

MSAD #53 Special Services  
November 2009  
School Board Report


**Student Counts:**

Special Education: 166 Referrals: 6  
Out of District Placement: 2  
504: K-8: 83 9-12: 5  
ELL: 7  
Alternative Education: HS- 9 MS-2 GED-1 Wait List- 0  
Transfers In: 91  
Transfers Out: 61  
Homeless: K-8: 7 9-12: 3  
Drop Outs: 0  
Habitual Truants: K-8: 2 9-12: 3

**Chalk Talk:** October 16<sup>th</sup> was the first scheduled Chalk Talk. The topic, "What does all this testing mean?" was slated to be discussed in-depth with parents. Unfortunately no parents attended the session. Our next talk will be scheduled in December.

**Drug and Alcohol Counselor:** Maxine Wollph-Johnson comes twice a month and works with students at both MCI and Alternative Education. She is very busy assessing students and is just beginning to counsel them. She is a welcome addition to the district. Her position is funded through ARRA funds.

**Improving Continuous Action Plans-** We are working to meet our goals on the plans for Least Restrictive Environment (LRE) and Drop Out rates. We know that our LRE for the 2008-2009 year is still going to be too high. There have been some changes in what we consider the length of the school day which has made a positive change in our percentage of time that identified students spend with their non-disabled peers. The policy committee is refining a policy that identifies what the district must do to



support students that are at risk of dropping out of high school. While we had the committee in place that is outlined in that policy we did not have an approved policy defining it. That should be in place after this meeting. ☺

**Positive Behavior Support-Safety Care** is the name of our new behavioral program. All new teachers were trained this summer. The program requires that participants spend 12 hours training before certifying them. Twelve more staff members have agreed to participate in the training on November 13<sup>th</sup> and 14<sup>th</sup>.

**Applied Behavioral Analysis (ABA)**- All of our resource room teachers will begin training in ABA in January 2010. We have contracted with Eastern Maine Counseling and Testing to have a consultant come once a week to work with students identified under the Autism Spectrum Disorder. While we have 5 students identified under ASD we have many other students that will benefit from this strategy for learning. ABA is considered to be a researched based program especially in the areas of behavior training and social understanding. Components of this program include chaining situations for students so that the teacher would break an activity down and teach the individual steps. Students are also trained to learn through repetitive opportunities to practice that are sequenced in a routine.

*What we see depends mainly on what we are looking for.*  
*-John Lubbock*