



Director's Report

May 8, 2024

Student Enrollment: 185

Program Referrals: All programs have referrals.

Staffing: We currently have 3 lead teacher positions open. Two in the Gateway School, and one in the DHHP Pre-K. Extended School Year staffing preparation is in progress.

Planned Expansions:

- DHH (Pre-K)
- Gateway (Elementary classrooms)
- Senators (Elementary classrooms)

Space: A space for a second DHHP pre-K has been secured with the Ayer-Shirley school district. Space at Sonoma Square has been identified for the Gateway elementary expansion. In order to expand the Senators program, we have been actively exploring available space options in the area. Buildings in Gardner and Athol as well as the New Braintree Center School have been explored. We are still looking at options for this expansion.

Coordinated Program Review: Our on-site mid-cycle coordinated program review took place on March 27th and 28th. Our exit meeting was held on Wednesday, April 3, 2024. The final report from DESE was received on April 23, 2024, and has been uploaded to the CAPS website. The review, exit interview, and follow-up went very smoothly.

Ayer-Shirley Regional School District: Our amended Collaborative Agreement has been reviewed and approved by the Commissioner. We received 8 signatures from member school committees that were included prior to the deadline. The final 4 signatures were submitted this week to be included in the final document. In the Board folder is a copy of the new agreement to be given to your school committees. While it should be noted as "new CAPS business" as a future School Committee agenda item, no further votes are required. Ayer-Shirley officially becomes CAPS' 12th member on July 1, 2024, and will be at the first Board Meeting in FY2025.

Grant Funding: Strategies to Reduce or Eliminate the Use of Time-Out Rooms - \$75,000. This grant was written to secure funding to support high quality professional development with a focus on trauma informed and restorative practices. Funds will also support consultation on modification of spaces and materials to modify existing safe/calming spaces. We were one of the 19 schools that were selected out of 69 schools that applied for this funding.

Special Education Directors Group: CAPS Central Mass Special Education Directors group has continued to meet regularly. Michelle Atter, Gateway Director and Mindy Leblanc presented an overview of the CAPS LINKS program in May. Judy Scola, SLP, CAPS Speech Services Director will present at the June meeting on the AAC evaluations, consultations, and services CAPS can provide to districts. All district directors are welcome and invited to attend and participate in this monthly networking opportunity.

Monty Tech/CAPS Grant Partnership, STEP Program: Feedback from this targeted training program has been overwhelmingly positive! At this time, we have 14 participants from the Quabbin, Fitchburg, Winchendon, Leominster Ayer/Shirley, Wachusett, and Athol-Royalston school districts. Seven CAPS staff members are serving as vocational assistants. STEP Graduation and Job Placement Recognition Ceremony will be held on June 20th from 6 to 7 pm at Monty Tech.

Board Appointments: Please remember that Board Appointments to CAPS Collaborative should be voted at school committee meetings in May or June to ensure that we are able to begin the 2024/2025 school year with a full board.

ALICE Training: Two CAPS employees are now certified as ALICE training instructors.

Upcoming Events:

- DHHP End of Year Celebration 5/30/2024
- Newton North High School Graduation 6/03/2024
- Gateway School Graduation 6/07/2024
- Step Program Graduation 6/20/2024

Respectfully Submitted: Sheri D'Annolfo, CAPS Collaborative Acting Executive Director