westport, and Wilton.

The CES main office is located at 40 Lindeman Drive in Trumbull.

Cooperative Educational Services

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Special Education Program Assessment & Review



A consortium-based educational program for students experiencing significant learning and/or behavioral challenges



Program Overview

Cooperative Educational Services (CES) is one of six Regional Educational Service Centers (RESCs) in Connecticut that were established by the state legislature to provide supports and services to public school districts in their respective regions. CES has more than four decades of experience supporting initiatives that build capacity for our partners. We do this through collaboration, leadership, resources, and support to assure student success.

As a RESC, CES has been acknowledged for its work in providing a continuum of supports and services for students with disabilities. In addition, we provide high-quality training experiences focusing on all aspects of service delivery including evaluation of Student and Educator Support Staff (SESS), leadership development, data-based decision-making, school improvement, assistive technology and clinical assessment practices.

Areas of Focus

- Organization of staff working in central office special education and related services
- Procedures and protocols for delivery of special education services
- Financial needs necessary to administer special education services
- Parental and/or agency involvement in the educational program

Upon completion of the review, the team will be available to meet with district leadership to discuss the initial findings and will assist in establishing district goals. A final written report will be presented to the Board of Education.

Record of Success

“The CES team’s financial review gave us clear insights to improve efficiencies with service delivery and contracted agencies. They worked with us to answer the specific questions we had and did not come to us with a predetermined agenda for a cookie-cutter review.”

Christopher Brown, Director of Student Services, Watertown Public Schools

“The CES review team brought essential Special Education expertise, evaluation rigor, objectivity, and thoroughness to the study. They deftly blended interviews, document review, and statute and best practice requirements to give us a comprehensive analysis.”

Dr. William S. McKersie, Superintendent, Greenwich Public Schools



Our Team of Consultants

Our team of consultants consists of highly qualified special educators with extensive, direct experience in all aspects of special education administration in the public school setting. Consultant assignments are customized to the focus of the recommended review.

The consultants have proven records in using data-based decision-making to:

- Identify and remediate areas of noncompliance with the Individuals with Disabilities Improvement Act (the IDEIA or more commonly, the IDEA) including, but not limited to, meeting the Child Find mandate and adherence to evaluation timelines.
- Develop cutting-edge, specialized supports and services within the least-restrictive environment that affords educational benefit to students with disabilities.
- Engage stakeholders, including parents, in the educational process.
- Provide staff and parent training opportunities in support of the district’s shared vision and mission.

Further, the consultants have proven abilities to meet the many demands of special education administration in a fiscally responsible manner, including direct management of state and federal grants.