



To: Mr. Middleton, Superintendent
Ms. Malone, Chairperson of the Board
Members of Newport Board of Education

March 26, 2018- April 20, 2018

**Special Education Alternative School Settings
(Exceptional Children Dept. Focus for April 2018 School Board Meeting)**

Newport Independent Schools provides special education services to students attending a variety of alternative school settings. An alternative school placement is an educational setting designed to accommodate educational, behavioral, psychological and/or medical needs of students that cannot be adequately addressed in a traditional school environment. A student is only eligible to receive services in an alternative school placement if the setting is recommended by an Admission & Release Committee (ARC) and/or school board ordered. In general, students identified as needing an alternative school setting are enrolled to The Regional School Program, located at 5516 East Alexandria Pike Cold Spring, KY 41076.

The Regional School Programs (RSP) is a collaborative effort between eleven local school districts. This alternative school setting offers more comprehensive mental health services than a traditional school, lower class size, and their curriculum focuses on improving student's self-esteem. RSP has been named an Alternative Program of Distinction for the past two years and are currently a finalist for the 2017-18 school year.

Currently, Newport utilizes two or the three programs offered by RSP. We have six (6) students participating in the Phoenix Program and one (1) student participating in the Challenge Program.

The Phoenix Program

The Phoenix Program is designed to serve students who have demonstrated significant barriers to learning in the typical and traditional school settings, and have also been identified as having specialized individual needs in order for them to reach their highest potential. The primary focus of this program is to improve social skills and reduce physical aggression. The Phoenix Program serves students in grades K-12.

The Challenge Program

The Challenge Program specializes in working with students who have moderate and severe disabilities. The program is designed to have a high degree of structure, schedules based on the individual needs of the students, and a low student to staff ratio in order to provide the best services for all students. Students in the program participate in community based learning in addition to the classroom. Students additionally run the school's student store, The Scorpion Store. In running the store; they are in charge of inventory, stocking, managing, and operating the store when it is open to students in the building to shop. The Challenge Program currently serves students in grades K-12.

NKY Learning Academy

The Northern Kentucky Learning Academy is designed to serve students who have demonstrated significant barriers to learning in the typical and traditional school setting. Students have access to full term courses (on-line/technology based programming) and the opportunity to recover credits from previous terms. Grades 6-12 are served.

Special Education End-of-the-Year Reporting (as of April 2017-18 School Year)

Currently in the process of reviewing the status of the following:

- Use of Physical Restraint and Seclusion Rate for Newport Independent Schools:
There has not been a report of use of physical restraints or seclusion implemented in Newport School during the 2017-18 school year. Final report will be submitted to KDE on June 29, 2018.
- Review district requirements for the use of physical restraint and procedures to be followed during and after each use of physical restraint or seclusion. Also, includes notice to parents, documentation of the event in the student information system, and the process for the parent or emancipated youth to request a debriefing session should an event occur. No changes needed. Newport Independent has met all federal and state requirements for this regulation.
- Core Team Members trained in the implementation of physical restraint per school:
Newport High School Staff: 14
Newport Independent School Staff: 11
Newport Primary School Staff: 9
Transportation Staff: 6

Core team members are designated to respond to dangerous behavior and to implement physical restraints. Certification to become a core team member requires 15 hrs. of training. The core team, except school resource officers and other sworn law enforcement officers, shall receive yearly training in the following areas:

- ✓ Appropriate procedures for preventing the use of physical restraint except as permitted;
 - ✓ A description and identification of dangerous behaviors that may indicate the need for physical restraint and methods for evaluating the risk of harm in individual situations, in order to determine whether the use of physical restraint is safe and warranted;
 - ✓ Simulated experience of administering and receiving physical restraint, and instruction regarding the effect on the person physically restrained, including
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instruction on monitoring physical signs of distress and obtaining medical assistance;

- ✓ Instruction regarding documentation and notification requirements and investigation of injuries; and
- ✓ Demonstration of proficiency in the prevention and use of physical restraints.

Exceptional Children Operations

- Conducted one ARC First Step Meetings. Three year old students scheduled to enroll to Newport Ind. within six months.
- Chaired three (3) ARC meetings

Exceptional Children Programming Rates

- 504/ADA – 20 Students
- Special Education Services – 222 Students
- Phoenix Program – 6 Students
- Challenge Program – 1 Student
- Home School Students – 11 Students

Respectfully Submitted,

Lisa Swanson

