



BRIARCLIFF MANOR

Program Evaluation



2015-2016

BRIARCLIFF MANOR UFSD

METHODS FOR EVALUATING PROGRAM OBJECTIVES

The goal of the special education program in the District are to provide each student with individualized instruction designed to help each student compensate for his or her disability in order to more fully reach his or her potential.

The methods used to evaluate the extent to which the objectives of the special education program have been achieved are:

- Ongoing evaluation of student achievement using various standardized diagnostic tests, state assessments and other teacher made assessments;
- Annual reviews of students' progress and programs, resulting in revised comprehensive IEP's;
- Qualitative techniques such as teacher observations and conferences, classroom observations, anecdotal reports, and end-of-year student summary;
- Re-evaluations of each student with a disability;
- Periodic review of the District Plan

DISTRICT PROGRAMS

The Briarcliff Manor School District operates a variety of programs and services for students with disabilities. These services are provided to district residents at no cost and in the least restrictive environment upon the recommendations of the Committee on Special Education and with the approval of the Briarcliff Manor School District Board of Education.

These services are available to students with disabilities through the end of the school year during which their 21st birthday occurs, or until a regular high school diploma has been attained, whichever occurs first.

The following is a description of each of the special education program options, organized from least restrictive to most restrictive:

Transitional Support Services

Upon the recommendation of the Committee on Special Education, this temporary service may be provided to a regular or special education teacher to aid in the provision of appropriate services to a student with a disability transferring to a regular program or to a program or service in a less restrictive environment. A student is eligible for this service at any age or grade level.

Declassification Support Services

Declassification support services are provided to a school aged student who has been declassified from special education. The services are provided for only one year following declassification. A student is eligible for this service at any age or grade level.

Consultant Teacher Services

Consultant teacher services are recommended in order to provide direct and/or indirect services to student with disabilities who attend general education classes and/or to such student's regular education teachers.

- *Direct consultant teacher services* means specially designed individualized or group instruction provided by a certified special education teacher to a student with a disability to aid such student to benefit from the student's regular education classes.
- *Indirect consultant teacher services* means consultation provided by a certified special education teacher to regular education teachers to assist them in adjusting the learning environment and/or modifying their instructional methods to meet the individual needs of a student with a disability who attends their classes.

Related Services

Related services are those developmental, corrective and other supportive services as are required to assist a student with a disability and include speech- language therapy, occupational therapy, counseling services, orientation and mobility services, medical services as defined by regulation, parent counseling and training, school health services, school social work, assistive technology services, appropriate access to recreation, including therapeutic recreation, other appropriate developmental or corrective support services, and other appropriate support services and include the early identification and assessment of disabling conditions in students. The term does not include a medical device that is surgically implanted, or the replacement of such device. The Committee on Special Education recommends any related service that is appropriate to a youngster's individual needs.

Related services currently provided in district include psychological services, counseling services, assistive technology services, speech and language therapy, medical services for diagnostic purposes, physical therapy, occupational therapy, vision services, hearing services, and parent counseling and training.

The District employs three school psychologists and three speech and language pathologists, one Occupational Therapist and contracts with private consulting agencies for the provision of specialized occupational therapy and physical therapy services. Teacher of the hearing impaired and vision services are provided through Putnam Northern Westchester BOCES. Specialized reading services are provided through District employees trained in the Orton Gillingham Methodology and Literacy Specialists.

Speech and Language Therapy

The goal of speech and language therapy is the early identification of communication disorders and the remediation of articulation and phonological deficits, stuttering, voice disorders, and receptive and expressive language problems, which adversely affect a student's educational performance. Services are provided either individually or in small groups of up to five students at a frequency rate established by the Committee on Special Education. Speech and language therapy is also provided as a push-in service in

the District's special class programs in grades kindergarten through eight. Speech and Language Therapy Services are provided through our Speech Department.

School Psychological Services

School psychologists have a number of responsibilities including the following: Individual assessments of cognitive and social/emotional functioning and interpretation of testing results, chairing CSE and 504 Committee meetings, participation in Child Study Team meetings and Committee on Special Education meetings, consultation with staff, parents and outside agencies and other professionals. Crisis intervention is another facet of the responsibilities of the school psychologist. The psychologist works with school staff to conduct Functional Behavioral Assessments and implement Behavioral Intervention Plans.

The school psychologist is also responsible for the provision of IEP mandated counseling for individual students and parent training, as prescribed by the Committee on Special Education. These services are provided to those students whose psychosocial needs interfere with their ability to benefit from education. The focus of school-based counseling must be on the school-related difficulties of the student with a disability and is designed to assist the student in overcoming the social or emotional difficulties that interfere with the educational process. Counseling services are provided district-wide by school psychologists.

Occupational Therapy and Physical Therapy

Occupational therapy as a related service is concerned with the functional evaluation of the student and the planning and use of a program of purposeful activities to develop or maintain adaptive skills, designed to achieve maximal physical and mental functioning of the student in his or her daily life tasks. The occupational therapist assesses skill levels and, upon receipt of an appropriate prescription, provides remediation in the areas of deficit such as postural control, motor planning, visual perceptual skills, hand skill development and sensory processing. The therapist may also provide alternative materials and environmental modifications to facilitate independence and generalization of those skills. Occupational therapy may be provided individually, in a small group or as a consult

to the classroom teacher, based on the recommendations of the Committee on Special Education. Physical therapy as a related service is, upon prescription, directed towards developing and maintaining the student's physical potential for independence in all educationally related activities. A major focus of physical therapy is to develop the student's ability to safely negotiate the school environment. Occupational Therapy is provided through Employee Audrey Curley, Occupational Therapist, coupled with consultants Dr. Rhonda Meersand, Occupational Therapist, LLC and Debra Sarich, Physical Therapy LLC.