



December 15, 2017

Dear Parents,

In the Spring of 2017, the NRSD School Committee asked me to review the pre-existing Integrated Pre-K program. Our Director of Pupil and Personnel Services, Joan DeAngelis (who oversees all NRSD SPED programming), in consultation with our district elementary principals, reviewed, researched, and examined data and brought forward a recommendation to realign the program.

At the November 29, 2017 NRSD School Committee meeting, we presented the proposed changes. In many ways, the program remains the same, and in other areas there are some changes that we feel will better serve our students.

Integrated Preschool classrooms exist to provide learning experiences for children, ages three to five, whose special education needs cannot be served at home, preschool programs or daycare centers. Children are educated with typically developing peers who do not have special needs and who serve as role models for learning.

The District Team re-visited the Department of Elementary and Secondary Education compliance expectations regarding the mandated component of the Integrated Pre-K, its purpose and target audience. We will continue to be in full compliance with the state's expectations as we have in previous years. We will continue ongoing evaluation of the program, just as we do for all district programs.

Changes to our Integrated Pre-K program were recommended to ensure a smooth transition between the SPED Pre-K students and their corresponding "next step" programs. Next year's model, for example, illustrates smooth transitions for each of the three unique programs across the district.

NRSD also runs one substantially separate classroom, "Little LINKS", which will be housed next year in Lancaster. This year, it is in Bolton, yet feeds to the elementary program in Lancaster. Next year we will run that program in Lancaster for a smoother transition for our children.

We have assembled an FAQ sheet to address commonly asked questions; one of the most commonly asked, for example, concerns tuition rates. My recommendation to the School Committee will be to keep rates consistent with this year's tuition for both the Pre-K and K programs for the 2018-2019 school year.

I encourage you to reach out to your building principals if you have any additional questions about our Integrated Pre-K program. If your questions are related to Special Education, please feel free to contact our Director of Pupil Services, Joan DeAngelis ext. 3014, or your Team Chair. I will also continue to be available for further follow-up.

In closing, I am cognizant that the deadline for expressing interest in our Integrated Pre-K program is fast approaching. With that in mind, I am extending the deadline to December 22, 2017.

Thank you.

Brooke Clenchy
Superintendent of Schools

This information can also be found on the District Website Homepage, www.nrsd.net