



ESE Community Task Force Meeting  
March 16, 2015

Submitted by Sonja Clay, Director, ESE

The Exceptional Student Education (ESE) Task Force Planning Committee met on March 16, 2015, from 10 a.m. to 1 p.m. at Arthur Ashe Jr. Campus located at 1701 NW 23 Avenue, Fort Lauderdale, FL. 33311.

Stacey Hoaglund, Task Force Chair, provided the welcome, and reviewed the agenda.

**Agenda Item: Matriculation**

Task Force members recommended that ESE staff contact Maryann Moore, Department of Georgia, for assistance with the Division's matriculation manual. District Staff will continue to research other district's matriculation process to create a matriculation this summer. Staff shared that a memorandum was provided to schools (Principals and ESE Specialists) that shared matriculation best practices.

**Agenda Item: Secondary School Support Model**

District staff shared that feedback from an anonymous survey to Principals regarding the Secondary School Support Model was positive. One principal requested additional assistance; some expressed how wonderful the model was working; and others requested to have this model at their school site next school year. Survey results averaged agree or strongly agree on every question.

Task Force members shared that there are general education students with disabilities who need support and asked if they will be included in caseloads. Staff shared that there are some students that were never in a special (cluster) program. They have been identified through the Individual Education Plan (IEP) process and observations. The Secondary School Support Model focuses on behavior and not academic support. Academic support is provided via support facilitation.

## **PreK ESE**

Over 1,700 PreK students with disabilities were enrolled at the beginning of the school year. Based on trends we are on target to reach 3,500 by the end of the school year.

Curriculum needs of PreK students with disabilities were discussed. Staff shared that curriculum for all PreK classes with students with disabilities will cost 1.3 million. Task Force members voted to add the need for PreK curriculum for students with disabilities as one of their recommendations to the Superintendent.

### **Agenda Item: Support Facilitation**

Task Force members discussed the need for a Support Facilitator job description. Sample job descriptions from three other counties were provided for Task Force members to review.

District staff shared that a team of trainers have been identified for the Support Facilitation trainings. This training will include on high yield strategies and inclusion.

### **Agenda Item: Effective Use of Staff Time**

The ESE and Support Services Division will continue to build capacity at the school level through meetings and trainings.

### **Agenda Item: Reporting Process of Assistive Technology**

Task Force members discussed the need for an additional position, but not a supervisor. Staff shared that there is a need to identify someone to plan trainings and support assistive technology needs. Staff also shared the assistive technology identification, referral, and equipment distribution process. It was further shared that this process starts with the IEP. Each school has an assistive technology contact to assist with this process.

### **Agenda Item: Transportation**

Task Force members discussed students with disabilities travel time on school buses and inquired about the role of the bus attendant. Staff shared that a Transportation ESE Specialist was hired to assist with transportation concerns.

**Agenda Item: Budget**

Staff shared that Curriculum Supervisors participate in school budget conferences to make staffing recommendations and share basic equipment lists. Task Force members expressed concern that some teachers are not aware of the basic equipment list. It was further shared by Task Force members that classrooms must be ready to receive students on the first day of school.

**Agenda Item: ESE Services Manual**

Task Force members and District staff discussed the need for an ESE Services Manual for parents. District staff shared that the Florida Diagnostic Learning Resources grant required that the ESE and Services Division create a resource director. Staff will consider writing this need as a grant activity for the 2015-2016 school year.

**Agenda Item: Mental Health Review**

Task Force members and District staff discussed speed of response to students with disabilities receiving mental health services and basic performance measures of community providers

**Agenda Item: Response to Intervention (RtI)**

Task Force members discussed response to intervention. District staff shared that the Student Support Initiatives Division is rolling out professional development to all schools. ESE and Support Services staff participates in district team meetings.

**Agenda Item: Individual Educational Plans**

Task Force members discussed the importance of receiving input from stakeholders regarding the current IEP system and its impact on quality IEPs. District shared that they are researching a free state-provided IEP system that will allow for

**Agenda Item: Assessment Procedures - Progression**

Task Force members expressed the need for the selection, training, and implementation of effective assessment and curriculum resources for students with disabilities.

The meeting adjourned at 1 p.m.