



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

February 21, 2025

### **1. Work-Based Programming and Transition Services for Special Populations**

To enhance educational and vocational opportunities for students with intellectual and developmental disabilities, we are exploring a partnership with The Point Arc during the 2025-26 school year to provide specialized programming for up to eight students. The Point Arc, located at 104 West Pike Street, Covington, KY 41011, is a nonprofit organization dedicated to serving individuals with intellectual and developmental disabilities in Northern Kentucky and Greater Cincinnati. This initiative will focus on transition planning, job training, and social development to equip juniors and seniors with essential life skills.

Work-Based programming services would begin at the start of the 2025-26 school year, integrating hands-on learning experiences within The Point Arc's vocational and social enterprises. During the first year, staff from The Point Arc would provide programming on-site at Newport High School. In the second year, students would need to travel to The Point Arc for services. This program is offered at no cost to our students.

Additionally, the Office of Vocational Rehabilitation (OVR) will support this initiative through Work-Based Learning and Transition Services. OVR's involvement will provide career exploration opportunities, job coaching, and direct support for students as they develop employability skills. By working collaboratively with The Point Arc and OVR, we aim to ensure that students gain the experience and confidence needed to transition successfully into post-secondary education, employment, and community engagement.

#### ***Program Components***

1. Transition and Career Readiness
-

- a. Students will participate in The Point Arc's Transition Program, focusing on independent living, financial literacy, and workplace readiness.
  - b. Career exploration activities will introduce students to various job opportunities within the community.
2. Vocational Training
  - a. Students will gain hands-on experience at The Point Arc's social enterprises, including The Point Perk Coffee Shop, The Point Commercial Laundry, and ZELS Pretzels.
  - b. Training will include customer service, teamwork, and task management to build employability skills.
3. Social and Communication Development
  - a. Weekly social skills training will be integrated into the program, emphasizing interpersonal communication and self-advocacy.
  - b. Students will engage in structured social events, such as group outings and community-based activities.
4. Future Independent Living Preparation -
  - a. Students will learn life skills such as budgeting, transportation navigation, and meal preparation.
  - b. Residential program options will be explored for students who may require future independent living support.

### ***Implementation Plan***

- Student Selection: Students are identified based on individual transition goals and readiness for community-based experiences.
- Schedule: Students will attend programming at The Point Arc on a structured schedule that aligns with school and IEP goals.
- Collaboration: Ongoing communication with families, teachers, OVR, and The Point Arc staff will ensure alignment with student needs.

### ***Expected Outcomes***

- Increased independence in daily living skills
- Enhanced job readiness and workplace experience
- Improved social and communication abilities

## **2. Spread the Word Campaign**

Newport Independent Schools will once again participate in the Spread the Word campaign this March. This initiative promotes inclusion, acceptance, and respect for individuals with intellectual and developmental disabilities. During the week of March 17, 2025 our schools will engage in

---

activities that encourage meaningful conversations about the power of words and the importance of creating a more inclusive community for all students.

Through classroom discussions, school-wide events, and student-led initiatives, we aim to foster a culture of respect and belonging. Families and community members can learn more about the campaign by visiting the official Spread the Word page at [www.spreadtheword.global](http://www.spreadtheword.global).

### **3. Winter Games Ski competition**

On January 28, 2025, several of our students competed in the Special Olympics Winter Games at Perfect North Slopes. This event provided an invaluable opportunity for our students with intellectual and developmental disabilities to engage in an inclusive athletic experience, furthering their physical, social, and emotional development.

We are incredibly proud of our student athletes who demonstrated determination and sportsmanship throughout the competition. Their hard work resulted in outstanding performances:

- |                          |                                  |                      |                        |
|--------------------------|----------------------------------|----------------------|------------------------|
| • <b>Zachary Howard</b>  | <b>Intermediate Giant Slalom</b> | <b>Gold Medal</b>    | <b>Time: 26.15 sec</b> |
| • <b>Ricky Tomlinson</b> | <b>Intermediate Slalom</b>       | <b>Gold Medal</b>    | <b>Time: 27.62 sec</b> |
|                          | <b>Intermediate Giant Slalom</b> | <b>Silver Medal</b>  | <b>Time: 29.06 sec</b> |
| • <b>Marty Varias</b>    | <b>Intermediate Slalom</b>       | <b>Silver Medal</b>  | <b>Time: 31.80 sec</b> |
|                          | <b>Intermediate Giant Slalom</b> | <b>Silver Medal</b>  | <b>Time: 28.74 sec</b> |
| • <b>Chad Wells</b>      | <b>Beginner Slalom</b>           | <b>Gold Medal</b>    | <b>Time: 24.48 sec</b> |
|                          | <b>Beginner Giant Slalom</b>     | <b>Silver Medal</b>  | <b>Time: 23.66 sec</b> |
| • <b>Kelsey Turner</b>   | <b>Beginner Giant Slalom</b>     | <b>Participation</b> | <b>Time: Scratched</b> |

A special thanks to our staff and community partners for their assistance in ensuring the students get the support they need at Perfect North during the event.

Ski Coaches: Jennifer Packwood  
Aaron Sutherland

Support Staff: Ryan Strong  
Kate Neikirk

Community Volunteers: Sharon Bresser  
Chris Varias

### **4. Special Education Service Programming Rates:**

---

- Special Education Population  
219 Students
- Related Service Enrollments:  
Speech & Language- 112  
Occupational Therapy – 40  
Physical Therapy – 7  
Mental Health Therapy- 34

Alternate Service Locations:

- Restore Program – 9
- Home/Private School Students – 1
- Newport School of Innovation- 3
- Campbell Regional Detention -9

504 Programming Rates – 33 Students

- NPS- 5
- NIS – 15
- NHS – 12
- NSOI- 0

Respectfully Submitted,

Lisa Swanson

---