

Office of Student Services

The Office of Student Services for the Weston Public Schools hosts a broad range of student services, programs and supports including:

- Special Education and Related Services for students ages 3-22
- Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act
- English Language Education
- Guidance
- Nursing services
- McKinney-Vento Homeless Assistance Act
- Home-based Services

Many of these supports are in place as a result of federal and state laws and regulations. Other services are provided to all students in Weston Public Schools to support them throughout their school and community.

Overall goals for the Office of Student Services

- Continue to provide students in Weston who are eligible for special education services and supports with the highest level of educational opportunities and experiences that are possible and appropriate.
- Continue to improve communication between families and special education professionals to build a higher level of trust and understanding.
- Continue to develop and improve in-district programs with a goal of consistency in programming in grades K-12 when cohorts allow for that programming.
- Examine the social and emotional well-being of students with PreK-12 administrators and teachers.

Update on Numbers of Students by Disability

Primary Disability	FY 15	FY 16	FY 17	3/1/17
Autism	37	34	32	32
Communication	43	30	31	37
Developmental Delay	47	30	53	44
Emotional	19	19	21	24
Health	90	83	87	90
Intellectual	10	8	9	9
Multiple Disabilities	4	4	3	2
Neurological	8	19	19	23
Physical	1	0	0	0
Sensory/Deaf Blind	0	0	0	0
Sensory/Hearing	3	2	2	0
Sensory/Vision	1	1	0	1
Specific Learning	136	124	120	120
Out of District	33	27	28	28
Total:	440	397	405	410

The diagnosis of Developmental Delay is only applicable to students under age 9. Students are often re-evaluated and their disability changed as a result.

The Number of Students Eligible under IDEA as of March 1, 2017

Grade	Number of Students	Total (2016)
PreK	27	
K	17	
Grade One	15	
Grade Two	18	
Grade Three	22	
		99 (104)
Grade Four	27	
Grade Five	31	
		58 (57)
Grade Six	35	
Grade Seven	31	
Grade Eight	39	
		105 (90)
Grade Nine	34	
Grade Ten	37	
Grade Eleven	36	
Grade Twelve	32	
Post	9	
		148 (129)
Total:		410 (380)

*Note: The numbers for PreK students are accurate but often, after receiving intervention at that early level, the number of students requiring specialized instruction tends to decrease by Kindergarten. Many of the students in PreK are only receiving Related Services of OT, PT, or Speech/Language.

We have seen an increase in students qualifying at the middle and high school levels. Often, students with executive functioning weaknesses qualify in middle school when they struggle to complete homework. At the high school level, students who transition into the Bridge program often qualify for additional academic and emotional supports.

Students Placed in Out of District Placements by Disability

Primary Disability	FY 15	FY 16	FY 17	3/1/17
Autism	10	9	10	7
Communication	1	1	4	4
Developmental Delay	0	0	0	0
Emotional	6	7	2	5
Health	4	2	2	1
Intellectual	4	3	3	3
Multiple Disabilities	2	1	1	2
Neurological	3	3	4	4
Physical	0	0	0	0
Sensory/Deaf Blind	0	0	0	0
Sensory/Hearing	0	0	0	0
Sensory/Vision	0	0	0	0
Specific Learning	4	1	2	2
Total:	33	27	28	28

Note: The number of students with autism decreased because students graduated and/or had their disability category changed.

The number of students with emotional disabilities decreased between FY16 and FY17 due to students returning to Weston High School, moving, graduating or aging out of services.

Program Updates

ACCESS Programs

This program is housed at the Country, Field, Middle School and High School.

- A new teacher was hired at Country. She has brought significant knowledge in curriculum modifications, behavioral supports and collaboration with teachers to the program.
- A cohort of 5 students is now at the High School.

Language-Based Programs

- Currently, there are language-based supports at Country, Woodland and Field Schools. Students receiving these services often have a language-based learning disability, and require intensive specialized instruction in phonics, comprehension, writing and often math, as well as support in science and social studies.
- In the fall of 2017, the language-based program at the early elementary level will be shifting to the Woodland School. There will be a Language-Based Classroom (LBC) in the 2nd and 3rd grades. Each LBC will be staffed by a special education teacher, who will provide intensive instruction to a small cohort of students in a separate classroom. The special education teacher will also co-teach science and social studies with a grade level classroom teacher so that students are able to fully access the curriculum.
- The program at the Field School will also change. Currently the LBC teacher works with both 4 and 5th grade students. In the fall, there will be an LBC at 4th and 5th grade, each staffed by a special education teacher, with the same services as the elementary classroom, as well as co-teaching in science and social studies in grade level classrooms.
- At the Middle School, the program is now more robust. There are LBCs at the 6th, 7th and 8th grades. In 7th and 8th grade, we have teachers who are dual certified in Math and English, who are able to meet the Highly-Qualified requirement and provide small group instruction in those areas.
- At the High School, language-based support is provided through the Academic Strategies classes. Students receive support with strategies that they are then able to apply to their academic work. Our goal is to have

small group English and Math classes at the high school for students requiring language based supports to be successful.

