

Program Proposal

The Special Education Department's mission is to identify the unique potentials of all learners and to diligently work to ensure all students have equal access to the educational opportunities necessary to facilitate their attainment of post-secondary education and career goals. Efforts to accomplish this mission must occur in conjunction with those meant to ensure RSU #13's special education programs are developed and implemented in accordance with both State and Federal regulations. Indeed, the complex needs of our special education population are best served by a multi-faceted programmatic structure that delivers services in, whenever possible, RSU #13's community schools. The Towns' continued support of the School Unit's unique learners and the programs that support their academic, functional, and developmental growth is both recognized and appreciated by administrators, educators, and parents.

The proposed budget balances RSU #13's need for fiscal responsibility, State and Federal regulatory requirements as they relate to the provision of services for children with disabilities, and the School Unit's desire to support all students' attainment of their post-secondary goals. Currently, 353 of RSU #13's students, or 21% receive special education and related services; 343 of whom are RSU #13 residents and 10 of whom are tuitioned students from other districts. Additionally, 21 students, pre-K to 11th grade, are currently in referral. As indicated in the attached population projection summary, the Department anticipates an increase in the number of served students in the 2017-2018 school year, as well as a significant increase in their need for supports. This is reflected particularly in the services for those students who require both social-emotional and behavioral supports in order to access and make progress in their school programs. These supports include, but are not limited to:

- *Social work services in both individual and small group settings;
- *Clinical supervision for special education staff working directly with students with trauma backgrounds;
- *Board Certified Behavior Analyst services for classroom behavior plans, individual behavior plans, and FBAs;
- *Appropriately trained and allocated teaching and support staff.

The proposed budget, therefore, incorporates the projected programmatic services and supports necessary to ensure that all students' needs are met, and is designed to include the necessary shifts in funding associated with fulfillment of federal and state regulatory requirements.

Please also note that there are always unanticipated needs that arise during the course of an instructional term due to fluctuating student populations, increasing severity of disability related needs, and ever-changing social and community factors. Despite these uncertainties, however, the Special Education Department recognizes the importance of fiscal responsibility and will continue to work to find creative, efficient ways to meet these needs within the parameters set by the Towns of RSU #13.

On behalf of the Special Education Department, I extend my utmost appreciation for the Towns' sustained recognition of the importance of providing targeted and comprehensive programming for children with disabilities. We continue to devote ourselves to bettering outcomes for our students, so they might ultimately give back to the communities that have been the source of so much faith and support.

Proposed Staffing Allocations

School	Program	Staff	Projected Student Numbers
Cushing Community School	Resource	.25 Sped Teacher	5
Owls Head Central School	Resource	.5 Sped Teacher	10
Gilford Butler School	Resource	.5 Sped Teacher	5
South School	Resource	3 Sped Teachers	36
	Behavior (ISP)	4 Sped Teachers 1.5 Social Workers .5 BCBA	29
Thomaston Grammar School	Resource	1.75 Sped Teachers	19
	Behavior	1 Sped Teacher .5 Social Worker .5 BCBA	11
	Life Skills	1 Sped Teacher	7
Oceanside Middle School	Resource	4 Sped Teachers	64
	Behavior	1 Sped Teacher 1 Social Worker	8
	NECC	Contracted Organization	5
	Life Skills	1 Sped Teacher	8
Oceanside High School	Resource	4 Sped Teachers	68
	Behavior	1 Sped Teacher 1 Social Worker	14
	NECC	Contracted Organization	2
	Life Skills	1 Sped Teacher	12
District	Administration	1 Director 1 IEP Coordinator	374
	Behavior Consultation	1 BCBA	374 (as assigned)
	Evaluators	2 School Psychologists	374 (as assigned)
	Nurse	1 Nurse	2
	Occupational Therapy	2 Occupational Therapists 1 Occupational Therapy Assistant	94
	Physical Therapy	.6 Physical Therapist	17
	Social Work	1 Social Worker	374 (as assigned)
	Speech Therapy	4.5 Speech Therapists 1 Speech Language Assistant	155

RSU #13 Special Education Population Projections 2017-2018

	School							
	Elementary					Middle	High	
Program	Cushing Community School	Gilford Butler School	Owls Head Central School	South School	Thomaston Grammar School	Oceanside Middle School	Oceanside High School	Totals
Autism						5	2	7
Behavior				29	11	8	12	60
Life Skills					7	8	14	29
Resource	5	5	10	36	19	64	68	207
Speech Only	9	10	4	33	12	2	1	71
Totals	14	15	14	98	49	87	97	374

****Note:**

- Numbers are preliminary only – particularly due to fluidity of population in terms of referrals, dismissals, student transience, possible retentions, CDS identification rates, etc.