



To: Mr. Tony Watts
Ms. Malone, Chairperson of the Board
Members of Newport Board of Education

February 24, 2021

The focus of this month's work has been on supporting teachers of exceptional children's ability to shift quickly between virtual and hybrid forms of learning. Teachers have been working diligently to create flexible schedules so that students have access to the general curriculum.

Exceptional Children Operations

- Students attending Phoenix and Challenge Programs will continue Hybrid Programming at Regional School Programs (Two Days In-Person and 3 Days Virtual Instruction). Transportation is provided to students attending Phoenix and Challenge Programs by Newport Independent Schools.
- Twelve students are participating in KY Alternative Assessments (Alternate K-PREP) this year. Every student in grades 3 through 12 are tested on specific standards at various grade levels in Kentucky. Students identified with educational disabilities are also assessed. Some students with disabilities will take the regular Kentucky Performance Rating for Educational Progress (K-PREP) assessment without accommodations, some with accommodations and some through an alternate assessment called the Alternate K-PREP. The Alternate K-PREP serves students with the most significant cognitive disabilities. These disabilities may require an alternate means of participation in Kentucky's statewide assessment to demonstrate achievement. The alternate assessment is designed to address the needs of the students by allowing greater depth of adaptations, modifications and alternative modes of participation for the state assessment.

Kentucky Post School Outcomes 2020 Survey Results

In the Spring of 2020 Newport Independent School District and the Kentucky Department of Education sought feedback from parents regarding how their child's school involved them in developing their child's special education services.

Newport's Special Education Teachers embrace and value a parent's role in being an active participant in their child's education. Our teachers consistently engage with

parents throughout the school year to ensure parent involvement when developing their child's Individual Education Plan and Program. The results of the following survey reflect the dedication our staff has made to support our students and their parents.

Summary of Survey Questions & Parent Response.

- Did the school involve you in a meaningful way to improve special education services and supports to your child?
Yes - Newport 100%
Yes - State Average 90%
- How well would you say you understand the IEP process on a scale of 1 to 5?
Newport Parent Rating – 4
State Average Parent Rating – 4.3
- Describe how you feel about being involved in your child's education.
 1. I am very involved with my child's education
Newport – 79.3%
State Average- 74.6%
 2. I want to be more involved, but I am too busy with other commitments.
Newport – 6.9%
State Average – 10.3%
 3. I want to be more involved, but I don't know how to be.
Newport – 6.9%
State Average – 13%
- Do you feel that school staff welcome you to participate in your child's special education evaluation?
Yes – Newport 96.3%
Yes – State Average 89.8%
- Has your school helped prepare your child (14 years and older) for future employment through vocational training, exploring jobs and/or paid work experiences?
Yes – Newport 100%
Yes- State Average 59%

The report also included parent responses from across the state regarding Non-Traditional Instruction. Result of survey is reported to the Office of Special Education Programs- US Department of Education, Kentucky Department of Education, and district. Results of the survey inform our focus and the work needed to improve student outcomes and strengthen our parent relationships. 2021 Parent Survey is scheduled to open April 2021 and close June 30, 2021. In April all parents will receive a letter detailing how to participate. Survey will also be posted to district website.



Kentucky Post School Outcomes

Did the school involve you in a meaningful way to improve services and results for your child?
(This is your Indicator 8 score)*

| | Number Responded | % Responding "Yes" |
|--------------|------------------|--------------------|
| State | 6,918 | 90% |
| Newport Ind. | 27 | 100% |

Which of the following statements describe how you feel about being involved in your child's education?
(Check all that apply)

| | State | Newport Ind. |
|--|-------|--------------|
| I want to be more involved, but I don't know how to be. | 13% | 6.9% |
| I want to be more involved, but I'm too busy with other commitments. | 10.3% | 6.9% |
| I want to be involved in my child's education in my own way and do not need the school's help. | 3.6% | 0% |
| I am very involved with my child's education. | 74.6% | 79.3% |

Do you feel that school staff welcome you to participate in planning for your child's evaluation?

