

### Preschool Budget Needs for 2015-16

Menotomy Preschool is the program charged with providing services of referral, evaluation and programming for all students 2.9 - kindergarten entry, residing in the District. Students are referred by multiple sources: parents, community providers, Early Intervention Agencies, Pediatricians, and any other service agency. The APS is charged with screening, child find, evaluation, and provision of services to students with diverse needs.

We have experienced, this year, an increase of students moving into the District with IEPs formulated by previous Districts. The following is provided as an example to elucidate the needs as they are emerging. Currently we have 8 students who have moved in to the District with identified needs. Three of these students were placed in classrooms with a fourth currently evaluated but with a significant diagnosis. During that period of time, from September to November three students from Early Intervention were placed. Last year only 10 students were placed in classrooms from September through June 30. Each inclusion classroom is limited to a maximum of 7 special education students. Substantially separate classes are limited to 9 students. Inclusion is the least restrictive setting and a priority for all students as part of their daily programming.

Given these circumstances, we predict the need for a new preschool classroom, which will give us 6 classrooms which run a variety of models and schedules. At the present time, we are hopeful that with creative planning and allocation of students and staff, we will be able to provide excellent programming for our preschool students through this school year. However, the increases District wide seem to apply proportionately to the Preschool needs.

The planned new classroom is presently seen as a supportive inclusion setting with partial inclusion and opportunity for increased specialized instruction within that classroom. Identified needs are in the area of developmental disabilities, and/or social and emotional needs with response to attention and behavioral programming. The current BCBA assignment and our social worker position have been instrumental in responding to this area of need.

The Early Childhood Coordinator, Team Chair, Lead Teacher and .5 administrative support staff provide an effective coordination vehicle to run this small school, provide parent outreach and oversee planning, staff evaluation, day to day school management for all preschool aged programming. My recommendation is the ECE Coordinator should be full time with transitional responsibilities to the seven elementary school teams. The Team Chair position, currently .5 will function appropriately with a .6 position. The rationale for that increase is system wide coordination, parent outreach and orientation to the district. Other specialists and staff have intake responsibilities as well.

Thank you for your attention to the needs of Menotomy Preschool and the excellent work of the staff of this program.

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