

HOWARD COUNTY PUBLIC SCHOOLS
DEPARTMENT OF SPECIAL EDUCATION

UPDATE

October 27, 2020



Terri Savage, Ed.D.
Executive Director of
Special Education



Trish Gunshore
Coordinator of
Special Education Compliance,
Nonpublic Services
and Family Support



Janice Yetter
Director of
Special Education

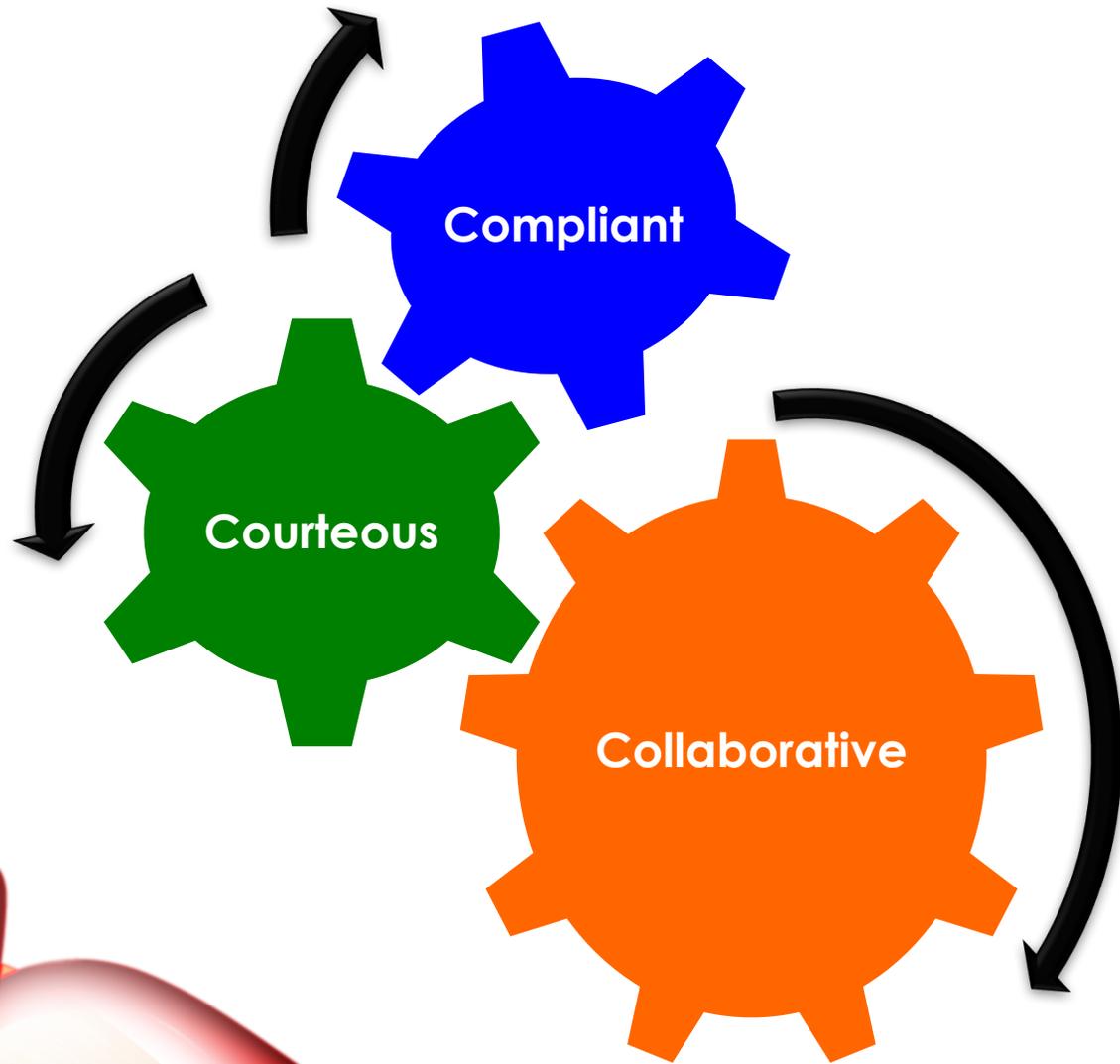


Jen Harwood
Coordinator of
Early Intervention Services



Emily Kinsler, SLP.D.
Coordinator of
Countywide Services

**DSE
Leadership Team**



We can do more
TOGETHER
than we could
ever do alone.

Helen Keller

DEPARTMENT HIGHLIGHTS

- Held 2nd Annual HCPSS DSE Parent Empowerment Conference
- Hiring a Facilitator for Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion. Position will focus on disproportionality, mentoring, and disability acceptance.
- Small groups of students with IFSPs and IEPs have begun to return to the school buildings.
 - Parents will be contacted by school administrators to confirm services we are able to provide.
 - Some services and programs will not be available, however, virtual learning structures will continue.
- Installing 8 playground communication boards in partnership with the Howard County Autism Society.

OFFICE OF EARLY INTERVENTION SERVICES

- Infant & Toddler services for infants/children who have developmental needs that are unable to be fully addressed in virtual.
 - Providers are working closely with parents to maintain natural environment services through coaching.
- Early intervention teams are including Family Connections as part of their days. Engagement is high and coaching relations have been strengthened.
- Planning for additional small group opportunities for students served in multiple intense needs classrooms.

OFFICE OF COUNTYWIDE SERVICES

- Students are receiving tele-therapy and interventions from related service providers and support teachers.
- Equipment is being provided as needed and appropriate for the home environment to address individual needs.
- Assessments are being conducted at our central site. Case managers are scheduling students into available slots.

OFFICE OF K-12 SCHOOL-BASED SUPPORTS & TRANSITION SERVICES

- Transition teachers providing direct instruction in job readiness skills. New virtual job shadowing experiences will be begin in November.
- Over 2,000 feedback forms received from paraprofessionals on synchronous and asynchronous PL including virtual learning and learning roles and responsibilities.
- 294 elementary and secondary teachers received reading intervention training in Really Great Reading and Systematic Instruction in Phonological Awareness, Phonics and Sight Words.
- 38 special educators invited to Orton-Gillingham training through grant funding in three phases during October and November.

OFFICE OF NONPUBLIC SERVICES, SPECIAL EDUCATION COMPLIANCE, AND FAMILY SUPPORT

- Office was restructured to provide more coordinated support to schools and families
- Focusing on creating more efficiencies with case management responsibilities and the Central Education Placement Team processes
- Continuing to build out Parent Empowerment offerings.
 - Behavior Talks series coming soon!



INTRODUCING...

Behavior Talks

- Make a Schedule-Set a Routine
- Give Feedback and Praise
- Encourage Communication
- Breakdown the Task
- Model the Behavior
- Set a Goal
- Be Flexible
- Talk about the Behavior
- Provide Choices

Coming soon!

ATTENTION AREAS

- Transitioning more students into schools for small group opportunities and services.
- Recovery supports and targeted services to address gaps.
- Scheduling and completion of assessments for special education evaluations.
- Communication with families and staff.

FAMILY SUPPORT AND RESOURCE CENTER

Ann Scholz & Lisa Richer

EMAIL FSRC@hcpss.org or CALL (410)313-7161

