




Special Education



Start with the Amazing

- ▶ The staff, the students, the parents, this district
- 



My Role...

- ▶ To support students and staff
- ▶ Ask questions
- ▶ Ensure continuum of programs and services for ALL
- ▶ Ensure consistency and compliance
- ▶ Ensure we are offering FAPE



What does Special Education Look Like in Bloomfield Hills?

- ▶ State Special Education Count: 207,341 (13.1%)
- ▶ Oakland County Special Education Count: 23,123 (11.2%)
- ▶ BH Total Special Education Count: 829 (13.5%)

- ▶ Highest eligibility rates:
 - ▶ Speech & Language Impaired (23%)
 - ▶ Specific Learning Disability (22.7%)
 - ▶ Other Health Impairment (16.8%)



WHAT MAKES SPECIAL EDUCATION SPECIAL?

- ▶ Special Education is not a place. It is a set of “services” provided to/for a student with a disability to allow that student have access to and to succeed in the general education
- ▶ *ALL STUDENTS ARE GENERAL EDUCATION STUDENTS. FIRST AND ALWAYS!!!*



Facts about special education

- ▶ We're required by law
- ▶ The law says:
 - ▶ we can't discriminate
 - ▶ We have to be compliant and follow procedures
 - ▶ We have to ensure ALL general education interventions have been tried with FIDELITY prior to referral and eligibility determination
 - ▶ We have to educate students in their LRE
 - ▶ We have to offer FAPE
 - ▶ **We *DON'T* have a magic wand or carry around fairy dust**



Jen's Wonderings...

- ▶ Are we compliant and non-discriminatory?
 - ▶ ARP, FPR, DS, Discipline, Caseloads, files, IEPs, 504, GERT
- ▶ Are we consistent in our general education practices and ensuring all interventions are provided with fidelity prior to a referral?
 - ▶ Eligibility look the same across the district?
 - ▶ Consistent MTSS process with fidelity of supports and interventions?
 - ▶ Data to support referrals?
- ▶ Are we educating students in their LRE?
 - ▶ Are we consistent in our special education practices and procedures?
 - ▶ Why is BH higher than the county and the state?
- ▶ Are we offering and providing FAPE?
 - ▶ Right placement?
 - ▶ Full continuum of services for ALL students?
 - ▶ Educational benefit?



Goals:

- ▶ To create an environment for us to have meaningful dialogue and learn from each other
- ▶ To understand the 'why' behind what we do
- ▶ To 'rethink' special education and work together to create a system of supports that is consistent, compliant and ensures educational benefit for students
- ▶ Where we've started:
 - ▶ Getting your input and learning from you so we know what you need
 - ▶ Working as a district team
 - ▶ Development of building and classroom crisis plans
 - ▶ Compliance and consistency – putting things to paper
 - ▶ Staff training
 - ▶ Google Classroom