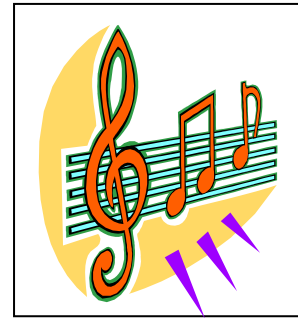




*East Side Union High School District
Special Services Department*

Staff Notes & News

Volume 4, Number 3, Nov. 1, 2007



A Message from the Director

Many times we think that teachers only teach. Even though this is their primary activity, it is only one of many responsibilities. Case management is a critical activity for the success of all Special Education students. The Case Manager is the essential link between the student and school. The Case Manager should maintain regular contact with parent/guardian and likewise the parent/guardian should not hesitate to contact their child's Case Manager for any concerns that may arise during the school year. If you do not know who your child's Case Manager is contact the school Principal in order to establish this important educational partnership.

*Donna DeMartini
Director of Special Services*

IEP Update

Educational benefit is one of the continuing focus areas in Special Education and refers to an individualized educational program that should be **reasonably calculated** to result in educational benefit for the student as measured by the following:

- Achieving passing marks
- Advancing from grade to grade
- Making progress in goals and objectives
- Improving scores on statewide tests
- Passing the CAHSEE
- Graduating from high school

Reasonable calculation refers to the following actions by the IEP team:

- Completing a comprehensive assessment
- Identifying the student's needs
- Establishing goals in each area of need
- Planning services to support progress
- Monitoring services and student progress
- Adjusting the IEP as needed

As ESUHSD staff begin this new school year we will be focusing on writing IEPs that provide **educational benefit**.

IEP Training Continues

All Special Education staff, will be receiving additional IEP training during the 2007-08 school year. During the month of October Online Web IEP, IEP Training, Case Management, Manifestation Determination, Hughes Bill Training, Therapeutic Crisis Intervention and Transition Training were offered. Additional training sessions will be scheduled in November. Teachers are live online completing their IEPs.

I would like to acknowledge our outstanding trainers Veronica Boudreaux, Jim Cardoza, Adrienne Golden-Stone, Nancy Guerrero (SCCOE), Mike Luna, Walt Reeland (SELPA) Tina Swanson, Alma Tenedora. They spend many hours preparing materials and presentations and do a fantastic job according to the evaluations we receive from teachers.

Verification Review

On Monday, November 5th our CDE consultant, Shirley Geddes, will be reviewing twenty IEPs. They will be observing to make sure that the thirteen areas of non compliance on our Verification Review for 2005-06 are, in fact compliant.

Case Management Makes A Difference

Case Management, when well done, is one of the most effective interventions in Special Education and the Case Manager is the essential link between the student and school. Fundamentally, the Case Manager is responsible for the student's annual IEP, but the responsibilities extend well beyond this activity to include communication, collaboration and documentation in order to ensure that all Special Education students have a successful school year.

Superintendent

Bob Nunez

Associate Superintendent

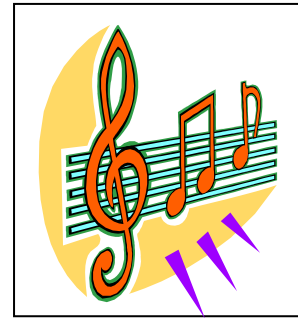
Dan Moser



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In addition to the grade report which is issued by the school approximately every six (6) weeks, the Case Manager is responsible to send home a written update regarding the student's progress on his/her IEP goals and objectives.

Finally, the Case Manager is responsible to work with the General Education mainstream teachers to ensure that the teacher is following the accommodations and providing the services listed on the student's IEP.

Hancock Scholarships Available

The Carolyn Balsa-Hancock Memorial Scholarships is awarded each year to a Special Education students or students selected by the ESUHSD. Established by family and friends in memory of Carolyn Blasa-Hancock, the scholarship program provides awards to graduating Special Education seniors for vocational or academic training in a program where the student or students are accepted and choose to attend after high school graduation. The scholarship is given to the student who best emulates Carolyn's inspiring love of life, hard work and perseverance.

The students will be evaluated on the basis of past vocational or academic performance, type and extent of additional training goals, the nature and degree of the disability, and noteworthy achievements. To be eligible the students must submit a brief application and provide a letter of recommendation from their teacher or case manager and a short personal statement and resume.

The selection committee consists of the following members:

- Director of Special Education
- Program Specialist
- Department Chairpersons (2)

- Post Senior Teacher
- Workability Specialist
- RSP Teacher
- SDC Teacher
- Para-Educator

Be looking for additional information about the Carolyn Balsa-Hancock Memorial Scholarships or contact the Director of Special Services at (408) 347-5180.

Charter Schools

ESUHSD provides Special Education services to four (4) charter schools under Memoranda of Understanding (MOUs) between the district and the charter schools. These services include general program supervision by the Director of Special Services, direct instructional services by two (2) RSP teachers and support services from the Program Specialists and Psychologists. Our RSP teachers for the Charter Schools are Stephanie Lam-Wong and Gyan Chand. The goals are to provide quality Special Education services to ESUHSD students enrolled in our charter schools and to provide a seamless transition between the programs. Charter school staff attend many of the professional development activities offered by ESUHSD.

The rewards I find in teaching are many and varied. The moment a child grasps a concept that has been a mystery is surely one of the most rewarding.

***Susan Barrett
West Virginia Teacher of the Year***

ESUHSD To Complete Section 504 Training for All Staff

In accordance with the corrective action plan signed between the ESUHSD and the Office for Civil Rights (OCR), ESUHSD will again be conducting Section 504 training for all district staff during the month of October 2007

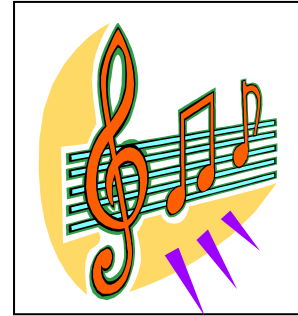
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