

SPECIAL EDUCATION ARTICULATION FROM PRESCHOOL TO KINDERGARTEN

Darien Public Schools - Special Education & Student Services
April 22, 2025

Today's Panel.....

Laura Straiton, Program Director - Early Childhood, SESS (ELP)

Scott McCarthy, Director of Special Education and Student Services (K-12)

Leslie Davis, Assistant Principal - Hindley

Anmarie Galgano, Assistant Principal- Holmes

Maya Feldman, Assistant Principal- Ox Ridge

Amanda Kearney, Assistant Principal- Royle

Danielle Cummings, Assistant Principal- Tokeneke

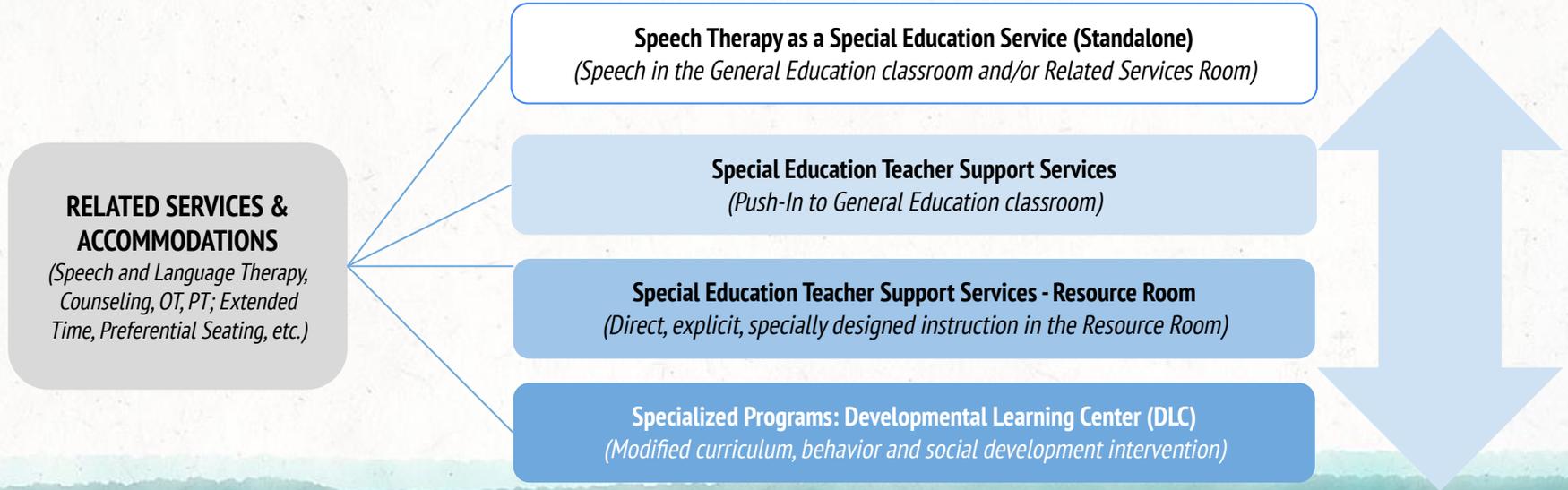
AGENDA

- Overview of Continuum (Anmarie)
- Elementary Opportunities (Leslie)
- Service Providers and Service Delivery (Amanda)
- Specialized Programs (Maya)
- Articulation Process and Timeline (Laura)
- Overview of Elementary Schedule (Danielle)
- 5 Buildings, CDSP SESS Parent Reps
- Contacts and Questions

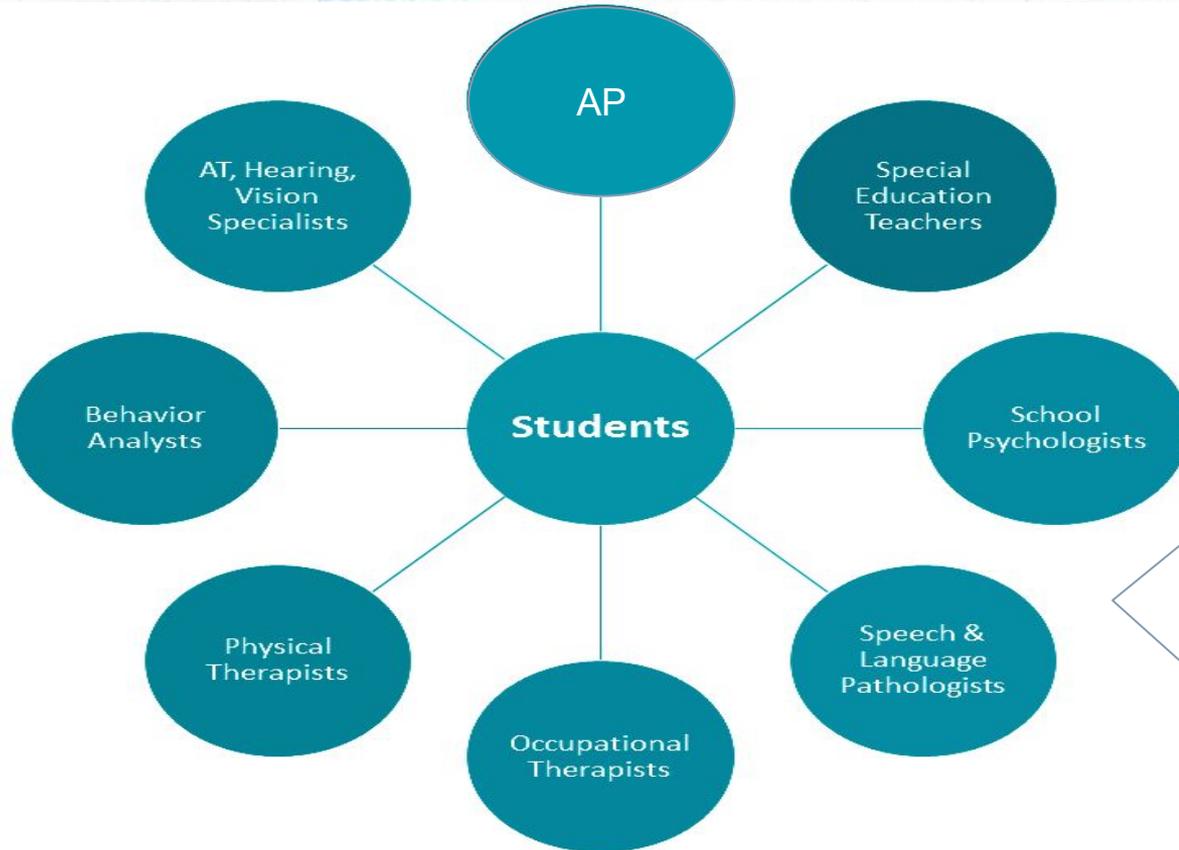
CONTINUUM OF SERVICES – ELEMENTARY SCHOOLS

