



ONTARIO-MONTCLAIR SCHOOL DISTRICT
"Our Community, Our Children, Our Commitment, Our Future"

RESOLUTION 2026-27-09

**RECOGNIZING THE SPECIAL EDUCATION PROFESSIONALS
IN THE ONTARIO-MONTCLAIR SCHOOL DISTRICT**

WHEREAS, while each of these special education professionals is celebrated individually during designated weeks or months throughout the academic year, the District recognizes the unified impact of these professionals and seeks to honor their collective commitment to student success;

WHEREAS, special education professionals foster student growth through personalized development, collaborate with families to implement effective learning plans, and utilize evidence-based strategies to design inclusive curricula;

WHEREAS, special education professionals utilize best practices to design and deliver curricula that exemplify high-quality teaching every day, all while exhibiting qualities of compassion, patience, and flexibility, and are unsung heroes who pull the pieces together and make things clearer to students;

WHEREAS, special educators know that all children are individuals who learn in different ways and at different paces;

WHEREAS, special educators maintain expertise in special education law to ensure Individualized Educational Programs (IEPs) are comprehensive and effective;

WHEREAS, by combining compassion, legal expertise, and diverse assessment responsibilities, special education professionals ensure that all students, regardless of individual learning needs, receive a Free and Appropriate Public Education;

WHEREAS, orientation and mobility specialists and teachers of students with visual impairments foster student independence, safe travel, and provide specialized instruction for academic access, as observed during Blindness Awareness Month in October 2026;

WHEREAS, physical therapists support student mobility and physical participation in school activities, as observed during National Physical Therapy Month in October 2026;

WHEREAS, school psychologists provide essential mental health and intervention services, as observed during National School Psychology Week, November 3–7, 2026;

WHEREAS, California designates December 2, 2026, as California Day of the Special Educator, acknowledging special educators as dedicated, hardworking, and invaluable resources who personalize and develop goals for students in the special education programs to meet their individual needs and abilities;

WHEREAS, school social workers address learning barriers and promote student well-being, which is observed during National School Social Work Week, March 7–13, 2027;

WHEREAS, board-certified behavior analysts, registered behavior technicians, and behavior instructional assistants support students by developing evidence-based behavioral interventions, promoting positive behavior, and increasing access to learning opportunities, and are observed on World Behavior Analysis Day, observed March 20, 2027;

Attest:

Sonia Alvarado
Board President

Kristen "Kris" Brake
Board Clerk

Flora Martinez
Board Member

WHEREAS, paraprofessionals and instructional aides provide essential support for students to access educational programs, as observed on National Paraprofessional Appreciation Day, April 7, 2027;

WHEREAS, occupational therapists and certified occupational therapist assistants help students develop the fine motor, sensory, self-regulation, and functional skills necessary to participate successfully in school and daily activities, and are observed during Occupational Therapy Month in April 2027;

WHEREAS, adapted physical education specialists promote motor skills and wellness, observed during National Physical Education and Sport Week, May 1–7, 2027;

WHEREAS, school nurses and health personnel provide specialized care and education, observed annually during National Nurses Week, May 6–12, 2027;

WHEREAS, educational audiologists, teachers of students who are deaf and hard of hearing, speech-language pathologists, and speech-language pathologist assistants are critical to students' communication and academic success, as observed during National Speech-Language-Hearing Month, often known as Better Hearing and Speech Month, in May 2027;

WHEREAS, special day class (SDC) mild/moderate and extensive support needs teachers, resource specialists, and teachers on assignment provide critical academic instruction and individualized support, observed during Teacher Appreciation Week in May 2027;

WHEREAS, program specialists and service providers collaborate with families and staff to ensure coordinated educational support;

WHEREAS, while each of these roles operates within distinct disciplines, they function as a multidisciplinary team to ensure the District provides a comprehensive, integrated support system for every student; and

WHEREAS, the success of students receiving special education services is made possible through the collaborative efforts of special day class teachers, resource specialists, orientation and mobility specialists, teachers of students with visual impairments, physical therapists, school psychologists, school social workers, board-certified behavior analysts, behavior specialists, paraprofessionals, instructional aides, occupational therapists, certified occupational therapist assistants, adapted physical education teachers, school nurses, educational audiologists, teachers of students who are deaf and hard of hearing, speech-language pathologists, speech-language pathology assistants, program specialists, and other related service providers who work together to support students and families.

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the Board of Trustees of the Ontario-Montclair School District adopts resolution 2026-27-09, Recognizing the Special Education Professionals in the Ontario-Montclair School District; and encourages the District to honor and acknowledge their invaluable contributions during their respective designated recognition days, weeks, and months.

Adopted by the Ontario-Montclair School District Board of Trustees on this 2nd day of July 2026.

Elvia M. Rivas
Board Vice-President

Sarah S. Galvez
Board Member

James Q. Hammond, Ed.D.
Superintendent