| | YES |
|---------------------|-------|
| State (n=6,918) | 89.8% |
| Newport Ind. (n=27) | 96.3% |

Parent Survey 2020 Results

On a scale of 1-5, where 1 = "I don't understand the IEP process at all" and 5 = "I fully understand the IEP process," how well would you say that you understand the IEP process?

| | Number Responded | Mean Score |
|--------------|------------------|------------|
| State | 6,918 | 4.30 |
| Newport Ind. | 27 | 4 |

Has your school helped prepare your child (14 yrs. or older) for future employment through vocational training (e.g., exploring jobs, paid work experiences)?

| | YES |
|--------------------|------|
| State (n=970) | 59% |
| Newport Ind. (n=2) | 100% |

The following are state percentages from multiple choice and open ended responses:

What do you think the school is doing well in terms of involving you in your child's education?

- Communication 64.1% (n=4,437)
- Following the IEP 58.1% (n=4,019)
- Hosting events/activities for parents 31.3% (n=2,165)
- Involvement in homework 32.6% (n=2,254)

What do you think the school could do better to involve you in your child's education?

- Communication 14% (n=966)
- Following the IEP 9.4% (n=649)
- Hosting events/activities for parents 10.3% (n=712)
- Involvement in homework 9.6% (n=666)

*Percent of parents with a child receiving special education services who report that schools facilitated parent involvement as a means of improving services and results for children with disabilities.



Impact of COVID-19:

It was noteworthy that COVID-19 created an inevitable impact on the result of Parent Survey 2020. In response to the question "what do you think the school is doing well in terms of involving you in your child's education", 44 parents mentioned the COVID-19 or NTI program in their response, among which 17 parents were satisfied with the extra support in home education from the school, 26 parents noted a lack of involvement with the school, and 1 parent did not give a detailed response. In response to the question "what do you think the school can do better in terms of involving you in your child's education", 9.3% percent of parents had concerns about COVID-19 and/or NTI. There was some overlap with responses regarding the IEP. Most of the parents in this group mentioned that NTI did not fit the goals of IEP where most of activities were given in person. Some parents also said they were not professional enough to give special education and therapy at home, even with the guideline of teachers and therapists delivered online. Another concern in the group is that families received less learning materials and services from the school during the pandemic than ever.

Examples of COVID-19 / NTI Parent Responses:

- In the case of speech therapy during NTI days the teacher wanted me to do speech with my child and that was not really possible. I am not a trained therapist to be able to correct the manner in which he speaks so it was frustrating, and I quit doing speech altogether with him.
- Due to COVID-19 NTI took over. We have no internet and both parents work M-F during the day. Private in-home tutors need to be an option for kids with IEPs and many needs. NTI did not work.
- I understand that this was a sudden and unexpected thing but going forward I think the NTI days should be structured to his IEP and not just general NTI work like everyone else.
- The NTI model is SUPER difficult to carry out for a mentally disabled child. Need an alternative to NTI.
- Well, since NTI began, the IEP hasn't really been followed.
- Get back in school. COVID-19 is not an issue for students or teachers.
- I have been a little disappointed that my child's school has not offered virtual speech services during the COVID-19 closure. They are calling me weekly to discuss progress, but I feel like he would benefit from a virtual session where the speech teacher could interact and model speech patterns. Not only would my child benefit from this, I would also be able to learn strategies by watching the teacher interaction.
- NTI is really difficult for parents and students.
- I simply think that the NTI makes things hard to involve a special needs 3yr old in the planned curriculum that is provided daily. Although successful in a school environment, it is a challenge in the home with four additional children. The NTI has created a set of challenges that are unlike any others. Although the material and communication are provided by the teachers, the ability to engage my child into each proposed activity is not always possible.

Exceptional Children Programming Rates

- 504/ADA – 22 Students
- Special Education Services – 200 Students
- Phoenix Program – 5 Students
- Challenge Program – 2 Student

Respectfully Submitted,

Lisa Swanson
