

Report of the Special Services Director

In 2017 we have worked on a couple initiatives with the New Hampshire Department of Education (NHDOE). The first initiative funded by both the NHDOE and Race2K is focused on *Expanding Your District's Preschool Programming*. We recently changed offerings within our pre-school program to meet the legal requirements of educating students ages 3-5 in a variety of programs while not increasing costs. The NHDOE initiative has allowed us to celebrate many good changes we have already made and focus on the next steps. We are always looking to provide the best quality program. In the second initiative, the NHDOE brought in the Center for Applied Special Technology (CAST) to work with districts over a 2 year period to increase the district's internal capacity to support the referral, evaluation, and on-going implementation of assistive technology so that all students can access their education. Effectively they are teaching us to provide what would otherwise be completed by outside agencies such as CAST and ATECH. The staff has found this process to be rewarding and productive in increasing our implementation of assistive technology. Without these initiatives, our small district could not afford these trainings which have a direct impact on the quality of education.

We continue to meet the NH Department of Education compliance reviews. NHDOE has reviewed the required information and determined that the Fremont School District meets the requirements and purposes under IDEA based on their established criteria. Again the annual NH Department of Education compliance reports were submitted in a timely manner. NHDOE provided notice that the district has met Indicator 11 requirements for Timeliness of Initial Evaluation. NHDOE Post-School Outcome Surveys were sent out again this year. This survey assesses how students are doing after leaving high school and is valuable information. We appreciate the feedback.

In April 2018, the NHDOE special education parent involvement survey will be administered again. We appreciate the responses from the parents who take the time in their busy days to complete this survey and look forward to receiving the results from the NHDOE. We listen to the information parents share with us.

As providing students an education in the least restrictive setting is a priority for us, we use the IDEA Grant and NHDOE initiatives to provide services and trainings that build our internal capacity to provide services, allowing to the maximum extent appropriate for our students to stay in their neighborhood schools of Ellis Elementary School and Sanborn Regional High School. Keeping identified children in their neighborhood school, among their friends and close to their families can have a significant, positive long-term effect on their quality of life and future in society. It also enriches the school environment with a diversity of learners and learning types.

As always it is a pleasure to serve the students and the community of Fremont.

Respectfully submitted,
Melissa McKeon