THE GOVERNOR JOHN ENGLER CENTER FOR CHARTER SCHOOLS

CENTRAL MICHIGAN UNIVERSITY

FOCUS on Your SPECIAL EDUCATION SYSTEM

	COMPONENT	KEY POINTS
1	**CULTURE**	1. All students CAN be successful (belief) 2. The MODEL of special education adopted for the school should be reflected in all decisions; Ask yourself *"how will this affect my most diverse learners?"* 3. Create "form" of the system to align with your beliefs 4. Assist your SE Teacher; they leave due to lack of support, overwhelming paperwork, and lack of time to collaborate 5. Be a model of an effective problem solver; consider MTSS model for instruction and behavioral needs
2	**HIGH EXPECTATIONS**	1. All students CAN be successful 2. General Education Teachers are THE teacher of all children 3. ALL staff are instructional staff for any student with an IEP 4. The purpose of the provision of specially designed instruction is to CLOSE THE ACHIEVEMENT GAP
3	**CURRICULUM**	1. School Programs align to the curriculum 2. MODIFIED curriculum will not lead to a diploma 3. Grade Level Standards are the bar for 99% of the students, including those with an IEP
4	**TEACHING & LEARNING**	1. Must be INDIVIDUALIZED AND SPECIALIZED and aligned to the IEP goals 2. Specially Designed Instruction SUPPLEMENTS classroom core instruction; it does not SUPPLANT 3. Instructional programs must be provided with FIDELITY so SCHEDULING must align 4. Specially Designed Instruction is research/evidence based, fluid, and data dependent for decision making 5. Accommodations are student specific and should continually be considered as to their effectiveness and usefulness 6. Over 50% of referrals to SE will be due to lack of reading

		mastery; program for general education to make this a HIGH priority for all students
5	**INSTRUCTIONAL LEADERSHIP**	1. PROGRESS MONITORING of the effectiveness of instruction for students with IEPs is the responsibility of the school leader 2. Schedules must reflect the needs of the students and be flexible as data dictates 3. Resource allocation is flexible and values instructional expertise, vs parapro support 4. Assist the SE teacher in creating a schedule that reflects the needs of the WORKLOAD, vs. just caseload 5. Be aware of High Leverage Practices and what you should be seeing when you observe a special education teacher 6. Content Specialization aligned to use of GE teachers and Pedagogy Specialization of SE teachers can create a harmonious, collaborative way to benefit all learners
6	**MENTORING**	1. Not only required, but research based for both skill and mental benefit as well as student achievement 2. Increases retention of staff 3. Improves productivity 4. Leads to a well-rounded, skilled workforce. 5. Helps with the ability to grow future leaders (promote from within) 6. Creates cross-organizational knowledge sharing. 7. Breaks down "silo" mentality; Broadens perspective. 8. Broadens employee perspective 9. Enhances professional development. 10. Creates an open/inviting culture.
7	**EFFECTIVE DISCIPLINE**	1. Behavior is COMMUNICATION 2. Participation must be taught; a skill 3. Create a safe, predictable learning environment 4. Prioritize social emotional well being for the student population at large
8	**ASSESSMENTS**	1. Assessment are to inform decisions, not just a value to be used in a report 2. Authentically use the data, formal and informal, to make instructional alterations for student with IEPs 3. Pay attention to allowable accommodations for test taking: within the IEP and what is allowable

9	**FAMILIES**	1. Car crash or Train Wreck? Avoid/minimize; Build a relationship with your most challenged student families 2. FEAR is often expressed as anger and threats; keep focused on the positive of what you can do/change
0	**LAW/POLICY**	1. Know System requirements for reporting 2. Know your students with behavioral challenges; watch for patterns 3. Be a leader at the IEP table when it comes to instruction; ask the questions about closing the achievement gap, setting Grade Level Goals and what services will be needed, and how much, to obtain those goals 4. Your ISD is your best friend!

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