

PINELANDS REGIONAL SCHOOL DISTRICT

Memo

TO: Board of Education

FROM: Detlef Kern, Ed.D Superintendent

DATE: September 12, 2009

SUBJECT: **AYP / SPECIAL EDUCATION**

The tactics and priorities for improving NJASK/HSPA performance in special education and achieving AYP are divided into two parts.

Short-term priorities include:

- Identifying special education students that stand to benefit most from a maximum test prep effort (e.g. those resource room, alternate, and offsite programs).
- Providing course-of-study to these students that are fully aligned with both core-content proficiencies and general education curriculums.
- Providing instructional and learning resources (i.e. textbooks) that are similar if not identical to those used in general education.
- Adopting a district-wide rubric for writing (NJASK/HSPA).
- Analyze writing samples from last year's NJASK/HSPA to determine pattern of writing deficiencies.
- Create a NJASK/HSPA blitz (first ten minutes of class, NJASK/HSPA related activity).
- Create a summer academy for teaching NJASK/HSPA teaching strategies.
- Content teachers assisting special education teachers with the planning and implementation of L.A. and Math instruction.

Longer-term priorities would include:

- Providing a certified math and certified language arts teacher to provide core content instruction to special education students in 7th and 11th grades.
- Purchasing diagnostic assessment instruments for use in the 7th and 10th grades, and making time available for their administration, scoring, and interpretation.
- Purchasing simulated NJASK and HSPA tests and making time available to administer them in advance of the 8th grade NJASK and the 11th grade HSPA.

Also, we will acquire the services of a consultant to help us with our approach to improving scores in special education. The County Superintendent, Dr. Bruce Greenfield, strongly recommended Dr. Harvey Kesselman of Richard Stockton College. Dr. Kesselman is Director of the Southern Regional Institute and Educational Technical Training Center in Mays Landing. He has been hired by Lakewood, Upper Township and other schools for technical assistance. He provides technical support that ranges from data interpretation to addressing school boards. He typically clarifies NCLB/AYP to administrators, faculty and board of education. He is good at uncomplicating Title I, clarifying AYP and interpreting data.

Financial News

Because we purchase hours from Southern Regional Institute every year using NCLB, SIA, or SINI funds, it appears that Dr. Kesselman's services should be covered by this year's payment.

DK/klh