

5/19/15

Enhanced Learning Opportunities Report:

As the team moves forward in our transition to La Center's Special Education Program we continue to build momentum. I would like to provide some quick updates to what is happening in the world of enhanced learning.

Continuum of Service:

We are building a continuum of service that will allow the greatest flexibility to meet the diverse learning needs of our students. One example is our life skills program, which from this point forward will be called transition. Next year for the first time we will have a transition program at each school. The continuity of service for our students and families allows students to move through our schools and be served regardless of the school they attend. Elementary students will transition to middle school, middle school students will transition to high school, and high school students will transition to work.

Personnel:

I am excited to report that we have cross-walked a majority of our paraeducators and certificated staff. Our internal hiring is almost complete and we plan on starting our external interviewing process early next week.

Professional Development:

We are rapidly making plans to bring folks up to speed with the ever changing landscape of special education. On May 20th, several staff members will attend a law conference in Olympia. We'll report our learning to the certificated staff in our next staff meeting. Additionally we are working on adopting a paraeducator handbook for the coming year. This will guide our professional development with our classified staff at the start of next year.

Students:

Last year a student entered our high school transition program. He is nonverbal, however, participates in class and does communicate through some limited sign language or writing. Karla Karukes and her team have a way of making connections with students, chiseling away at their barriers to get to the heart of their learning. By winter break this year he was answering sporadically one word answers like yes and thanks. This year for his SLC he was able to read the entire presentation out loud. He is making amazing gains academically and socially. Additionally, we have a group of students who know him and choose to eat lunch with him every day. They include him in the conversation and help him feel like just another student. We have an amazing group of students and staff supporting all our kids.