

February 3, 2021
Special Education Updates

Joint Federal Notification

All districts in WI are assessed annually on special education compliance and results. The system known as the State Performance Plan (SPP) reviews district data and determines if

Districts:

- Meet Requirements
- Need Assistance
- Need Intervention
- Need Substantial Intervention

In December we were notified that WSD “Met requirements” for 2020!

In addition to the annual reporting of the SPP, districts are required to conduct a “self assessment/audit” every five years. WSD will participate in the self assessment this summer. In addition to the self assessment, we will also participate in DPI's Parent Involvement Survey as well as DPI's Post HS survey. More information will be provided in the near future.

[DPI State Performance Plan](#)

WSD Special Education Initiatives

- Our greatest initiative continues to be delivering quality services to students with disabilities during a pandemic. Teachers and therapists in Wauwatosa continue to navigate a fluid and changing environment. Some of the unique circumstances staff are experiencing:

- Supporting a variety of models of instruction
- Sustaining consistency in services and staff during shifting models of instruction
- Managing different/additional paperwork requirements
- Collaborating with families to meet individual needs of students, while accommodating students model of instruction and family circumstances
 - Students coming in for additional services
 - Students only coming in for special education services/therapies
 - Students coming in on non cohort days
 - Students requiring 100% virtual

*A huge thank you to our special education staff for their flexibility, dedication, and commitment to meet the needs of our students.

*A huge thank you to parents for your support and kindness.

- Transition Services for 18-21 yo
 - Every year, we have a group of students who are done with their four years of HS but still require special education services. Currently, students either remain at their HS or participate in our Next Step community based program. We are in the process of creating “Bridges,” a program for students who are through with HS credits but dependent on 1:1 support to engage in learning. This program will

allow students to continue to work on transitional goals outside of their traditional HS program.

- For the past two years, some of our special education professional development for teachers and therapists has focused on data collection and reporting progress on IEP goals. As part of the SPP self assessment, districts are required to review methods for measuring and reporting IEP goal progress. Our professional development has improved our district's compliance in this area.
- Throughout the year the district has provided ongoing professional development for all staff to support teaching and student learning while in person as well virtually, asynchronously, and concurrently.

Instructional Resources Update

- Attainment Reading, Writing and Math resources for grades 7-12
 - Middle School Core Solutions were purchased for both Whitman and Longfellow. Each of these programs included - Social Studies, Science, Math and a variety of reading and writing resources. These resources help in facilitating an inclusive education for students using the alternative learning standards (essential elements).
 - High School wanted to diversify their reading and writing resources with Write your Story, Teaching to Standards ELA and Access Language Arts. Along with reading and writing, we also purchased Access Algebra, to help with the transition to Algebra 1.
- Fountas and Pinnell
 - Leveled Literacy Intervention
- Sonday 1 & 2 kits purchased for all JK-5 schools as well as both middle schools (both levels of intervention available at JK-8th gr)
 - Special education staff received over 6 hours of training in Sonday levels 1 & 2
 - This is a research-based, multisensory reading intervention that uses Orton Gillingham approach to instruction
 - Kits purchased allow for face-to-face and virtual service delivery options

Summer School 2021

- Wauwatosa has always had a very robust and comprehensive summer school program. We are hopeful our summer program will be in person this year and have begun the planning process for summer school and Extended School Year services and Additional Services for students who are eligible but unable to access during the regular school year.