

April, 2023 Updates Office of Student Services

The Office of Student Services (OSS) is currently being led by Interim Assistant Superintendent Dr. Karyn Grace, who in the last month has focused on building and integrating the **four divisions (MLL, MTSS, SEL, & Special Education)** into a highly focused and effective team for increased services and systems development for students, staff, and parents/guardians/caregivers.

Taking Action to Address Disproportionality

A primary focus is to continue to build the newly restructured divisions. Over the last month, OSS has integrated division leadership to intensively address the Department of Elementary and Secondary Education [disproportionality findings](#) for the Identification of African American and Black students with intellectual disabilities. OSS leadership conducted a Procedures, Policies, and Practices review analyzing the district's current systems and utilized the [Success Gap Toolkit](#) to gather data and identify root causes to inform an action plan.

Special Education Professional Learning

In March, the department held two sessions for district special education staff called '**Understanding Student Profiles, What Does This Mean for Specialized Instruction?**'. Facilitated by Ann Larsen through a continued [Landmark](#) partnership, the sessions were extremely well received. Here are two comments from session exit tickets:

- *“Ann Larkin is an informed presenter, who responded to our shares with humor, relevance, understanding, and immediately usable materials to best support our students and help classroom teachers learn how to support ALL students. I feel like we touched the tip of the iceberg and would very much appreciate opportunities to learn with her again”*
- *“The presenter was the most knowledgeable person I have ever received PD from.”*

We look forward to increasing special education professional learning in the requested areas of executive functioning, writing, math, and language based learning disabilities.



Multi-Tiered Systems of Support Framework Findings

Last night, the Social Emotional Learning (SEL) Division presented to the School Committee on Multi-Tiered Systems of Support (MTSS) and the focused on the division. SEL Director Kim

Huffer shared her findings within the MTSS framework to support SEL. You can [review the presentation here](#).

Workload Audit Update

The Special Education Division continues to support the **Workload Audit**, led by Interim Executive Special Education Director Dr. Francisco Alves. Special Education has been working closely with the Cambridge Education Association's OSS Advisory Committee and fielding feedback throughout the process. Thank you to all who attended the special educator coffee time to connect directly with Dr. Alves and team members.

OSS Strategic Plan Development Coming Soon

We will facilitate the development of a **new strategic plan**, aligned with the [District Plan](#), to better focus the work and growth of our programming. We look forward to engaging with a variety of stakeholders to build a comprehensive, targeted plan focused on continuous improvement. More details to come!