



Director's Report

November 13, 2024

Student Enrollment: 195

Referrals: We currently have referrals for the Gateway, Senators, and Kelly Day programs and these programs have space to take additional students.

Staffing: We have ASL interpreter positions open in our middle and high school DHHP.

Contracted Services Availability: CAPS AAC/AT department is available for evaluation and consultation. Please reach out with any speech, TVI, and O&M needs.

Highlights and Initiatives:

- **Monty Tech/CAPS STEP Program Partnership:** The STEP program was renewed for a fall session and started back up on October 28th. Participants benefit from vocational skills training in culinary work, pet care, daycare, and data entry/administrative assistant training. Employees from CAPS and Monty Tech are supporting the program as teachers and vocational assistants. Monty Tech has applied to renew grant funding for a spring session.
- **CAPS Central Mass Special Education Directors Group:** This group continues to meet monthly. This month will feature a presentation by Judy Scola, SLP, on CAPS AAC and Assistive Technology services, evaluations, and supports.

Update on Expansions:

- **DHH (Pre-K):** This classroom opened on 10/1/2024.
- **Gateway (Elementary classroom):** This classroom opened mid-October. Two students have been enrolled. Additional referrals are currently being reviewed and intakes/interviews scheduled.
- **Senators (Elementary classroom):** This classroom is open, and 5 students are enrolled and attending. This classroom has additional referrals and tours/intakes are ongoing.

Grant Update: Professional development, coaching, and modification of Gateway space is continuing as a result of the receipt of the Reducing or Eliminating the use of Time out Space Grant. We plan to re-apply if this grant is renewed.

Space: We continue to explore potential space for the Senators program. Space in the Gateway school is being modified to include more calming spaces and easier transitions within the building.

NEW IEP: The new IEP is being utilized across CAPS programs. Training and support of the new form are ongoing.

Upcoming Events:

- **Artist Retreat Performance** - Three CAPS DHHP students are participating in this fall play at Bigelow Middle School.

Respectfully Submitted: Sheri D'Annolfo, Executive Director