



Where the future is present.

3/19/2014

To Whom It May Concern:

For the past two years I have had the opportunity to collaborate with the High Road Schools/Hartford Campuses to meet the needs of students who requires a small class setting with behavioral and therapeutic supports. The High Road Schools have been responsive with referrals for placement and the admissions process is conducted with transparency and integrity to the mission of the Schools. The leadership has been responsive to the needs of Hartford in not only providing the appropriate high quality staffing and services but also in assisting the District in its own program development to meet the needs of students in less restrictive environments. The following is a summary of indicators I have experienced with frequent site visits, IEP meetings and consistent ongoing communication with staff and administration.

The staff of the High Road Schools (HRS) routinely comes prepared to PPT meetings with high expectations for student achievement and a sense of personal responsibility for student success. The program directors clearly articulate the mission of the schools, develop a sense of urgency for student success, and work with families and community stakeholders to ensure goals are being met and methodology is implemented with fidelity. All staff communicates a common understanding of research based pedagogy which is evident through student engagement and participation in the classroom. Teachers effectively differentiate instruction assisting students to close instructional gaps and meet the benchmarks of their goals as evidenced through frequent assessment. The overall culture and climate of the building is welcoming and there is a well delineated incentive system in place to reward positive behaviors. Misbehavior occurs as anticipated, however students are aware of the behavior policy and understand what is expected of them to remain on level. For students who continue to struggle even with the supports in place, frequent communication home is employed and outreach to community partnerships is encouraged.

Hartford Public Schools has been fortunate to have the partnership with the High Road Schools in meeting the needs of our special education students. It is with pleasure that I have the opportunity to discuss a few highlights of the program. Please do not hesitate to contact me if I may be of further assistance.

Sincerely,

Nathan Ziegler, MED, CAGS
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