



Department of
Special Education
Strategic Plan Presentation
March 2021



Township of Ocean School District
www.oceanschools.org

Special Education Strategic Plan

The Township of Ocean Public Schools Special Education Strategic Plan, 2021-2026 is a result of numerous conversations, data analysis and various meetings among community stakeholders and staff across the district.

Data was collected through three strategic planning sessions. This work has evolved from being a part of the entry plan and has transformed into a document that outlines the necessary strategies, plans and outcomes that provides a solid foundation for long term success.



The Strategic Planning Process

Through a contracted partnership with New Jersey School Boards, Ms. Kathy Winecroft facilitated three open public forums. The meetings were open to all internal and external stakeholders. The approach was inclusive, collaborative, and engaging, while always focusing on our student's life long journeys.

January 13, 2020 ~ State of the Department Report / Determination of Strengths and Challenges

February 12, 2020 ~ Dream - Creating a Common Vision

December 14, 2020 ~ Design the District's Destiny - Goals and Objectives



The Team of Representative Stakeholders

Administrative Leadership Team

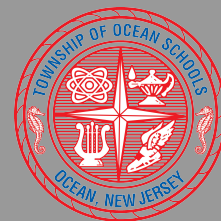
- Ms. Jennifer A. Zona, Assistant Superintendent of Special Services
- Ms. Kelly Rasmussen, Supervisor of Special Services / Basic Skills Grades 6-12th
- Ms. Kristin Vona, Supervisor of Special Services / Basic Skills Grades Preschool - 5th

Parent Representatives:

- Mrs. Rebecca Sorrentino
- Mrs. Sandra Miller

Certified Special Education Staff:

- Ms. Emily Eisenbarth
- Mrs. Jennifer Walk
- Mrs. Jessica Vigil-Mackintosh
- Mrs. Rachael Moss



Structure of the Strategic Plan Process

Establish the Priority Areas

Review District Strategic Plan
and determine the District Goal
that aligns with priority area.

Create Five to Six Attainable
Objectives for each Goal
Statement



The purpose of Special Education is to provide a full continuum of supports and services to every student classified with an educational disability so that each student has the opportunity to progress toward a level of competence, self reliance, disability awareness and independence, based on their own unique abilities and to support their transitions to life beyond high school.



Goal #1 Student Success:

Provide all students with equitable opportunities and access to pursue and enhance their strengths and interests while acquiring the necessary skills for success post graduation.

Increase access to appropriate supplemental materials for all core content and special area classes. (e.g. supportive devices, research based specialized curriculum)

Increase student access to a range of appropriate elective offerings on all school sites, as available.

Provide professional development and follow up support for staff based evidence based practices that are required to meet the needs of students.

Expand appropriate inclusion opportunities for students in special programs, or for students who spend the majority of their day in the special education environment

Provide students with IEP's access to services at their school of residence, to the maximum extent possible

Goal #2 Community Engagement / Outreach:

Improve communication and transparency to all stakeholders.

The Township of Ocean School District will create more opportunities for community involvement in our schools that will benefit both the schools and the community.

Expand the membership of web-backpack to include out of district families.

Revisit Special Education Service page on district website include user-friendly access to comprehensive descriptions about the programs, opportunities, activities, services, and resources available

Increase community partnerships in our 18-21 program in order to provide students with more authentic learning experiences.

Increase structured inclusion opportunities for social engagement in and out of school with the support of our parent organizations.

Establish process for timely notifications / communications regarding personnel changes within the department

Provide information regarding different support systems in and outside the district

Goal #3 School Climate / Culture

Township of Ocean School District strives to foster a safe, nurturing and inclusive environment that promotes student learning and personal growth of the whole child.

Expand the recognition of our special education staff members to the general school population.

Expand student mentoring program across the district.

Establish an Abilities Awareness council that will work with the district's Wellness and equity Committee to address important issues related to inclusion and equity within the district.

Establish internal process for notifications /communications regarding important student information to those with educational responsibility for the student.

Expand the mental health staff within our schools to address student mental health, social emotional learning for our most at risk students, and be a liaison with community

Expand the behavioral support staff within our schools to address student behavior and access to curriculum

Together, we are responsible for the education of approximately 643 students that receive special education services. It is only fitting that a strategic plan drafted to serve our students concludes with a summary of the strengths that was identified by the stakeholders.

For our students to become lifelong learners equipped with 21st century skills for success as global citizens, we believe these characteristics that are embodied by our staff and embedded in our school district culture are essential. This strategic plan aims to equip our students with the needed support so that they can graduate as informed, productive members of society.

- ★ Dynamic, caring, dedicated staff
- ★ Diversity of students
- ★ Parents
- ★ Continuum of programs
- ★ Technology
- ★ Level of team support in the classroom
- ★ Supportive administrators
- ★ Facilities
- ★ District commitment
- ★ Mental Health support
- ★ Behavioral support



ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

A special thank you to the many parents, school board members, faculty, school administrators, and other school stakeholders who gave us their time and insights during the data-gathering phase. Collaboratively, we have created an ambitious shared vision for our students as we navigate our district's future. We ask for your continued support as we work to complete the implementation the plan.

