



Carroll County Schools' Board Report

Special Education Program

February 14, 2013

Our district has co-teaching models implemented at the Middle & High School. This model provides regular and special education teachers working together in a regular education curriculum. As everyone is well aware, special education students are not the only population who needs support to be successful in school. The district has a high percentage of students in the GAP (low achievement) group. The below definition sums up what co-teaching is in a school.

Co-teaching is defined as two teachers working together with groups of students and sharing the planning, organization, delivery and assessment of instruction as well as the physical space. Co-teaching is an attitude of collaboration and communication aimed at enhancing student learning. The key to co-teaching is that both teachers are actively involved and engaged in all aspects of instruction.

It is not an easy task and one of the toughest parts is the attitude of the regular and special education teachers involved. The key to success is when they can collaboratively work together to the best interest of all students.

In your Board information, I have included a contract to have a consultant work with our High School on co-teaching efforts. This person is Patti Harrison, who is a retired Special Education Teacher from our High school. She has been trained in the past by the Department of Education to be a trainer for co-teaching in the State. She was an excellent co-teaching instructor for the district and we want to bring her back to help support our current model of co-teaching at the High School. Co-teaching is an art that you have to be able to collaborate with regular education and support students and the teachers. It is the best model to implement in our schools so that all students have access to the general education curriculum. Also Special Education Teachers become knowledgeable of the general education curriculum to support special education students in resource classes. It is a win-win model for everyone; however, anything worthwhile takes a lot of continuous hard work.

Janice Chilton, Interim Director of Special Education