



2015-2016 Staff Recognition/ Teaching Excellence Award Presentation & Update on 2016-2017 Goals

FALL PRESENTATION TO THE ABRSD SCHOOL COMMITTEE

Our Mission

*To ensure understanding, respect, support,
and the appropriate education of all children in our community.*

The Special Education Parent Advisory Council's duties under state law include:

“advising the district on matters that pertain to the education and safety of students with disabilities and meeting regularly with school officials to participate in the planning, development and evaluation of the school district's special education programs.”

- Provide a network for parents and a forum for sharing and discussing interests and concerns
- Maintain dialogue with the broader community
- Collaborate with the school community to improve student outcomes
- Promote and enhance communication between families and administrators

2015-2016 Staff Recognition/ Teaching Excellence Award

- Staff who have gone above and beyond what is expected of them to support, encourage, and include students with special needs;
- Staff who demonstrate caring and empathy for all students;
- Staff who embrace and take ownership of all of the students in their care; and
- Staff who seek novel ways to understand, educate and inspire students with special needs

Based on parent and staff feedback, the Friends of AB SpEd PAC honors

ABRHS Special Educator Nikki Jeannotte

2016-2017 Goals

- Build relationships and partnerships with new Student Services leadership
- Continue to follow through with second year of APPLE plan implementation
- Offer several joint workshops or seminars with the district beyond Basic Rights
- Update *Special Education Parent Handbook* to reflect regionalization and new programs
- Work with families and Student Services to explore issues found via 2015 parent/guardian survey, particularly around communication, Out of District students
- Conduct MCAS analysis and promote stronger academic progress and improved and transparent measures of growth beyond SGP for Students with Disabilities
- Pursue IEP/504 sign off policy given 8% of parents surveyed report staff not aware child was on an IEP/504 in the previous year

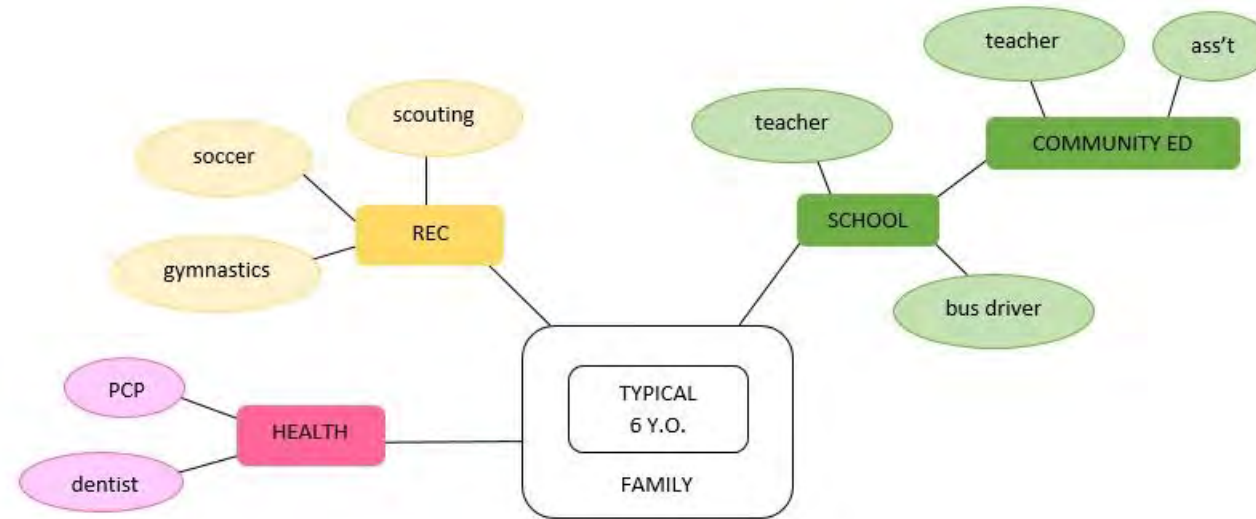
Progress

- Have met with Student Services leadership and are continuing monthly meetings with the Special Education Director
- Cohosting with Student Services a presentation on reducing student anxiety by Jessica Minahan, BCBA and author of *The Behavior Code*, on December 14th
- Hosting the ABRHS transition specialist in January to speak on transition planning and services for students ages 14-22
- Cosponsoring Sarah Ward's presentation on executive functioning with the district in March
- Conducted 2016 MCAS analysis for Students with Disabilities and will discuss findings with the district
- Issuing brief survey to follow up on communication and trust issues found in 2015 parent/guardian survey

