

Warren County Special Services
School District
682 Oxford Road
Oxford, New Jersey 07863

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Bound for Success

Warren County Special Services School District

Warren County Special Services School District is dedicated to promoting the highest level of positive growth and development through the expectation that all students will achieve the New Jersey Core Curriculum Content Standards (N.J.C.C.C.S) at all grade levels. Through collaborative efforts of the district and community, we strive to identify and address the social, emotional, physical, and intellectual needs of students with disabilities through individualized educational programs and services in a safe, caring, and therapeutic environment within regionalized public school settings.

Warren County Special Services School District is currently taking applications for the following classes:

- Behavior Disabilities
- Autistic Spectrum
- Multiple Disabilities
- Cognitive Severe



If you have any questions pertaining to any of the class programs offered by our district, or if you have a particular need for a program we are not currently operating, please feel free to contact Albert Purdy, Interim Superintendent 908-223-7275.

Superintendent's Note

Warren County Special Services is celebrating its 20th anniversary! I would like to take this opportunity to explain how our district has grown. The district began operating in September of 1990 and is one of eight Special Services School Districts in New Jersey. Our district, however, is unique because it is a district without school walls. The original intent of the district still continues having our classes, programs, and services in public schools within Warren County. The host school districts allow our students to experience the challenges, happiness, and activities which typically occur in a public school environment.

Our district has evolved from only providing self-contained Special Education programming for students with lower incidence disabilities to providing many contracted educational services; coordinating transportation, providing personal and classroom aides, and providing related services (Occupational Therapy, Physical Therapy, Speech, and Counseling). We have also been providing education for students enrolled in the Counseling and Addiction Center at Hackettstown Regional Medical Center.

In addition we conduct an extended school year (ESY) program during the summer. This program has three components: academic, therapeutic, and recreation. This program is an excellent opportunity for our students to interact with different students and staff from not only our district but from other districts as well.

The Express-Times indicated in a recent news article that we are reaching out to schools in the midst of an enrollment decline. According to my research the district reached a peak of approximately 100 students and has declined to a current enrollment of 37 students. However, I am pleased to announce that we are projecting an enrollment increase according to a recent survey we conducted for next year. Furthermore, we are presently transporting 250 students and will possibly be more than doubling that amount next year.

I believe the district has definitely reached its lowest point and is starting to make significant gains and once again becoming an asset for the public schools in Warren County.

~Al Purdy

Highlight: WCSSSD Autistic Spectrum Programs

Primary Autistic Program

The Primary Autistic Class provides services for children ages 5-9 who are diagnosed with Autism Spectrum Disorder. The program utilizes a multi-disciplinary approach with individualization provided for the specific needs of each student. Areas of emphasis are Language, Social Skills, Academics and Behavior. Therapies (Speech, Occupational Therapy, Physical Therapy and Counseling) are provided as determined by the child's IEP.



The students regularly participate in a variety of activities in and outside of the classroom. There is a daily walking program and yoga session as well as individual sensory diets and

sensory stimulation available to aid in the student's ability to self regulate.

"Routine and structure are extremely important. Every day starts the same." Explained Nina Frinzi, classroom teacher.

Ms. Frinzi has been with WCSSSD since 1990. She started as a Multiple Disabilities (MD) teacher, "There wasn't an Autistic specific class at that time. The students were put in the MD class. It wasn't until September 1995 that we were able to open an Autistic specific classroom."

"My son has been with WCSSSD for two years. He was 5 when he started and is now 7 years old. I am absolutely thrilled with the placement at WCSSSD! Since being placed with Nina his verbal and communication skills have increased tremendously. He is succeeding in his academics. He does well with reading and math and is slowly learning to write. Nina makes the most of the time that he is there every day and has high expectations for him. Before Nina, we were unsure if he had any chance of progressing into the real world. Nina is a phenomenal teacher to these children with Autism. She is an angel to our family." Tracey L., parent.

Ms. Frinzi's classroom runs on a team approach. Parents are involved as much or as little as they desire. There is a joint

parent group with the intermediate class one time per month. The parent group runs year round and provides education, information, and support to parents in the WCSSSD Autistic Spectrum Programs.

The primary autistic program utilizes speech, sign language, picture communication systems (PECS), augmentative communicators and Aided Language Stimulation (ALS). The Speech Therapist designs classroom and individual programs for the students and trains all staff working in the room to ensure uniformity and consistency.

Academic instruction is provided in one-on-one and/or small group settings. Instruction is determined by the IEP and follows the New Jersey Guidelines for Core Curriculum Content Standards. A variety of teaching techniques are utilized such as discrete trial training, modeling, fading, chaining and shaping. Inclusion in General Education classes is provided when deemed appropriate and beneficial to the child.

"We have a unique situation at WCSSSD. The students in our program do not have to travel outside the county to receive an appropriate placement and they are in the least restrictive environment possible," Nina Frinzi, classroom teacher.

"My son has been in Nina's class for about 2 years. Through his schooling he has had good teachers but Nina is a GREAT teacher. I couldn't be happier with his placement right now. I know that when he ages out of Nina's class or is able to be mainstreamed I know he will be a better student for the difference she has made in his life. When I speak to other parents about schools and teachers I can't say enough good things about her." Catherine K., parent

Intermediate Autistic Program

The Intermediate Autistic Class provides services for children ages 9-14 who are diagnosed with Autism Spectrum Disorder. Like the primary class, the intermediate class utilizes a multi-disciplinary approach with individualization provided for the specific needs of each student. The classroom routine mirrors some of the programs and procedures followed in the primary autistic class.

"Nina and I work closely to ensure that the graduating elementary level students transition smoothly into this class. It

is a team approach. We co-chair the parent meetings and implement the same behavior plan so it is familiar to our returning students." Donna Wolfgang, classroom teacher.



Donna Wolfgang has been with Warren County Special Services since 1992. She was the district's art teacher until September 2000.

Donna continues to use her background in art education as a means of reaching her students, "Art is sensory. The tactile, fine motor work and patterning are a positive filler for this group."

Emphasis in the intermediate class is placed on proper language usage in the school community. Using complete sentences to answer or request, using names of individuals being addressed, and appropriate eye contact are reinforced throughout the day.

"Donna is wonderful with my son. She is constantly challenging him with his academics.



He is doing extremely well and enjoys going to school and doing his homework every night." Frances N., parent.

"We are grateful to have had WCSSSD as an option at a time when we were at our wits end trying to find a district, a school, a teacher with compassion and understanding that would see the potential in our little boy. We still have a long road ahead of us, but with schools and teachers such as the ones found in WCSSSD, it makes for a smoother journey." Frances N., parent.

For more information or to obtain an application please contact 908-223-7273 or visit us on the web www.wcsssd.org.

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