



# HOBOKEN BOARD OF EDUCATION

SPECIAL SERVICES DEPARTMENT

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November 15, 2020

Dear Parents,

Before I fully unpack my boxes in the Department of Special Services I write to connect with you with excitement about the possibilities before us.

As mentioned by Dr. Johnson, I am returning to my roots in the department. I worked as a school psychologist for the first nine years in our district. As with my work in Hoboken High School's Student Center, one of my priorities is to establish a solid relationship with our parent base. Another priority is to get to know your amazing children and all they have to offer to our school community.

You are invited to join me as we resume the Special Education Parent Advisory Groups. To get us started, I'd like to offer a series of three meetings in which we could review the basics of the special education services and processes. Sometimes, in order to move forward, we need to start from the beginning. I want nothing more than for all of you to know who all of our Child Study Team Members are and what schools they are assigned to. I want you to be introduced to all of our Related Service Providers. I certainly want you to learn more about how decisions are made and how staff members are placed. And lastly, it never hurts to review timelines and department procedures. You will also be able to submit questions ahead of time so that I may answer them at these meetings. My hope is that these three introductory meetings will serve as a catalyst for a future schedule of meetings with topics and workshops that are most helpful to you.

Our department has a myriad of excellent services and staff working to meet the needs of your children. I will ensure that the department continuously evaluates our practices and explores ways to improve and expand. This cannot be done without your assistance and contributions. I look forward to partnering with you and hearing your suggestions, questions and concerns.

Please look for our meeting information in the district's website under Special Services. These gatherings will be recorded in order to make them available for parents who are not able to attend.

November 30, 2020; 4:00PM to 5:00PM "SEPAG: Special Services 101"

December 21, 2020; 10:00AM to 11:00AM "SEPAG: Special Services 101, part 2"

January 11, 2021; 5:00PM to 6:00PM "SEPAG: Parent Advisory Planning"

For our Spanish speaking families:

*Estimados padres de familia,*

*Soy la nueva directora de servicios especiales y quiero invitarlos a que se unan conmigo para conversar de las formas en que podemos mejorar o hacer crecer nuestros servicios. Quiero presentarles a los profesionales quienes trabajan con vuestros niños en cada escuela. Van a tener la oportunidad de hacer preguntas acerca de los servicios especiales y compartir vuestras ideas de cómo mejorar los programas. Desde que comencé en el distrito como psicóloga escolar hace casi 20 años he valorado la importancia de los padres y guardianes de nuestros alumnos. Los invito a que participen en las juntas de las fechas de arriba. Yo me quedaré una media hora después que termine cada una, para conversar en español con ustedes. Nuestros servicios y trabajadores son excelentes, pero la opinión, sugerencias, y la voz suya es un ingrediente indispensable.*

Sincerely yours,

Cecilia Sanchez D'Elia, PsyD, LPC

Where Students Come First