

Special Education News & Discussion

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Gina Little, *Coordinator*

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We are pleased to provide this issue of our annual parent newsletter, Special Education News and Discussion (SEND). This newsletter was created to inform parents and students about special education programs, practices, and policies within the North Branford School District in an effort to enhance home-school communication.

Special Education News and Discussion (SEND)— Parent Input Needed!

The SEND newsletter serves as a means to disseminate information to families about special education. The newsletter will continue to be sent throughout the school year. Special education policies and district procedures will be highlighted in this and coming SEND editions. Parental input is important to our district. Please complete the back portion of this newsletter, detach and mail to the Special Services Office. These suggestions will be used to select articles for future issues.

Policies and Procedures 101- Prior Written Notice

Prior Written Notice is a document that school districts provide to parents and eligible students. This document serves to notify parents and eligible students when changes are proposed to a student's Individual Education Plan (IEP), including the student's disability category, evaluation or placement or the provision of a free appropriate public education to the student. The written prior notice will contain the following information: description of actions proposed or refused by the Planning Placement Team (PPT), the reasons why action was proposed or refused, a description of any options the PPT considered and the reasons why those options were rejected and a description of evaluations procedures used as a basis for the proposal or refusal. Any other factors that are relevant to the team's proposal or refusal will be described along with a statement regarding parental/student's rights under the procedural safeguards in special education. This notice will be provided in writing at least five days prior to any changes being implemented.

Office of Special Services
North Branford Public Schools
49 Caputo Road
North Branford, CT 06471
203-484-1230

Welcome to New Related Services Staff Members!

North Branford Schools is very pleased to announce some additions to our related service personnel.

Karen Anthony

Speech and Language Pathologist

Mrs. Anthony comes to North Branford with a wealth of experience in school, clinical, and private settings. Mrs. Anthony has also been an adjunct professor in the field of Speech-Language Pathology at Central Connecticut State University. She provides speech-language services at Stanley T. Williams School and North Branford Intermediate School.

Alison Tetreault

Speech and Language Pathologist

Ms. Tetreault comes to North Branford very highly recommended by her professors. She holds a B.A. degree in Communication Disorders and an M.S. degree in Speech –Language Pathology. She completed her clinical work in both school and clinical settings. Ms. Tetreault provides speech-language services at Jerome Harrison and Totoket Valley Elementary Schools.

Elizabeth Parker

School Psychologist

Ms. Parker was previously employed as a school psychologist in a Pennsylvania school system servicing both elementary and high school students. She holds degrees in Psychology and Human Development. Ms. Parker serves Stanley T. Williams School and Jerome Harrison School.

SRBI- RTI

What is SRBI? SRBI is scientific, research-based intervention used to provide instruction to all students. Interventions are designed to match each student's needs and progress is monitored frequently. This process is also known as Response to Intervention or RTI. The SRBI framework has three "tiers." Each level provides different levels of support to address student needs.

Tier 1- All children receive high quality curriculum and instruction in the general education classroom.

Tier 2- Students who are experiencing difficulty in reading, math or behavior and have not responded to Tier 1 instruction receive supplementary intervention to support and enhance classroom instruction. This may occur in small groups, include highly focused instruction of specific skills or strategies and more frequent progress monitoring.

Tier 3- Students who continue to experience difficulty and are not making adequate progress with Tier 2 supports receive more explicit, intensive intervention designed to meet the students' individual needs.

The RTI Process was implemented in North Branford Elementary Schools in September 2008. NBIS and NBHS are in the development phase at this time. This process is already showing early success in providing targeted support to every student!

Transition Services

This is the second year North Branford has appointed a transition coordinator to support students with disabilities at North Branford High School in preparing for life after graduation. Mrs. Ursula Pendziwater identifies meaningful transition opportunities for special education students by consulting with special education and guidance staff members, meeting with students, and working with community and state agencies. She serves as the liaison to the Bureau of Rehabilitation Services and the Department of Developmental Services. In addition, Mrs. Pendziwater initiates contacts with potential work sites for students with disabilities and matches students with experiences in their area of interest.



SEND Newsletter Topics of Interest

Name: _____ Topics of Interest _____

Please detach and return to:

Special Services Office
North Branford High School
49 Caputo Road
North Branford, CT 06471

Or email your ideas to: swright@northbranfordschools.org or glittle@northbranfordschools.org
Put "send" in the subject line!



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