

Ocean View School District  
**Board of Trustees**



March 14, 2023 // Educational Services Division



# AGENDA

- Overview of the Special Education Study
- Purpose of the Special Education Study
- Focus Areas and Sample Actions Taken Based on Study Recommendations





# OVERVIEW

- Discussions regarding the need for a Special Education Study started in 2018-19 to better understand how OVSD compared to other districts
- The OVSD Board of Trustees approved a contract with Strategic Consultation for Schools in 2019-20
- Special Education Study commenced in April 2020 and was provided to the District in July 2020





# OVERVIEW continued

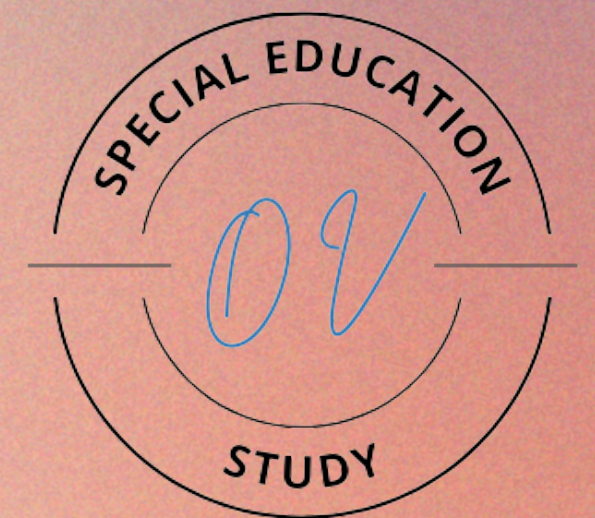
- Consultants reviewed documentation and interviewed General Education teachers, Special Education staff, District administration, including Fiscal Services, Student Services, Teaching & Learning, and West Orange County Consortium for Special Education (WOCCSE) staff
- Implementation was paused due to the COVID-19 pandemic but the Study was referenced to make decisions





# PURPOSE

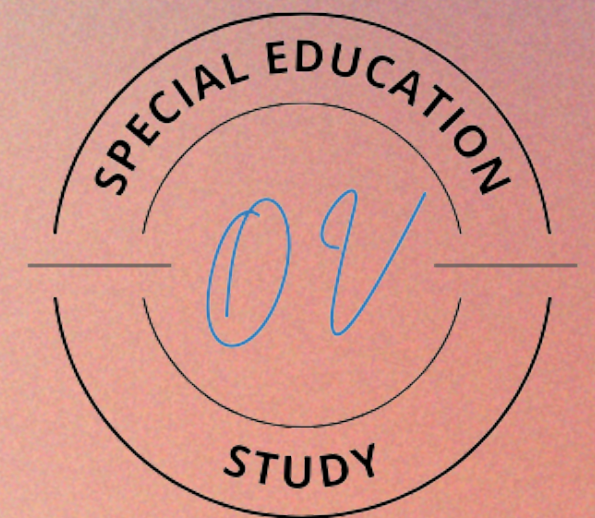
- To evaluate OVSD processes that lead to the identification of Special Education services and provide recommendations for changes
- To provide insight into the contribution of general funds provided by the state
- California special education services are supported by the combination of local, state, and federal funding





# FOCUS AREAS

- Special Education Identification Rate
- General Academic and Behavior Support
- Continuum of Programs
- Special Education Staffing and Caseloads
- Instructional Aide Staffing
- Related Services
- Organizational Structure
- Compliance
- MediCal
- Fiscal





# Scope of the Study

## Identification Rate

Determine whether the district over-identifies students for Special Education services compared to the statewide average, and make recommendations that will reduce over-identification if needed.

### Sample Actions

- Autism Diagnostic Observation Schedule (ADOS)
- Preschool diagnostic assessment process
- Patterns of Strengths and Weakness (PSW) approach





# Scope of the Study

## General Academic/Behavioral Support

Review the district's implementation of the Student Study Team (SST), Response to Intervention and Instruction (RTI2), and Multi-Tiered System of Supports (MTSS), and make recommendations, if any.

### Sample Actions

- Districtwide focus on MTSS
- Positive Behavior Intervention Supports (PBIS) and Restorative Practices
- 504 process





# Scope of the Study

## Continuum of Programs

Analyze whether the District provides a continuum of Special Education and related services for students from preschool through 8th grade, including placements in the Least Restrictive Environment (LRE), and make recommendations for improvement, if any.

### Sample Actions

- Preschool program restructure
- Inclusive practices
- Assessment Center remains 100% compliant providing timely assessments





# Scope of the Study

## Special Education Staffing and Caseloads

Analyze Special Education teacher staffing ratios, class and caseload size using statutory requirements for mandated services and statewide guidelines and make recommendations for improvement, if any.

### Sample Actions

- Change of placement process
- Staff and caseload tracking system
- 28 caseload maximum for RSP Teachers





# Scope of the Study

## Instructional Aide Staffing

Review the efficiency of staffing allocations of Special Education paraeducators, per Education Code requirements and/or industry standards, and make recommendations for improvement, if any.

### Sample Actions

- Special Circumstance Instructional Assistant (SCIA) assessment
- Position control unit shared with the Personnel Commission (PC)
- ABA and Pro-Act training





# Scope of the Study

## Related Services

Analyze staffing and caseloads for related service providers, including but not limited to Speech and Language Pathologists (SLP), psychologists, Occupational Therapists/Physical Therapists (OT/PT), behavior specialists, Adaptive Physical Education (APE), and other staff who may provide related service, and make recommendations for improvement, if any.

### Sample Actions

- Analyzing psychologist support
- Clinical Fellow (CF) supervision for new SLPs





# Scope of the Study

## Organizational Structure

Review the organizational structure and staffing of the Special Education Department and West Orange County Consortium for Special Education (WOCCSE) to determine whether administration, clerical and administrative support, and overall functionality are aligned with districts of comparable size and structure and make recommendations for greater efficiencies if needed.

### Sample Actions

- Mediation/IEP meeting facilitation
- Overview of Patterns of Strengths and Weaknesses
- Special Education Roadshow and check ins





# Scope of the Study

## Compliance

Review the root cause of non-compliance, unmet performance indicators, and other statewide benchmarks and make recommendations, if needed.

### Sample Actions

- Continue student recognition for student participation in state testing
- Parent letters sent home with positive messages





# Scope of the Study

## Medi-Cal

Review the revenues and allocations for Medi-Cal and determine areas for greater efficiencies.

### Sample Actions

- Continued billing for speech, nursing, and psychological services
- Medi-Cal billing for transportation
- Collaboration with OVSD Medi-Cal Coordinator





# Scope of the Study

## Fiscal

Review the district's general fund contribution to Special Education, analyze Nonpublic Agency Costs, and WOCCSE program costs that impact encroachment, and make recommendations for greater efficiency, if any.

### Sample Actions

- Collaboration meetings with Human Resources and Personnel Commission
- Develop and maintain class lists and staff lists





# Thank you!

