



Special Education School  
Committee Update  
3/9/21



# Special Education Services Overview.

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- Belmont currently provides services and supports to 604 students, both in and out of our district schools.
- All Related Services (Speech & Language Therapy, Occupational Therapy, Physical Therapy, & School Counseling) mandated by student IEPs at all elementary schools, CMS and BHS are being provided in accordance with IEP designated timeframes.
- All Academic and Instructional Services mandated by student IEPs at all elementary schools are being provided in accordance with IEP designated timeframes with minimal adjustments due to district scheduling changes and challenges.
- All Academic and Instructional Services mandated by student IEPs at CMS, BHS, and OOD placements are being provided with time frames adjusted to reflect the current CMS, BHS, and OOD placement schedules, in accordance with health parameters and restrictions per DESE guidance.

# Belmont's Special Education Numbers

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Of the 604 Special Education students Belmont currently provides services and supports to...

- 46 students receive their services and support from our Integrated Preschool Program
- 456 students receive their services and support from our 6 in district schools in grades K-12
- 102 students receive their services and support from our out of district (OOD) schools

# Closer Look: Preschool

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- There are currently 65 classroom students
  - 32 of these students have IEPs
  - 33 of these students are typical peer models
- 57 of these students receive their services and supports in-person
- 8 of these students receive their services and supports fully remotely
- In addition, there are 14 students who are receiving related services only

# Preschool Continued...

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- By following all health & safety guidelines, the program has been able to operate its full in-person preschool classrooms, therapy services, and special education evaluations since September.
- The program added a remote classroom to lower our in-person student ratios, support student and staff safety, and accommodate parent requests for an all-remote preschool option.
- Efforts to meet the challenges of minimizing student contacts with each other, and cross contamination of required materials has been supported by securing two additional grants in 2020 in order to purchase additional equipment and curriculum materials.
- At this juncture, the Preschool plans to hold its Extended School Year (ESY) services fully in person as has typically been done in past summers.

# Closer Look: K-12 Students

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- Elementary
- Middle
- High School
- OOD

# Elementary Special Education Students

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- We provide Special Education services and supports to 170 elementary school students.
- 24 students are fully remote
- 146 students are hybrid
  - 63 of the 146 hybrid students are receiving additional in-person services and supports

# Middle School Special Education Students

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- We provide Special Education services and supports to 176 Middle School students.
- 46 students are fully remote
- 130 students are hybrid
  - 42 of the 130 hybrid students are receiving additional in-person services and supports.

# High School Special Education Students

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- We provide Special Education services and supports to 110 High School students.
- 36 students are fully remote students
- 74 students are hybrid
  - All 74 hybrid students were offered an opportunity to receive additional in-person services and supports.
  - 26 of the hybrid students accepted the offer and are receiving additional in-person services and supports.

# OOD Special Education students

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- Our highest needs students are typically placed out of district to meet the challenges of those student's specific targeted needs.
- 64 OOD students are served by LABBB and other Collaborative placements.
- 38 OOD students are served by private placements.
- All OOD students are receiving in-person instruction to varying degrees as determined by the student's/family choice, IEP Teams, disability challenges, and/or current placement instructional model.

# Additional Special Education Services and Supports

- IEP Teams are continually monitoring student progress and assessing any need for additional services and supports to...
  - address skill regression that may have taken place
  - assist a student's current skill development and access to the curriculum
  - provide more in-person service delivery

# Parameters of Additional Special Education Services and Supports

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- Special Education students needing added services and supports to address regression, and/or current disability challenges impacting curriculum access, may have...
  - more individual and/or group service and support time built into their regular daily schedule.
  - more individual and/or group service and support time provided in addition to their daily schedule through an extended school day or extended school year.
  - more individual and/or group service and support time provided through a targeted outside tutorial.

# Parameters of Additional Special Education Supports and Services Cont...

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- Special Education students needing more in-person service and support delivery...
  - May stay at school after their general education peers have been dismissed.
  - May come to school on some or all of their non-cohort days.
  - May do both of these things.

# Additional Updates: Evaluations

As reported in Fall 2020, we were unable to complete Special Education evaluations last Spring and Summer due to health and safety concerns. This resulted in a significant backlog of required Initial and Re-evaluation assessments and IEP Team meetings. As of today...

- 95% of the required Academic Achievement, Speech and Language Therapy, Occupational Therapy, and Physical Therapy Assessments are being completed on-time.
- 95% of the required Psychological Assessments on-time.
- 85% of the required IEP evaluation meetings are being completed on time.
  - This delay is caused primarily by limited staff or allowable schedule time due to the structure of our hybrid schedules.
- We anticipate being completely caught up and in compliance with all required testing and meeting timelines by the end of the summer.
  - This is contingent on staff and school district scheduling structures for the remainder of the school year as well as through the summer.

# Additional Updates: Staffing

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- 1.0 FTE Preschool Special Education teachers have been added to assist with the delivery of IEP services and supports and allow for a remote Preschool classroom.
- 1.2 FTE Elementary Special Education teachers have been added to assist with the delivery of IEP services and supports
- 1 Contract COTA has been added to assist with the in-person delivery of IEP required Occupational Therapy services
- 4 Contract Psychologists have been added to assist with back-logged IEP evaluations
- 2 Contract Speech and Language Therapists have been added to assist with back-logged IEP evaluations

# Additional Updates: Instructional Materials Supplies and Software

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- Additional instructional materials and supplies have been purchased to allow for students to have their own set of materials and supplies to avoid cross contamination, and/or a home based set of instructional materials and supplies to support their access to the curriculum as needed.
- Specific instructional materials, supplies and software have been purchased to enhance remotely delivered Special Education supports and services.

# Additional Updates: Professional Development

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- PD has been provided for staff to support specific skill development around remotely delivered supports and services to provide proper certification, a wider range of remote classroom instructional adaptations, and/or an increased variety of therapeutic techniques.

# Looking Ahead:

- The 20-21 Special Education Extended School Year (ESY) Programs will be providing services and supports to students who require them to prevent substantial regression.
  - At this juncture, the ESY programs are expected to be fully in-person.
  - Contingency ESY plans are also being made for a hybrid or remote program if health and safety parameters require this.
  - Compensatory services will continue be provided during the summer, as warranted.
  - Special Education IEP evaluations and Team Meetings will occur over the summer, as warranted.
  - At this juncture, we are hoping to provide all services and supports fully in person for the 2021 school year, depending on DESE guidance and any possible health guidelines/restrictions.
  - Additional services and supports will continue to be provided through the 21-22 school year to ensure student skill development and curriculum access/progress, as warranted by individual student challenges and IEP Team recommendations.