Learning Center

- This program is at all three elementary buildings and supports students with reading, writing and math instruction.
- Most students are eligible under categories of Specific Learning Disability or Health.
- Services are provided by a special educator in small group settings outside of the classroom as well as push in support within general education classrooms.

Academic Strategies

- This program is at the Middle and High School levels.
- Most students are eligible under Specific Learning Disability or Health.
- Students are assigned a certain number of blocks of support, based on their level of need.
- Executive Function skill-building is a focus.

Goal Program

- Housed at Weston High School.
- For students 18-22.
- Academic, vocational and community/transitional program focus.

Bridge Program

- Bridge is a general education program that began in the 2013-2014 school year and has grown every year since its inception.
- It was designed as a transition program for students returning to the high school from hospitalization for any reason, extended evaluation or for

those students who are facing emotional and/or social stressors that require more structured therapeutic support.

Year	Total	Bridge/SPED	Bridge/Transition
2013-2014	16	5	11
2014-2015	24	12	12
2015-2016	27	18	9
2016-2017	29	16	13

- An Adjustment Counselor and a Special Education teacher provide social/emotional and academic support to students in a therapeutic milieu.
- This year, we added a learning assistant (who is also certified in English) who can support students in the Bridge program and in general education classes.
- Of the 29 students this year, 10 are freshmen (higher compared to previous years), 7 are sophomores, 6 are juniors and 6 are seniors. All seniors are graduating and attending 4 year colleges.
- Plans for next year –divide into two groups
 - Those that need Bridge only as a transition (will be called Transitions)
 - Those that need the on-going support (Bridge)

No student in the Bridge/Special Education program has been re-hospitalized once on-going Bridge supports were in place.

Additional Updates

- Addition of Team Chairs at every school
 - Very positive feedback
 - Increase in communication with families
 - Increase in consistency and compliance with IEPs
- Orton-Gillingham Training
 - 17 teachers trained
 - Both special education and general education teachers
 - More being trained next year

- Professional Development
 - Project Read
 - Benchmark Assessment
 - CPI: Trainers
 - 504s

English Language Education (ELE formerly known as ELL)

Our English Language Education Program continues to grow. Based on need in the 2015-2016 school year, a .5 ELE teacher was added to the Middle and High schools this year to provide small group instruction and in class supports.

As of 5/1/17, we are supporting 89 students in grades K-12.

Grade	Number of Students
K	12
1	7
2	10
3	10
4	7
5	8
6	8
7	7
8	2
9	6
10	10
11	0
12	2

At the elementary level, 18 students entered at either a 1, 2 or 3 WIDA proficiency level. At the middle/high school level, 9 students entered at these levels. Students with this level of proficiency require the most support to learn English.

Weston has students who speak the following as their primary language:

Arabic	German	Polish	Swedish
Cantonese	Icelandic	Portuguese	Vietnamese
Dutch	Japanese	Romanian	
Farsi	Korean	Russian	
French	Mandarin	Spanish	

ELE supports are provided in small group classes at all levels, as well as in-class support at the Middle and High School. ELE teachers instruct students in decoding, vocabulary and comprehension, as well as writing. They maintain close communication with classroom teachers and families about student progress. This year, we incorporated software called Imagine Learning, that provides vocabulary and comprehension work in the student’s native language as well as English. Students are able to access the online program at school and at home, and parents are able to see their student’s progress.

Nursing

Weston nurses continue to provide exceptional care for our students. They also consult routinely with administrators, teachers and counselors about students and trends they are seeing. This year, as of April 30, they had 16,050 student visits to the Health Room. Of those, 15,423 students returned to class (a return rate of 95.5%). They also had 648 visits from staff members, with 635 staff returning to the classroom. The nurses at the Middle and High school are both retiring this year and will be missed. Patty Wright has continued to provide exceptional professional development to school staff on EpiPens, medication and overall student health.

Weston PAC

Student Services has continued to work closely with the Parent Advisory Council (PAC) to support students and families. The Office of Student Services has co-sponsored a number of events this year, including evening programs on special education services at the high school and a panel on student stress. Christen

Lacey, Chair of the Weston PAC, will highlight these and more next month. We look forward to continuing this close relationship.

Coordinated Program Review (CPR)

- Completed the Self-Assessment portion in the areas of Special Education, English Language Education and Civil Rights
- Focus is on compliance and policies
- Trends are discovered and can be remedied
- On-site visit will be in early 2018