

## **Special Education Services in the General Education Setting**

Students with special needs in the Ware Public Schools will receive equal educational opportunities, accessing the general curriculum to the maximum extent appropriate to the needs of the child. In accordance with Federal and State laws and regulations, the Ware Public Schools will maintain high academic standards for children with disabilities, consistent with standards and expectations for all students in the educational system.

Special education efficacy studies show that placement outside of general education has little or no positive effects for students, regardless of the type or intensity of the disability. Research reviews document that special needs students educated in general education classes do better academically and socially than comparable students in non-inclusive settings, regardless of the type of disability or grade level.

Both the general and special education teachers will share responsibility for teaching all assigned students and collaboratively plan and teach to meet the needs of all students. Based on the student's IEP, services will be provided using one or more of the following models:

1. Consultation

General and special education teachers meet to plan and make modifications and accommodations. Special education teachers can also model strategies and provide supplemental resources.

2. Team Teaching

*Co-teaching:* All primary instruction would be provided by both a general education teacher and a special education teacher. This model could include one teacher providing the instruction with the other teacher providing support and assistance; one teacher providing enrichment and one teacher providing remediation; station or parallel teaching; and/or one teacher teaching the skill and one teacher modeling the skill. All students benefit from the instructional strategies expertise of the special education teacher and the content expertise of the general education teacher.

*Small group work:* Teachers provide study skills and content area support necessary to make classroom experiences successful.

3. Paraprofessional Services

Qualified paraprofessionals work in the classroom, check students' progress, provide individual and/or small group support, assist the teacher, administer tests, and report back to the general and special education teachers.

4. Methods and Resources Teacher

General and special education teachers are assigned to work as a team. Together they are responsible for all assigned students.

## **Special Education Parent Advisory Council**

Massachusetts Special Education Regulation 603 CMR 28.07 (4) requires each school district to create a Special Education Parent Advisory Council (PAC). The PAC advises the school district on matters that pertain to the education and safety of students with disabilities and participates in the planning, development, and evaluation of the school district's special education programs.

Membership is open to all parents of eligible students, as well as other interested parties. We welcome and encourage your input. It is essential to improving our programming. For further information on the PAC, contact Mary Birks, Director of Special Education, (413) 967-7261.