

Welcome to ACNJ's

*Lunch &  
Learn*



# ***Before the IEP***

**Facilitated by:**

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# School Services That Can Help Students

- **Tiered Level of Supports**
  - **Academic and/or Behavior**
- **Guidance Counseling Services**
- **Intervention and Referral Services**
- **Health plans**
- **Multilingual Learner Services**
- **504 Plans**



# Tiered System of Supports

- **School leadership:**
  - Should ensure staff training and collaboration between staff
- **Family and Community Engagement:**
  - Families and community partners should help develop strategies
  - Parents should receive information in culturally responsive ways and in appropriate languages about universal screenings, curriculum, assessment results and available school supports
- **Positive School Culture and Climate:**
  - Staff training and curriculum for positive social emotional development and positive behavior supports

## Services range from universal to targeted to intensive supports

- For students with academic weaknesses or emotional/behavioral difficulties
- Implementation of strategies that are data-driven
- Staff should regularly review data and strategies
- If strategies aren't working, consider changes or more intensive supports: IR&S or child study team evaluations.

# Guidance Counseling Services

**Example of issues that school counseling can address:**

- managing stress, worry, anger, anxiety
  - dealing with friends, bullying
  - dealing with loss/ family changes
  - crisis intervention
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- Referrals to community-based services
  - Facilitate enrollment in vocational schools
  - Career and higher education guidance



# Intervention and Referral Services

- Every school has an IR&S team to help students with more serious issues
- An IR&S plan is a written document developed by an IR&S team and that the parent can help participate in planning – no formal evaluation or diagnosis is needed.
- Should be reviewed annually and revised at any time it is not working
- The team could include a guidance counselor, principal and/or the child study team
- **Services cannot delay child study team evaluations when there is evidence that a child may be eligible for special education or a 504 plan**

## IR&S Can Provide Many Supports For a Variety of Issues Including:

- Supplemental academic instruction in small groups
- Tutoring
- Mental health
- Discipline/ Behavior/ Harassment , Intimidation and Bullying
- Poor Attendance/ Truancy
- Credit recovery when students fail classes or miss too much school

# Health Plans and Nursing Services

**Schools must ensure that all students receive annual health screenings**

**Individualized health care plans and individualized emergency health care plans, are available as needed for students with chronic medical conditions**

**Management of allergies and life-threatening illnesses including safety plan, emergencies, administration of medicine and as needed, student self-administration**



# Multilingual Learner Services

- For students when their primary language is not English and who do not have English language proficiency
- Schools must offer bilingual instruction and English as a Second Language program (ESL), ESL only or English language services depending on the number of students in need of these services
- Students are entitled to many additional support services as are their parents, if their parents don't speak English or aren't fluent.





# 504 Plans

## Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act, a Federal Anti-Discrimination Law

- For students who have a disabling condition that impact their ability to learn and require reasonable accommodations and supports to have the same opportunity to learn and succeed as non-disabled students
- For students who can learn in a general education setting with reasonable supports and accommodations and who do not need special education instruction.
- Therapies and modifications available through an IEP are available through a 504 plan
- A written document based upon evaluations, the input of school staff and parents
- The plan should be reviewed annually and revised as necessary.
- Entitlement to child study team evaluations
- Protections in discipline based upon the student's disability

# Some Helpful Resources

From ACNJ's Students Rights Page:

[https://acnj.org/multilingual-learners-and-parents-rights-in-public\\_schoolsfact\\_sheet/](https://acnj.org/multilingual-learners-and-parents-rights-in-public_schoolsfact_sheet/)

<https://acnj.org/learn-about-harassment-intimidation-and-bullying-laws-in-new-jersey/>

From the New Jersey Department of Education:

<https://www.nj.gov/education/safety/health/>

<https://www.nj.gov/education/njtss/resources/irs/index.shtml>

<https://www.nj.gov/education/safety/wellness/mh/>

From the U.S. Department of Education (regarding 504 plans)

<https://www.ed.gov/laws-and-policy/individuals-disabilities/protecting-students-with-disabilities>



**QUESTIONS??**



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