

Seattle Public Schools: Every student achieving, everyone accountable

July 24, 2009

Dear Seattle Public Schools Families,

Greetings from the Department of Special Education Services! I hope you are having a great summer. I want to introduce myself and give you an update on the work we are doing to make sure that schools and services for students with special needs are ready to thrive during the 2009-10 school year.

Here's a review of our priorities this summer:

- We are meeting one-on-one with principals and teachers in schools that will be implementing the Integrated Comprehensive Service (ICS) model in many Kindergarten and First Grade classrooms this fall. Each school that is serving students through the ICS model is receiving additional staffing to help provide extra support so that our students are successful.
- We are preparing for our Special Education Summer Institute, a week-long intensive training for staff and principals who will be using the ICS model this fall. We have also invited other principals, teachers, and instructional assistants who are interested in deepening their skills in inclusive practices and powerful instruction. The Institute is scheduled for August 17th through 21st.
- We are building solid teams of supervisors and consulting teachers to work directly with you and your teachers and principals. Our supervisors and consulting teachers will provide on-site support to school staff throughout the school year. We want you to feel heard and supported!

It is a privilege to be working for you and your students helping Seattle Public Schools meet its commitment to ensure an excellent education for every student. During my years as a principal, providing supports and services for my students with IEPs was the heart of my work. I promise to carry that vision to all schools and services in Seattle. I am delighted to be working with Becky Clifford, our new Director of Special Education Services. She also has the well-being and health of our students and services as her highest priority. You can reach either of us if you have questions, insights, observations, or concerns at 206-252-0058 or special@seattleschools.org. You can also find key information on our Web site at <http://www.seattleschools.org/area/speced/index.dxml>.

This fall, we will convene an ICS Task Force, a group comprised of teachers, building leaders, and family members, to help review data, assess the progress of the ICS model, and make recommendations as we continue to develop and implement a more inclusive approach to Special Education. I will send you information about how to apply to become a member of the ICS Task Force. I will also send you information later this summer about your school's Special Education Services Supervisor and consulting teacher.

Thank you for partnering with me, Becky, and the Special Education team to ensure the success of all our students!

Marni Campbell, Executive Director, Special Education Services

cc: Dr. Maria Goodloe-Johnson, Superintendent
Dr. Susan Enfield, Chief Academic Officer