



Director's Report

February 12, 2025

Student Enrollment: 203

Program Referrals: All programs have referrals.

Staffing: We currently have ASL interpreter positions open in our DHHP middle and high school programs. We have a long-term substitute teaching position open in the Kelly Day School as well as a long term substitute teaching position at the Gateway School.

Space: After an extensive search we have identified potential space for the CAPS Senators Program. There is space for lease in Leominster which is in an ideal location and offers room to grow the program. Space in the Gateway school is being modified to include more calming spaces and easier transitions within the building.

Contracted Services Availability: CAPS AAC/AT department is available for evaluation and consultation. We have hired a per-diem school psychologist who is available to complete evaluations. Please reach out with any speech, TVI, and O&M needs.

Budget FY2026: CAPS leadership team has been working through the process of developing a proposed budget plan for FY2026. Stipend for referral coordinator, Lead HS Gateway -

Highlights and Initiatives:

- **Monty Tech/CAPS STEP Program Partnership:** Monty Tech did receive the grant to fund the STEP program for the spring of 2025. The application is now open for individuals to apply. The program will start back up on February 13th with the first parent/guardian informational meeting. STEP training will begin on February 24th, 3 to 5 PM on Mondays and Thursdays.
- **CAPS Central Mass Special Education Directors Group:** This group continues to meet monthly. The next meeting will feature a presentation by Kathy Black, Family Support Specialist from Seven Hills Family Services.
- **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. CAPS has applied for grant funds available for implementation of the new IEP.
- **Adult Programming:** CAPS leadership has had the opportunity to recently tour two Collaboratives with over 22 programs as we explore opportunities to expand our programs and services.

Update on Expansions:

- **DHH (2nd Pre-K Classroom):** this classroom opened on 10/01/2024. A new preschool student was enrolled last week.
- **Gateway (early Ele Classroom):** this classroom opened mid-October. Five students have now been enrolled. A sixth student has been accepted and scheduled to enroll in the new few weeks. Additional referrals are currently being reviewed and intakes/interviews scheduled.
- **Senators (Ele Classroom):** this classroom opened at the start of the school year. Six students are enrolled and attending. Two additional referrals are currently being processed.

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