

Report of the Special Services Director

The 2014 school year saw many changes to the organization of special services. The District planned this reorganization to have coordinated, consistent procedures, philosophy, and policies to provide quality special education, Section 504, and English Language Learners (ELL) for the students of the entire district (ages 3-21). As part of this restructuring we welcomed Lynn Noyes this October as our Special Education Building Coordinator devoted to the special education needs at Ellis Elementary School (pre-school through 8th grade). This newly developed position was designed to provide support to the building by supervising special education staff, acting as the LEA Representative, joining the Ellis Elementary School leadership team, and working collaboratively with the Special Services Director to develop and implement consistent procedures to provide quality special education to our students at Ellis Elementary. The role of Special Services Director was designed to provide a broader perspective to lead and ensure the framework of special education, Section 504, English Language Learners on the district level. In addition, this position involves case management of students placed out-of-district, court liaison, developing and managing the district budgets and special education entitlement grants, leading supervision and professional development.

While our special education department and district leadership team analyzed the data, which was important, the goal of increase parent involvement is more valuable. Some ways of increasing our parent involvement which are we are considering include; increasing our respondent pool, sharing the results, organizing trainings, developing a parent-school partnership, etc. We appreciate the responses from parents on this survey and listen to the information you are sharing with us.

We are fortunate to have an experienced and knowledgeable special education staff who are dedicated to our students and willing to “pitch-in” and support each other. This year, we welcomed a new member the community with Brianne Philipps, Occupational Therapist, and several para-educators.

In addition to our changes in the school district, the New Hampshire Department of Education is implementing a new state alternative assessment, Dynamic Learning Maps program, for a small portion of the special education population who qualify. Our Fremont special education teachers have and will continue to receive training on this new assessment tool. Dynamic Learning Maps program is aligned to the state’s standards in mathematics and English language arts.

As one thinks about our population that special services serve, it is helpful to know some of the statistics. At Ellis Elementary School (pre-school through 8th grade), special education students comprise 14%, Section 504 students comprise 9%, and English Language Learners comprise 0%. Of the Fremont School District students attending Sanborn Regional High School, 15% are students served through special education, 11 % have Section 504 plans, and .05% is students classified as English Language Learners. Across the Fremont School District (ages 3-21), 15% of

students are served through special education. These statistics can be compared to the State of New Hampshire in which in October 2013, 14.89% of students in grades 1-12 were served through special education. In 2012 in the entire United States, 13% of students were federally supported through special education. Therefore, the percentage of our student population that is identified and provided special education services is consistent with the state and country's population.

It continues to be a pleasure to serve the students and the community of Fremont.

Melissa McKeon
Special Services Director



Annual Memorial Day Parade
25 May 2014

Photos courtesy of Meredith Bolduc