



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

October 17, 2024

1. Fall Unified Bocce Tournament

As part of our continued efforts to grow our unified sports participation, we are thrilled to announce that ten of our student-athletes will be competing in a Bocce Tournament on November 1, 2024, at Town & Country Sports Club in Wilder, KY. The competition will begin at 9:30 a.m. and conclude at 11:30 a.m. The event is open to the public, and we encourage everyone to come out and support our incredible athletes.

Ms. Vicki Chamberlain, our Bocce Coach, along with three other high school staff members, will be supporting our team at this exciting event. We are especially proud of the momentum built from last spring when our teams earned several 1st place awards. We look forward to building on this success and continuing to foster a spirit of teamwork, inclusion, and achievement through unified sports."

2. 2024 Parent Survey Results

The Kentucky Department of Education (KDE) Parent Survey is an annual initiative designed to collect critical feedback from parents or guardians of students receiving special education services. The survey focuses on key areas such as the effectiveness of special education programs, communication between schools and families, parent involvement, and overall satisfaction with services provided to students with disabilities. This data is instrumental in improving services and fostering strong partnerships between schools and families.

For the 2024 Newport Independent Schools Parent Survey (attached), the results indicated:

- 64 Parents responded to the survey.
- 98% felt the school meaningfully involved them in improving services and outcomes for their child.
- 100% felt welcomed to participate in the planning of their child's special education services.
- 100% of parents with students 14 years and older felt the school was preparing their child for future employment.
- On a scale of 1 to 5, where 1 = "I don't understand the IEP process" and 5 = "I fully understand," the average rating for understanding the IEP process was 4.67.

Parent Involvement Insights:

When asked about their involvement in their child's education:

- 6.25% wanted to be more involved but didn't know how.
- 18.75% wished to be more involved but had other commitments.
- 15.63% wanted to be involved independently, without school assistance.
- 60.94% reported being very involved

While our parent survey results show a higher percentage of favorable responses compared to the state average, we recognize that there is still room for improvement. Our goal is to ensure that every parent feels fully supported and informed about their child's progress, and we are committed to continuing our efforts until all families feel confident in the services and communication provided.

To address the need for stronger parent engagement and greater understanding of the IEP process, Newport Independent Schools will implement the following:

1. Enhanced Communication Channels:

We will improve the variety and frequency of communication between schools and parents, ensuring that parents are regularly informed about their child's progress and upcoming events. This includes:

- Frequent Email Updates: Highlighting student's achievements and areas for improvement.
 - Text Message Alerts: updates on important deadlines, meeting reminders, and other school activities to ensure timely communication.
 - Phone Calls: Create a direct, real-time communication between teachers and parents.
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2. Increasing Parent Involvement:

To help parents feel more engaged in their child's education, we will offer various ways to participate and support them, even for those who have limited time:

- Virtual IEP Meetings: Offering virtual options for ARC and IEP meetings can make it easier for parents with busy schedules to attend and participate in decision-making.
- Flexible Volunteer Opportunities: Create flexible, short-term volunteer roles that parents can do on their own time, such as helping with school projects or supporting extracurricular activities.
- Parent-Teacher Partnerships: Explore mentorship programs where experienced parents' guide newer families through the IEP process, creating a community of support.
- Parent Resource Groups: Host in-person sessions where parents can meet to discuss challenges and strategies for helping their children succeed.
- Share Parent and Family Resources
<https://www.education.ky.gov/specialed/excep/Pages/FamParRes.aspx>

3. Improved Transition Planning:

Transition services will be strengthened by involving parents early in the process—beginning in middle school—to plan for life beyond high school. We will work with community partners to strengthen opportunities for students to volunteer or work within the community setting.

Conclusion:

The 2024 parent survey results underscore the strengths of Newport Independent Schools' special education services while highlighting opportunities for growth. By enhancing communication, expanding parent's knowledge, and offering diverse ways for parents to engage with their child's education, we will ensure that every student with a disability receives the support needed to thrive academically and socially. We remain committed to fostering collaborative relationships with parents and improving outcomes for all students.

Exceptional Children Programming Rates:

- Special Education Services – 213 Students
- 504 Programming Rates – 15 Students

Related Service Enrollments:

- Speech & Language- 73
 - Occupational Therapy – 34
 - Physical Therapy –8
 - Mental Health Therapy- 33
 - Orientation and Mobility – 0
 - Teacher of Visually Impaired Services- 4
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Alternate Service Location Enrollments:

- Restore Program – 8
- Home/Private School Students – 0
- Newport School of Innovation- 6
- Campbell Regional School-13

Respectfully Submitted,

Lisa Swanson
