



HOPKINTON SCHOOL DISTRICT  
School Administrative Unit 66

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TEL: (603) 746-5186 FAX: (603) 746-5714

*Above All, Care*

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To: Steve Chamberlin, Superintendent  
Hopkinton School Board  
From: Meghan Bamford, Director of Student Services  
Date: 6/2/2017  
Re: Student Services Year-End Update

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It is my pleasure to provide a year-end update on Student Services in the Hopkinton School District. I appreciate the opportunity to reflect on the 2016-2017 school year.

**Positive Developments:**

*Universal Design For Learning (UDL):* After being awarded the NH UDL Grant for the second year in a row, our UDL cohort increased its membership to include new classroom teachers, special educators, specialists and an occupational therapist. The group worked with a facilitator to help direct our learning and investigation on how to implement this philosophy of education into our practice. Furthermore, the group attended workshops and met regularly to discuss individual and group goals for implementation. We will expand our UDL work next year by planning a District-wide PD around UDL, organizing book groups, creating teacher leaders to model UDL practices, and by purchasing resources to design flexible learning environments that work for all learners. We also want to create ways to make the information about UDL readily available so that all of the educators in the HSD understand the concepts of UDL.

*Increased Efficiency to Allow Special Education Teachers More Time with Students:* In efforts to meet the growing compliance requirements of the NH Department of Education, the Special Education Department now has a Special Education Assistant designed to collaborate closely with special educators within the Harold Martin School and the Hopkinton Middle High School. The purpose of this position is to help input information in the State data system and to organize paperwork required by federal and NH law. Teachers in these buildings report that this additional support is “so incredibly appreciated” and it has helped them to spend more time providing services to their students.

*Optimizing District Resources:* In my examination of the District’s use of the online MSB system (which serves to allow special educators to create and maintain District special education documents) during our Compliance Review and in my quest to optimize support resources, I discovered the inefficiency of the double entry of information into 2 systems. Additionally, the cost of personnel to do the double entry exceeded the need for the Special Education Department to use this system. Therefore, we will be fully working within the free, state-run NHSEIS system beginning in September 2017. This year our Special Education Department focus was to provide professional development to special education staff, to fully input 179 Individualized Education Plans into the



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NHSEIS system, to create new special education documents, and to design ways for all of the documents to be stored digitally.

*Successful Professional Development Days in the area of Social/Emotional/ Behavioral Growth:* The goal for our Student Services Department was to gain a deeper understanding of students who struggle in the areas of behavior and social skills. We focused on: stress and anxiety, trauma, zones of regulation, assistive technology, Crisis Prevention Institute (CPI) and planning for complex students.

*Transition Planning for Students with Disabilities:* Next year our District will undergo another Compliance Review called Indicator 13, which focuses the planning for students with disabilities after they leave high school. Special Educators at the Middle High School agreed to participate in a Department of Education sponsored program that involved 12 weeks of study, discussion, and collaborative planning for student needs through modules produced by the University of Kentucky. Feedback from team members regarding the experience was that they had a stronger understanding of transition and planning to ensure students a successful pathway after they leave Hopkinton High School.

### **Summer Work:**

- *Adventures in Learning:* For the third year, the HSD will invite all students who have received academic support during the school year to come to the Adventures in Learning Summer Camp for the month of July. The Camp will take place in three buildings for the first time this summer to allow students who need greater time transitioning to new environments to be instructed in their new school. Also, each building will have a component that offers explicit instruction in social/emotional skills. Before this summer, only the Middle High School provided these services.

### **Concern for the 2017-2018 School Year:**

- *The number of students with issues in the areas of mental health, autism, and behavior has grown exponentially in the last two years.* The need for collaboration, resources, trained personnel and an increased understanding of the challenges these students face has never been greater in Hopkinton. Also, there simply is not the space available to teach these students who require their own space to reset, be instructed, and self-regulate. The award of the Project Grow grant will provide the District with the much-needed assistance in acquiring a greater understanding of what these students with trauma need to be successful in our schools. A Herculean effort is critical to rethink our schools and how we help these students and their families.

Respectfully submitted,  
Meg Bamford

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