

**Report of the Director of Special Education
ENSU & NEK Choice
2018**

The Essex North Supervisory Union Special Education department currently, consists of three full time proficient special education teachers, and thirteen dedicated time para-educators. Each staff member professionally and enthusiastically provides the special education Individualized Education Plan (IEP) services to students in grades Pre-K to twelve to forty-four different students. The Director of Special Education case manages eleven school choice and alternative placement students outside of the Canaan Schools.

With the exciting addition of including the NEK Choice towns to ENSU's current special education program, there will be additional Special Services Case Manager who will oversee all NEK Choice students with Individualized Education and 504 Plans in about 25 differing schools.

Each special education student has an identified disability which adversely effects their educational performance, and is in need for supports, above what can be provided through the traditional educational support system available to all students within the school according to the Vermont Special Education Rules.

The special education staff provides a variety of services both within the student's classroom and throughout the Canaan Schools. While working in any setting, the students are accessing their grade level common core content areas with their peers, and working toward mastery of their IEP goals. Both the special educators, and the paraprofessionals support the IEP accommodations, modification implementation, and learning opportunities to enhance the student's basic skill areas of weakness to support access to their grade level classrooms.

There are also contracted related services for the special education IEP students from outside resources to best support student's needs in the areas of Speech and Language, Autism Specialist, Occupational Therapy and Physical Therapy.

The Canaan Schools high school IEP students work closely with their IEP teams to generate individualized transition plans that are an integrated part of their IEP. Each plan includes long term and short term goals in areas of education and training, employment, and at times independent living. This transition plan assists the students to start thinking about what direction they want to take after high school. To support the IEP student's in this exploration process, the Vermont Department of Vocational Rehabilitation (VR) and the Youth Employment Specialist (YES), are available weekly to meet and discuss any part of the student's transition plan individually or in small groups. These two resources are able to assist student's to explore a wide variety of career options such as college searches, job shadowing, unpaid work experiences, career and interest inventories are just to name a few.

I would like to conclude with the well-deserved recognition for all the exceptional special education staff I am so fortunate to work with. Every single one of them is dedicated to doing an excellent job, and I want to thank all of you for what each does on behalf of our students.

Respectfully submitted,
Heather Cole
Director of Special Education