



Special Education Programming 2024-2025

October 16, 2024

Board of Education Meeting

Special Education Leadership

Kate Weingartner, Director of Pupil Services

Casemanage: 14 out of district

Evaluator: 20 teachers and related service providers

Department Chair for Elementary PK-5: Jen Miller

Casemanage: 11 out of district

Complimentary Evaluator: 10 teachers

Department Chair for Secondary 6-12+: Tracy Smith

Casemanage: 6 students at high school

18 out of district

Complimentary Evaluator: 11 teachers

What Does the Pupil Services Office Do?

- **Oversight and support of programming for students with special disabilities**
 - Individualized Education Programs (IEPs)
 - Section 504 Plans
- **Monitoring & compliance with legal obligations**
 - Reporting
 - Data
 - Timelines
- **Serve as a resource to support the needs of all types of learners**



Pupil Services Staff

- **Special Education Teachers**
- **School Psychologists**
- **School Social Workers**
- **Board Certified Behavior Analyst**
- **Speech & Language Pathologists**
- **Speech & Language Pathology Assistant**
- **Teaching Assistants**
- **Occupational Therapist**
- **Occupational Therapy Assistant**
- **Physical Therapist**
- **Educational Audiologist**
- **Teaching Assistants**
- **Nurses***
- **School Counselors***





IDEA

Individuals with Disabilities Education Act

- Enacted in Congress in 1975 as the Education of All Handicapped Children Act;
- There are multiple reauthorizations, most recently 2004;
- IDEA is divided into four parts:
 - Part A, the General Provisions
 - Part B, governs programs for children aged 3 to 21
 - Part C, governs programs for Birth to Three
 - Part D, Research/Personnel Preparation/Professional Development
- IDEA ensures that children identified with disabilities under the law between the ages of 3 and 22 receive a free appropriate public education (FAPE) in the least restrictive environment (LRE)
- Extended School Year (ESY) is required and the PPT determines eligibility criteria

Special Education Eligibility

- The Local Education Agency (LEA) is required under IDEA to identify, locate and evaluate all children who reside within the school district that qualify for special education services;
- This is referred to as “Child Find”
- This includes children who are educated at home, are homeless, children who are wards of the state and children who attend private school;
- Once these children have been located, they must be evaluated;
- The duty to evaluate a child suspected of a disability begins at birth. In Connecticut, a child younger than 3 years of age is referred to the Connecticut Birth to Three System.

Eligibility for Special Education and Related Services

- Eligibility for special education is determined by the PPT. Child must be between 3 and 22 years old;
- Must have one or more of the following disabilities as determined by IDEA;
 - Autism
 - Deaf Blindness
 - Deafness
 - Developmental Delay (3 to 5 year olds)
 - Emotional Disability
 - Hearing Impairment
 - Multiple Disabilities
 - Orthopedic Impairment
 - Other Health Impaired
 - Physical Impairment
 - Specific Learning Disability/Dyslexia
 - Speech Language Impairment
 - Traumatic Brain Injury
 - Visual Impairment including Blindness

Definition of Special Education

- IDEA defines special education as
 - “Specially Designed Instruction, at no cost to parents, to meet the unique needs of a child with a disability, including adapting content, teaching methodology and delivery instruction to meet the appropriate needs of each child”.
- Special education is **NOT** a place but a service.
- Fair does **NOT** mean equal!

Continuum of Services

The continuum of services identifies different service delivery models to provide specially designed instruction to a student with a disability.



	Total Number of Special Education Students in District
Kelly Lane	PK 19 students K-2 36 students
Wells Road	60 students
Grades 6-8	71 students
Grades 9-12	93 students
BEAR Transition Academy	3 Granby students (+3 students from other towns)
Outplacement Magnets/Vo-ag/Technical	Students attending private placements by PPT: 26 Students attending magnets: 13
Total	321 special education students (October 1 child count)

Reaching Independence through Support & Education

- Currently programming for 6 students K-2
- Program for students with developmental and cognitive disabilities that is individualized and focuses on student-specific programming in the areas of academics, functional living skills, communication, social and leisure skills



Personal Academics and Vocational Experiences (P.A.V.E.)

- Applied Academics
- Life Skills
- Social Skills
- Vocational experiences within the school buildings
- Coffee Cart-Grant funded
- This program services 10 students



B.E.A.R. Transition Academy

Bringing Emerging Adults Resources

- BEAR offers a network of support within our community.
- Community partnerships and internships to prepare student for life after high school (ages 18-22).
- Continued focus on independent living skills, healthcare, social skills, advocacy, self-determination and transportation.



Continued Needs across the District

- Chronic absenteeism - secondary
- Early Intervention-PreK
- Specialized reading - secondary
- Mental Health/Behavior/Dysregulation
- Transition and Vocational programming 18-22
(+ 7 Granby students for 25-26SY)

