



River Forest
Public Schools

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Itinerant Model of Early Childhood Inclusion

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Summary - River Forest School District 90 and River Forest Community Center Early Childhood Programming Partnership

River Forest School District wishes to partner with the River Forest Community Center Early Childhood Program in the development of coordinated programming to provide additional inclusion opportunities for our preschoolers with special needs.

We currently have high quality single sections of Early Childhood Special Education and Blended Preschool at Willard School. Partnering with the River Forest Community Center (RFCC) will follow the Itinerant model of preschool inclusion. In this model, District 90 would provide an itinerant special education teacher and related service staff to deliver support in the regular early childhood classroom at the RFCC. District 90's special education teacher would work together with the RFCC regular education teacher to teach all children in the classroom.

Objective/Purpose

District 90's preschool age children with disabilities need to be educated in the least restrictive environment. The Illinois State Board of Education monitors Educational Environment data for each school district (i.e.# of students aged 3 through 5 with IEPs attending a regular early childhood program and receiving the majority of special education and related services in the regular early childhood program). In addition, future District 90 students will also benefit from this Inclusion preschool environment.

Goals

District 90 and River Forest Community Center will work together to provide services to children with disabilities in a high quality classroom program that includes children with and without disabilities.

Structures/Attending Details

- District 90 will hire an Early Childhood Special Education teacher to provide services to students with IEP's three mornings a week. Students will attend five mornings a week.
- District 90 will purchase five tuition slots in the Pre-Kindergarten Classroom (\$300 per month) at RFCC.

- District 90 will provide a Speech/Language Pathologist to deliver speech therapy in the RFCC preschool classroom on a part-time basis.
- District 90 will collaborate with River Forest Community Center teachers to ensure high quality programming for D90 students with special needs, and all preschool students.
- Karen Boozell will oversee the Early Childhood programming at the River Forest Community Center.
- Early Childhood Special Education students will be eligible for transportation, as per special education service requirements.

Rationale

The desired results of inclusive experiences for children with and without disabilities and their families include a sense of belonging and membership, positive social relationships and friendships, and development and learning to reach their full potential. The defining features of inclusion that can be used to identify high quality early childhood programs and services are access, participation and supports.