

Margaret Brent Regional School

School Improvement Plan

2006-2007

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Mission

The mission of Prince George's County Public Schools is to ensure that all students acquire information and skills and the ability to apply their knowledge to become lifelong learners and productive citizens in a diverse/global society.

This mission is best accomplished through a structure of child-centered learning communities characterized by: equity and access to a quality education that includes strong instructional leadership; high expectations for the achievement of all students; a rigorous curriculum; frequent monitoring of student performance; extending learning opportunities for students failing to meet academic standards; well trained, certified teachers in all classrooms; enhanced resources; families who are empowered to assist in providing a quality education for every child; a school climate conducive to building positive relationships; a safe and orderly school environment fostering enhanced school pride.

Prince George's County Public Schools

Section I: Executive Summary

Introduction

Margaret Brent Regional School is a Public Separate Day School that provides educational services to about 106 students, ages five to twenty one, who have been identified by the Multi-Disciplinary Team (MDT) as students with complex physical, intellectual, communicative, social, emotional and fragile medical conditions. This is a non-graded educational environment providing services with specialized equipment, highly trained and educated staff as well as an intensive staff to student ratio. Every student has an individualized educational plan (IEP) that is created by the IEP Team that includes the special educator, related service providers and parents.

School Demographics

Students identified with a physical disability are provided services through Mobility Opportunities Via Education (MOVE), which is infused across the entire program to meet the students' needs in the area of mobility. It is the school's vision to provide a meaningful education for every child so that they successfully become, to the best of their ability, independent and productive members of our society in the home, work, schools and community. We strive to establish and strengthen meaningful partnerships and relationships between home, school and the surrounding community.

The dedicated staff at Margaret Brent Regional School consists of Special Education Teachers (18), Related Service Providers (10), Special Education Paraprofessionals (27), Temporary Classroom Assistants (12), and Nurse (1). Eighteen of the staff members are White, 31 staff are African American and 3 staff member are Spanish, 1 staff member is of Indian decent. The level of experience in the school varies. The average number of years experience falls between 29 years of teaching experience to 3 new teachers. Eight Staff including special education teachers, motor development teacher, aquatics teacher and speech and language therapist hold an Advanced Professional Certificate. Three staff members hold a Standard Professional I and three staff members hold a Standard Professional II. Six teachers currently have provisional certification in Special Education and are completing course work towards certification.

Major Initiatives

Instruction for our students includes a fundamental life skills curriculum that includes instruction in functional academics, personal management, community, recreation/leisure, career/vocational and communication/decision making/interpersonal skills. The Individualized Educational Plans for the 2006-2007 school year were written with ALT-MSA objectives embedded into the plan. These objectives are aligned with the Voluntary State Curriculum on grade level for each student. In addition, the submission and review of the data, artifacts, portfolio and videotaping of performance objectives for the IEP and ALT-MSA are represented throughout the plan.

Subgroups

Students currently enrolled at Margaret Brent Regional School are transported on the school bus or by private van due to health issues. The school has 54 male students and 31 female students. The school has 2 Asian, 65 African Americans, 5 Indians, 7 Hispanic, and 6 Caucasian students. All of the students are functioning in the severe range of mental retardation. In addition to mental retardation, many of the students have multiple disabilities that include health impairments, deafness, visual impairments, orthopedic problems etc. One third of our students are non-ambulatory. One-fourth of our students are diagnosed with autism. Due to different instructional needs, varied learning styles and safety issues, our students with autism are grouped into classrooms specifically designed to meet their needs with additional staffing supports.

Safe and Orderly Environment

Due to the serious medically fragile and chronic health conditions of many of our students, attendance rates can vary throughout the year. As a result of such circumstances, those students are identified and are closely monitored by the administration, guidance counselor, PPW, school nurse and nurse manager.

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The therapeutic mealtime concerns of our students are a critical component in our program for students with significant severe and profound disabilities. Margaret Brent School has begun implementing the "Mealtime Feeding Program" during lunchtime. Partnerships between the Speech and Language Department, Occupational Therapy Department, Nursing and Food and

Nutrition Services are in the process of being established in creating a successful program in which students will achieve maximum therapeutic gains.

Parental Involvement

Our staff is committed to acquiring "best practices" in the area of instruction and behavior management through staff development and training. With families as collaborative partners in the education of our students, we will provide opportunities for them to learn "best practices" through school programs, assemblies, PTO meetings, parent workshops, and home-school monthly communications.

Community relationships continue to grow with strong support. Margaret Brent has established partnerships with the Bladensburg Rotary Club, Laurel Women's Club, Knights of Columbus-Landover Hills, New Carrollton Recreation Council, and Greenbelt Dog Trainers. Their generosity and continued support help to enhance our educational programs at Margaret Brent School.

In order to increase student interaction with non-disabled peers, our Guidance Counselor has established two mentoring programs. Elementary students are partnered with student mentors from Mt. Rainier Elementary School in shared activities twice per month. Secondary students are paired with students from Charles Carroll Middle School and participate in monthly Bowling/Math trips in the community. These mentor students will also serve as student mentors for our Special Olympics Challenge Day events in May 2004.