New York State
EDUCATION DEPARTMENT
Knowledge › Skill › Opportunity

BLUEPRINT FOR IMPROVED RESULTS FOR STUDENTS WITH DISABILITIES

Office of Special Education

Students engage in self-advocacy and are involved in determining their own educational goals and plan.

Parents, and other family members, are engaged as meaningful partners in the special education process and the education of their child.

Teachers design, provide, and assess the effectiveness of specially-designed instruction to provide students with disabilities with access to participate and progress in the general education curriculum.

Teachers provide research-based instructional teaching and learning strategies and supports for students with disabilities.

Schools provide multi-tiered systems of behavioral and academic support.

Schools provide high-quality inclusive programs and activities.

Schools provide appropriate instruction for students with disabilities in career development and opportunities to participate in work-based learning.

THE UNIVERSITY OF THE STATE OF NEW YORK

Regents of The University

MERRYL H. TISCH, *Chancellor*, B.A., M.A., Ed.D.	New York
ANTHONY S. BOTTAR, *Vice Chancellor*, B.A., J.D.	Syracuse
JAMES R. TALLON, JR., B.A., M.A.	Binghamton
ROGER TILLES, B.A., J.D.	Great Neck
CHARLES R. BENDIT, B.A.	Manhattan
BETTY A. ROSA, B.A., M.S. in Ed., M.S. in Ed., M.Ed., Ed.D.	Bronx
LESTER W. YOUNG, JR., B.S., M.S., Ed.D.	Beechhurst
CHRISTINE D. CEA, B.A., M.A., Ph.D.	Staten Island
WADE S. NORWOOD, B.A.	Rochester
KATHLEEN M. CASHIN, B.S., M.S., Ed.D.	Brooklyn
JAMES E. COTTRELL, B.S., M.D.	New York
T. ANDREW BROWN, B.A., J.D.	Rochester
JOSEPHINE VICTORIA FINN, B.A., J.D.	Monticello
JUDITH CHIN, M.S. in Ed.	Little Neck
BEVERLY L. OUDERKIRK, B.S. in Ed., M.S. in Ed.	Morristown
CATHERINE COLLINS, R.N., N.P., B.S., M.S. in Ed., Ed.D.	Buffalo
JUDITH JOHNSON, B.A., M.A., C.A.S.	New Hempstead

Commissioner of Education and President of The University
MARYELLEN ELIA

Senior Deputy Commissioner for Education Policy
JHONE EBERT

The State Education Department does not discriminate on the basis of age, color, religion, creed, disability, marital status, veteran status, national origin, race, gender, genetic predisposition or carrier status, or sexual orientation in its educational programs, services and activities. Portions of this publication can be made available in a variety of formats, including braille, large print or audio tape, upon request. Inquiries concerning this policy of nondiscrimination should be directed to the Department's Office for Diversity and Access, Room 530, Education Building, Albany, NY 12234.

New York State
EDUCATION DEPARTMENT
Knowledge › Skill › Opportunity

BLUEPRINT FOR IMPROVED RESULTS FOR STUDENTS WITH DISABILITIES

The mission of the New York State Education Department (NYSED), Office of Special Education, – supported by all offices within NYSED – is to ensure that students with disabilities have opportunities to benefit from high-quality instruction, to reach the same standards as all students, and to leave school prepared to successfully transition to post-school learning, living and working. Through this process, there are essential and fundamental procedural rights and protections afforded by federal and State law both to parents and students with disabilities.

The following principles were selected, in consultation with stakeholders, as a statewide framework of expectations to lay the foundation for improved instruction and results for students with disabilities. References to students with disabilities within this document includes preschool students with disabilities and school-age students with any of the 13 disability categories of autism, blindness, deafness, deaf-blindness, emotional disabilities, hearing impairment, intellectual disability, orthopedic impairments, multiple disabilities, health impairments, speech and language impairment, traumatic brain injury and visual impairment.

While there are many other components or key principles that are important in the education of students with disabilities, this Blueprint focuses on seven research and evidence-based core principles and practices for all students with disabilities. Improving results for students with disabilities requires a renewed focus on these core principles. Underlying these principles are the following essential understandings.

- Communities, boards of education, district and school leaders must provide systemic supports and professional development for teachers to meet the needs of students with disabilities, including appropriate identification and ensuring classrooms have necessary supports, rigorous and relevant learning environments and classroom and school-wide approaches are created to maintain a positive climate.
- School principals and special education administrators are fundamental in their roles as instructional leaders for students with disabilities.
- All teachers are teachers of students with disabilities and every teacher needs to be skilled in how to support and provide differentiated and specially-designed instruction to students with disabilities.
- Students with disabilities must be held to high expectations and given the appropriate supports and services to meet those high expectations.
- Students and parents of students with disabilities need information and support to be meaningfully involved in the special education process.
- Students with disabilities should participate, to the maximum extent possible, in making recommendations for supports and services needed for their academic success and to meet their post-secondary transition goals.

