

## **Special Education Parent Group**

September 23, 2016 Meeting Minutes

### Welcome/introductions

Director of Special Education Roxanne May and Assistant Director Patty Hartman provided information on the SACS transition process. Children may begin receiving services in the First Steps program (birth – 3 years old). When they turn three years old, an IEP is created. If a child is not in First Steps, the school can also accept referrals from parents who would like to have their child evaluated and potentially receive services.

When a child turns five years old, a re-evaluation is completed and there is a multi-disciplinary team meeting to establish a child's eligibility category. At age five years old, the eligibility category of Developmental Delay cannot continue to be used. Legislative action to change that and allow that category until age seven years old has been discussed in Indiana, but not passed. Once eligibility is determined, the eligible child continues through the elementary school program.

For the transition to Middle School, in January or February of a child's 5<sup>th</sup> grade year, the teachers from the sending and receiving schools will meet. The receiving school teacher will also usually go and observe the student, meet them, and start to get to know them.

Summit Middle School serves all students except those in the Functional Life Skills Program, which is at Woodside. Woodside Middle School serves all students except those in the Skills Lab Program (behavior targeted), which is offered at Summit.

A similar transition happens when a student is in 8<sup>th</sup> grade where the sending and receiving school teachers will meet. Homestead High School provides a full continuum of services for all students including Skills Lab, Learning Center, and Special Needs depending on the needs of each individual student. Students are invited to attend the IEP meeting at 13 years old and are encouraged to be a part of their meetings and learn self-advocacy. They can stay for all or a part of a meeting.

Vocational Rehabilitation (VR) is invited to attend IEP meetings for Homestead students by their junior year, but VR is not required to attend. Parents often follow up with VR as needed for their child.

Director of Special education Roxanne May said that the 2015-2016 Special Education Department presentation is on the district website. It has some information about numbers of teachers, students, etc. in the district program.

Communication of this group – A Facebook page has being developed. It can be found at: Sacs Special Education Parent Group. A one-page document about this group was created (it's on blue paper) and sent home with students. This one-page information sheet is also given to new families that move into the district and at each annual case conference meeting. An email list is being used for events and meeting reminders. The group's email is:

[specialedparentgroup@gmail.com](mailto:specialedparentgroup@gmail.com). Meeting dates, agendas, and minutes are on the district website. The Fun Friday event in August at Sweetwater went well and we may try to do that twice a year.