



THE STATE EDUCATION DEPARTMENT / THE UNIVERSITY OF THE STATE OF NEW YORK / ALBANY, NY 12234

DEPUTY COMMISSIONER FOR VOCATIONAL AND EDUCATIONAL SERVICES FOR INDIVIDUALS WITH DISABILITIES
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September 2003

TO: Persons Interested in the Education of Students with Autism

FROM: Lawrence C. Gloeckler

SUBJECT: Effective Practices in Educational Programs for School-Age Students with Autism

The State Education Department's Office of Vocational and Educational Services for Individuals with Disabilities (VESID) has identified five schools with effective practices in instructional programs for school-age students with autism to receive grant funds to assist other schools to replicate their effective practices. Each of the selected schools demonstrated quality through a combination of written materials and on-site reviews based on the Autism Program Quality Indicators (APQI) (attachment).

Programs were selected to highlight a variety of effective practices both in public and private settings and across the age ranges. Each of the schools described in this publication has received grant funds to provide other schools with information and technical assistance to promote the replication of specific effective practices. These grants are effective through June 30, 2004. You are encouraged to contact these schools, ask questions, visit and read their materials to learn more about how you can improve the quality of your education programs for students with autism.

Questions regarding this initiative should be directed to Patricia Geary at 518-473-2878.

SELECTED PROGRAMS

Arrowhead Elementary School, Three Village Central School District - Elementary

This school has developed a range of special education programs and services to support students with autism in an inclusive setting with their nondisabled peers. This program is being highlighted for components relating to climate, administrative support, supported inclusion, staff development and support, and instructional practices selected to meet individual needs.

Contact: Laurie DeVore
Assistant Director of Pupil Personnel Services
Arrowhead Elementary School
Three Village Central School District
100 Suffolk Avenue, Stony Brook, NY 11733
(631) 730-4540
ldevore@3villagecsd.k12.ny.us



P.S. 176X of District 75, New York City Department of Education – K-12

P.S. 176X is a school program exclusively for students with autism and pervasive developmental disabilities located in five general education schools (two elementary schools, two junior high schools and one high school) in the Co-op City in northeast Bronx. The program, which provides education services to approximately 415 students in 67 classes, is eclectic in its instructional approaches. This school uses research-based instructional approaches supported by ongoing data collection to monitor student progress. The program is being highlighted for the manner in which it has systematized its program, its positive climate, its focus on the learning standards and curriculum, use of technology, and levels of support for students and staff.

Contact: Rima Ritholtz
Principal
Public School 176
650 Baychester Avenue
Bronx, NY 10475
(718) 904-5752
Rrithol@nycboe.net
<http://schools.nycenet.edu/d75/p176x>

Half Hollow Hills Central School District: K-12

This school district has approximately 80 students with autistic spectrum disorders who attend grades kindergarten through 12 in the public school programs of the district. The program, which includes both special classes and integrated programs in general education classes, is comprehensive, varied and driven by the needs of the students. Students, parents and staff are supported through behavioral consultation, staff development programs, parent training, and team meetings. This program is being highlighted for its quality inclusive practices and climate, research-based instructional practices, transition planning and positive behavioral approaches.

Contact: Renée Wagenberg
Assistant Superintendent for Research, Assessment and Special Services
Half Hollow Hills Central School District
525 Half Hollow Road
Dix Hills, NY 11746
(631) 592-3063
rwagenberg@halfhollowhills.k12.ny.us

Ridge Mills Elementary School, Rome City School District – Elementary

The uniqueness of this program lies in the variety and combination of service delivery and instructional options available and provided to each student in an inclusive setting. The program, which is based on a team approach to teaching, is being highlighted for its supportive inclusive culture, strong leadership, teamwork, social skills instruction and flexibility of programs and service support options for students with autism. It has evolved over the past 10-12 years and there is a history of development that other schools could benefit from.

Contact: David Farah, Director of Support Services
Ridge Mills Elementary School, Rome City School District
112 East Thomas Street
Rome, NY 13440
(315) 338-6581
dfarah@romecsd.org

Wildwood School – Young Adult Program – Secondary

Wildwood School's Young Adult Program is designed to create opportunities and choice for students as they transition to adult services. Each student's placement and instructional program is individualized and routinely adjusted throughout the course of a community job placement. This program is being highlighted for its team work, effective and individualized transition planning and programs, its evaluation of student strengths and needs and its functional academic program.

Contact: Ron Gordon
Wildwood School, Young Adult Program
1202 Troy-Schenectady Road, Building #1
Latham, NY 12110
(518) 356-6410, ext. 576
rgordon@wildwood.edu

Attachment