Blueprint for Improved Results for Students with Disabilities

Guiding Principles

The following principles will be used by the State to review policy, technical assistance and other improvement activities. School districts and schools are encouraged to use these principles to review practice and to identify and act on areas where improvement is needed.

STUDENTS ENGAGE IN SELF-ADVOCACY AND ARE INVOLVED IN DETERMINING THEIR OWN EDUCATIONAL GOALS AND PLANS.

This is evident when:

- *Students participate in individualized education program (IEP) meetings.*
- *Students create and monitor their progress towards academic and social goals.*
- *Students engage in career planning and selection of courses of study to prepare them for post-secondary living, working and learning.*

PARENTS, AND OTHER FAMILY MEMBERS, ARE ENGAGED AS MEANINGFUL PARTNERS IN THE SPECIAL EDUCATION PROCESS AND THE EDUCATION OF THEIR CHILD.

This is evident when:

- *Parents report that they understand the special education process and their due process rights and actively participate in the development of their child's IEP.*
- *Parents understand what their child is expected to know and be able to do to progress toward the State learning standards.*
- *Parents and educators engage in frequent, respectful and open discussion of the educational needs of the student.*
- *Families are invited into and feel welcome in all school environments.*
- *Parents have the information they need about effective strategies to support their child's learning and support transition from school to post-school activities.*

TEACHERS DESIGN, PROVIDE AND ASSESS THE EFFECTIVENESS OF SPECIALLY-DESIGNED INSTRUCTION TO PROVIDE ACCESS FOR STUDENTS WITH DISABILITIES TO PARTICIPATE AND PROGRESS IN THE GENERAL EDUCATION CURRICULUM.

This is evident when:

- *All teachers are responsive to the pedagogical needs of students with disabilities.*
- *All students receive instruction in curriculum aligned with the State's Learning Standards.*
- *IEPs are developed in consideration of grade level standards.*
- *IEPs are implemented and reviewed by educators, families and students to ensure that students are meeting their annual goals.*
- *Special and general education teachers of students with disabilities engage in intentional collaborative lesson planning to meet the needs of each individual student with a disability.*
- *Individual student data are used to inform and design instruction for students with disabilities to progress toward grade level standards.*
- *Students with disabilities receive instructional materials in alternative formats at the same time as other students in the class receive their instructional materials.*

TEACHERS PROVIDE RESEARCH-BASED INSTRUCTIONAL TEACHING AND LEARNING STRATEGIES AND SUPPORTS FOR STUDENTS WITH DISABILITIES.

This is evident when:

- *All teachers develop lessons that allow multiple entry points and multiple modes of engagement for students with diverse needs.*
- *All teachers are knowledgeable and skilled in providing explicit instruction in academics and social-emotional learning.*
- *Students with disabilities are taught strategies for self-regulated learning across the content areas.*
- *All teachers continually assess students' understanding of lessons to improve and target instruction to student needs.*
- *Students' individualized needs for assistive technology devices and services are considered and accommodated.*

SCHOOLS PROVIDE MULTI-TIERED SYSTEMS OF BEHAVIORAL AND ACADEMIC SUPPORT.

This is evident when:

- *Educators collect and analyze student outcome data to plan, organize, deliver and evaluate the effectiveness of school-wide programs and instruction for all students.*
- *Educators disaggregate and analyze outcomes for students with disabilities to improve school-wide programs and interventions.*
- *Educators collect and analyze data to identify individual students in need of additional support.*
- *Evidence-based interventions are provided in a timely manner to students needing more support.*
- *Progress monitoring data are collected and inform decisions about the effectiveness and/or need for modification to those interventions.*

SCHOOLS PROVIDE HIGH-QUALITY INCLUSIVE PROGRAMS AND ACTIVITIES.

This is evident when:

- *Educators use the full continuum of services to ensure that students with disabilities are educated in the least restrictive environment.*
- *The needs of the students are the primary consideration in the configuration of special education programs and services to be provided to students with disabilities.*
- *District/school leaders allocate human and financial resources to support scheduling and planning time to ensure all students receive rigorous and appropriate instruction throughout the continuum of special education programs and services.*
- *Students with disabilities in inclusive settings are provided the accommodations and explicit and specially-designed instruction needed to progress in the curriculum.*

SCHOOLS PROVIDE APPROPRIATE INSTRUCTION FOR STUDENTS WITH DISABILITIES IN CAREER DEVELOPMENT AND OPPORTUNITIES TO PARTICIPATE IN WORK-BASED LEARNING.

This is evident when:

- *Students are provided age-appropriate transition assessments, guidance, courses of study and work-based learning opportunities to meaningfully engage in early and ongoing career planning and exploration.*
- *Students with disabilities and their families are provided early and clear information on graduation requirements.*
- *Students with disabilities receive instruction toward the Career Development and Occupational Studies Learning Standards beginning in the early grades.*
- *Students are provided instruction to develop lifelong learning skills such as self-advocacy, social-emotional skills, higher order thinking, employability skills and consumer and life skills.*
- *Students and their families actively participate in the transition planning process.*
- *Schools facilitate timely student and family connections to post-secondary supports and services through ACCES-VR and other State agency programs and services.*