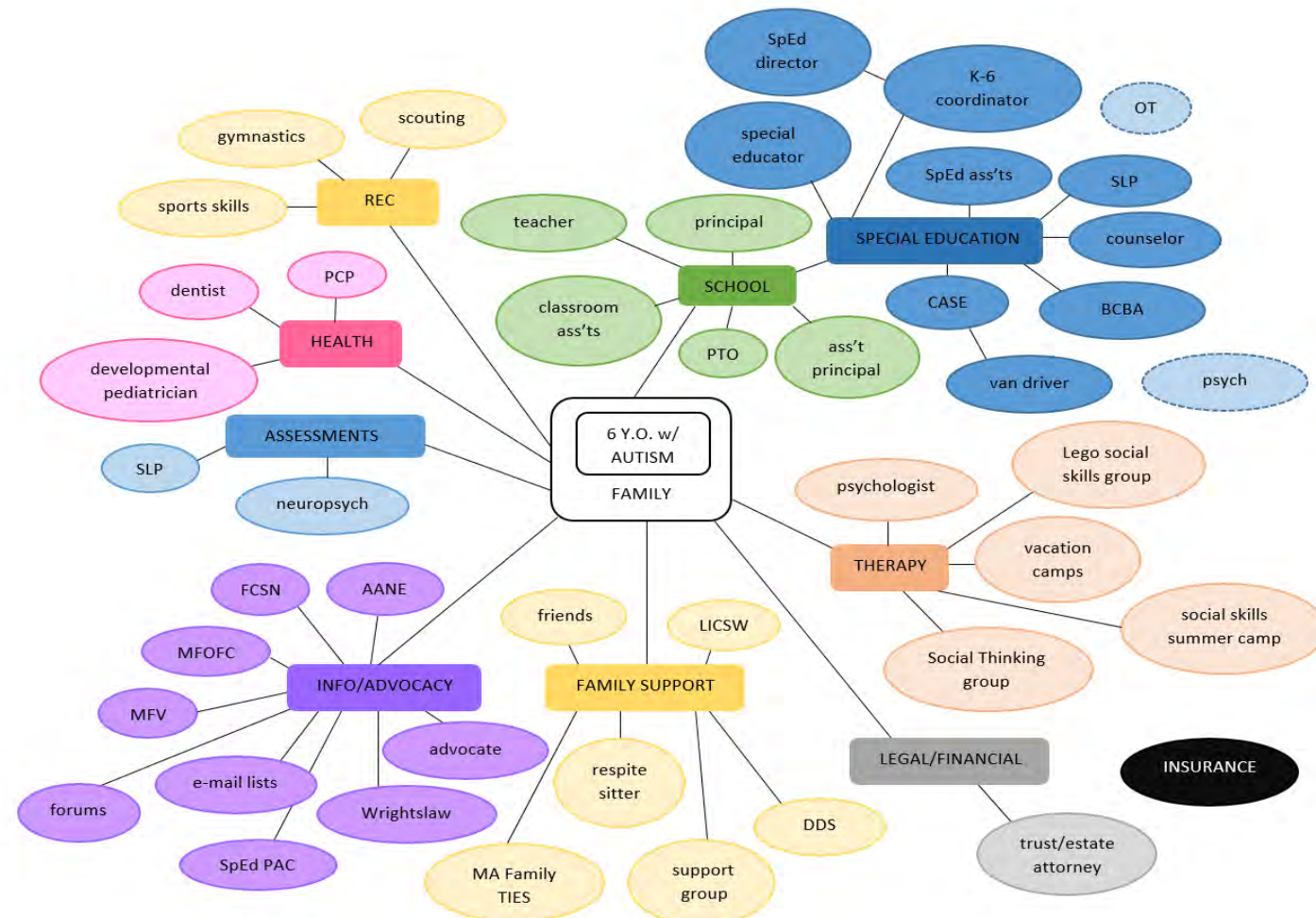
Other Priorities

- Perform High Needs population trends update
- Follow FY18 budget process and provide feedback on priorities
- Participate in DESE Coordinated Program Review process and provide Student Services with supporting documentation as requested
- Continue to provide family support with parent-to-parent Yahoo group and monthly support group
- Partner with local agencies to address community needs (DPYS, Acton Commission on Disabilities)
- Continue to reach out to broader community to increase understanding and awareness of disability issues and family stresses—e.g., visual representation through care maps

Care Map: Typical 6-Year-Old



Care Map: 6-Year-Old w/ Level 1 Autism



Next Meeting & Thanks

Wednesday, November 9th, at 7:30 p.m. in the R.J. Grey library

Thank you to the School Committee for its time and consideration.

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