INCLUSION:
ISC Presentation by the Department of Student Services & Special Education

February 9, 2021

Lower Merion School District
INTRODUCTIONS

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INCLUSIVITY AND BELONGING

OUR DISTRICT WELCOMES

students of all races, ethnicities and nationalities
students with diverse abilities
students who are LGBTQ
students of all family structures
students who are English language learners
students of all religions
students from all socio-economic backgrounds
students of all body types

...YOU
LMSD SPECIAL EDUCATION TEAM

- Special Education Teachers
- Instructional Assistants (classroom support/1:1 aides/Behavior Aides/Job Coaches)
- Related Service Providers
  - Speech Language Therapists
  - Occupational Therapists
  - Physical Therapists
  - Orientation & Mobility Therapists
  - Vision & Hearing Therapists
- Behavior Specialists
- Gifted Education Teachers
- Special Education Coordinators
INCLUSION:
COMMUNITY COMMITMENT
INCLUSION: DEFINED

- All students are a part of the school environment and each student holds value to the community

- A philosophy of acceptance and belonging to the community so that the system is structured to meet the needs of all its students

- The process through which education systems respond to diverse learners in ways that enable participation, equal opportunities, respect for difference, and social justice
**Historical View of Disability**

- While disability has not changed, our views of the meaning of disability has changed over time – for the better.

- More recently, disability has been viewed as a result of environmental and societal factors that serve as barriers to the ability of person with disabilities to participate fully in their communities or families or to obtain the care and services they need.

**Significant Disability Rights Laws**

- **1973** - Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act
- **1975** - Individuals with Disabilities Education Act (IDEA)
- **1990** - Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA)
- **2004** - Individuals with Disabilities Education Improvement Act of 2004 (IDEA 2004)
INCLUSION: GUIDING PRINCIPLES

- Least restrictive environment and right to access
- Data-driven accountability in progress reporting
- Responsibility to meaningful progress
- Student-centered planning and continuum of services
- Collaborative decision-making
- Evidence-based practices to eliminate or minimize barriers
INCLUSION: DISTRICT DATA
2019-2020 SCHOOL YEAR

Inclusion Data

- 67.30% Included in Regular Education Classroom more than 80% of the time
- 61.50% Included in Regular Education Classroom less than 40% of the time
- 3.00% Placed out of district

Lower Merion SD vs State
INCLUSION IN-ACTION: SUPPLEMENTARY AIDS AND SERVICES

**Definition**
Supports that are provided in a general education setting that enable children with disabilities to be educated with their peers to the maximum extent appropriate.

Supports designed to provide meaningful educational benefit and avoid stigmatization during school and extracurricular activities.

Identified by an IEP team.

**Categories**
- Collaboration
- Instruction
- Physical
- Social-Behavioral
INCLUSION IN-ACTION: COLLABORATION

**Definition**
Adults working together to support students

**Examples**
- IEP team meetings
- Professional development
- Professional Learning Communities (PLCs)
- Consultation with related service providers
- Paraprofessional support
- Consultation with coach, club sponsor, or transportation staff
INCLUSION IN-ACTION: INSTRUCTION

Definition
Development and delivery of instruction that addresses diverse learning needs

Examples
- Use of assistive technology
- Comprehension checks
- Accommodations
  - Presentation
  - Response
  - Time
- Modifications
  - Instruction
  - Test
INCLUSION IN-ACTION: PHYSICAL

Definition
Adaptations and modifications to the physical environment

Examples
- Use of adaptive equipment
- Adjustments to sensory input
- Specific seating arrangement
- Preferential seating
INCLUSION IN-ACTION: SOCIAL-BEHAVIORAL

**Definition**
Supports and services to increase positive behavior and reduce interfering behavior

Process of identifying the function of the behavior

5 Key Areas:
- Self-Awareness
- Self-Management
- Responsible Decision Making
- Relationship Skills
- Social Awareness

**Examples**
- Individualized Positive Behavior Support Plans
- Board Certified Behavior Analyst (BCBA) consultation
INCLUSION: GOING BEYOND THE CLASSROOM

*DEVELOP SOCIAL INTERACTIONS
LUNCH TIME ACTIVITIES

*PROMOTE SOCIAL ENGAGEMENT
RECESS GAMES AND ACTIVITIES

*ENHANCE CONFIDENCE
EXTRA CURRICULAR ACTIVITIES

*ENSURE PEER TRAINING
FRIENDSHIP CLUB

*ENCOURAGE PARENT INVOLVEMENT
BEST BUDDIES

*SUPPORT COMMUNITY ACCESS
WORK EXPERIENCE OPPORTUNITIES
INCLUSION: GOING STRONG DESPITE THE PANDEMIC
INCLUSION: LASTING IMPACT BEYOND GRADUATION
Important Announcements

Student Services Session for Parent/Guardians
February 18th from 7-8pm

District Social Workers will share information on helpful stress reduction techniques and various community supports and resources available for students & families.

Lower Merion Township Scholarship Fund: Williams-Clarke Award

This scholarship may be awarded to graduates who plan to pursue a career in special education, general education or have meaningfully participated in organizations such as Best Buddies or Special Olympics

$2,500 matching challenge from the Gladstone family where every contribution will be matched dollar for dollar