Specialized instruction at the Elementary Schools is delivered to students in Grades K - 5. Students access various program options within a continuum of services tailored to meet their individual needs. Planning and Placement Teams (PPTs) develop Individualized Education Programs (IEPs) with goals/objectives designed to ensure students access and make progress in general education.

IEPs are designed to align to Common Core standards, ensure attainable goals and meaningful progress, provide services responsive to students' evidenced needs, and promote independence across domains.



ELEMENTARY SCHOOLS - CERTIFIED STAFF



Professional Development Highlights

- Orton-Gillingham
- Wilson Reading Systems
- PAF Reading Program
- Visualizing & Verbalizing
- Seeing Stars
- Touch Math
- Do the Math
- PROMPT Approach
- Beckman Oral Motor Protocol
- Social Thinking
- Augmentative/Alternative Communication (AAC)
- Assistive Technology (AT)
- Functional Behavior Assessment (FBA) / Behavior Intervention Plan (BIP)
- Physical & Psychological Management Training
- Executive Functioning
- Dialectical Behavior Therapy

ELEMENTARY SCHOOLS - SET AND RELATED SERVICES

Special Education Teachers (SET) provide specialized instruction in Language Arts (Reading/Writing), Math, and study/organization skills based on IEP goals and objectives. Related Service Providers (speech/language pathologists, occupational therapists, physical therapists) provide specially designed instruction in their particular disciplines, based on IEP goals. These services may be provided in the:

- **General education classroom:** specially designed instruction alongside general education curriculum delivery, to further support development and generalization of skills.
- **Resource or Related Service Room:** specially designed instruction in a more intensive setting (small group and/or 1:1) to develop skills through direct, explicit lessons. This includes implementation of explicit, multisensory reading and math programs, pre-teaching and post-teaching content or skills, and related therapies.

ELEMENTARY SCHOOLS - SPECIALIZED PROGRAMS (DLCS)

The Developmental Learning Center (DLC) Programs will be located at Ox Ridge Elementary school.

The DLC Program is designed to support students with Autism Spectrum Disorders (ASD) and developmental delays, who need explicit instruction, discrete behavior programs, social development intervention, and speech/language strategies embedded across environments and learning experiences.

Students are integrated into the total Ox Ridge school experience.

Specialized Programs: Developmental Learning Center (DLC)
(Modified curriculum, behavior and social development intervention)

ARTICULATION PROCESS - PLANNING FOR KINDERGARTEN

If your child turns 5 years old on or before September 1, 2025, they are age-eligible to attend kindergarten. Connecticut law requires public schools to be open to all children who turn 5 years old on or before September 1, of any school year.

- **Elementary schools** will reach out to families to set up a formal articulation Planning and Placement Team (PPT) meeting to take place in April / May 2025. The articulation PPT will take place at your home zone elementary school (or at another, mutually agreed upon location - e.g., if the team is considering a specialized program).

- **Elementary school staff will:** observe students in their current ELP classroom, review their IEPs and evaluations, and confer with ELP staff.

- **At the PPT:** representatives from your child's ELP team (SET/SLP) will participate and review history as well as Present Levels of Educational Performance (PLEP). The elementary school team will propose any new draft goals/objectives, accommodations/modifications, and service hours for Kindergarten.
 - Our elementary schools are scheduled according to a 6-day (A-F) cycle

KINDERGARTEN - A 6-DAY CYCLE

Our philosophy and practice is to meet children where they are, in all developmental areas. A transition period is expected, and staff are ready to work with you and your child.

A service schedule will be created based on the 6-day cycle and in consideration of the Kindergarten schedule.

A typical Kindergarten day:

- Morning Meeting (Responsive Classroom)
- Literacy
- Math
- Recess/Lunch
- Science/Social Studies- utilizing play based learning
- Specials (Art, Music, Physical Education, Library, World Language)
- Choice/Differentiation
- Social Skills
- Closing Circle (Responsive Classroom)

DEPARTMENT STRUCTURE

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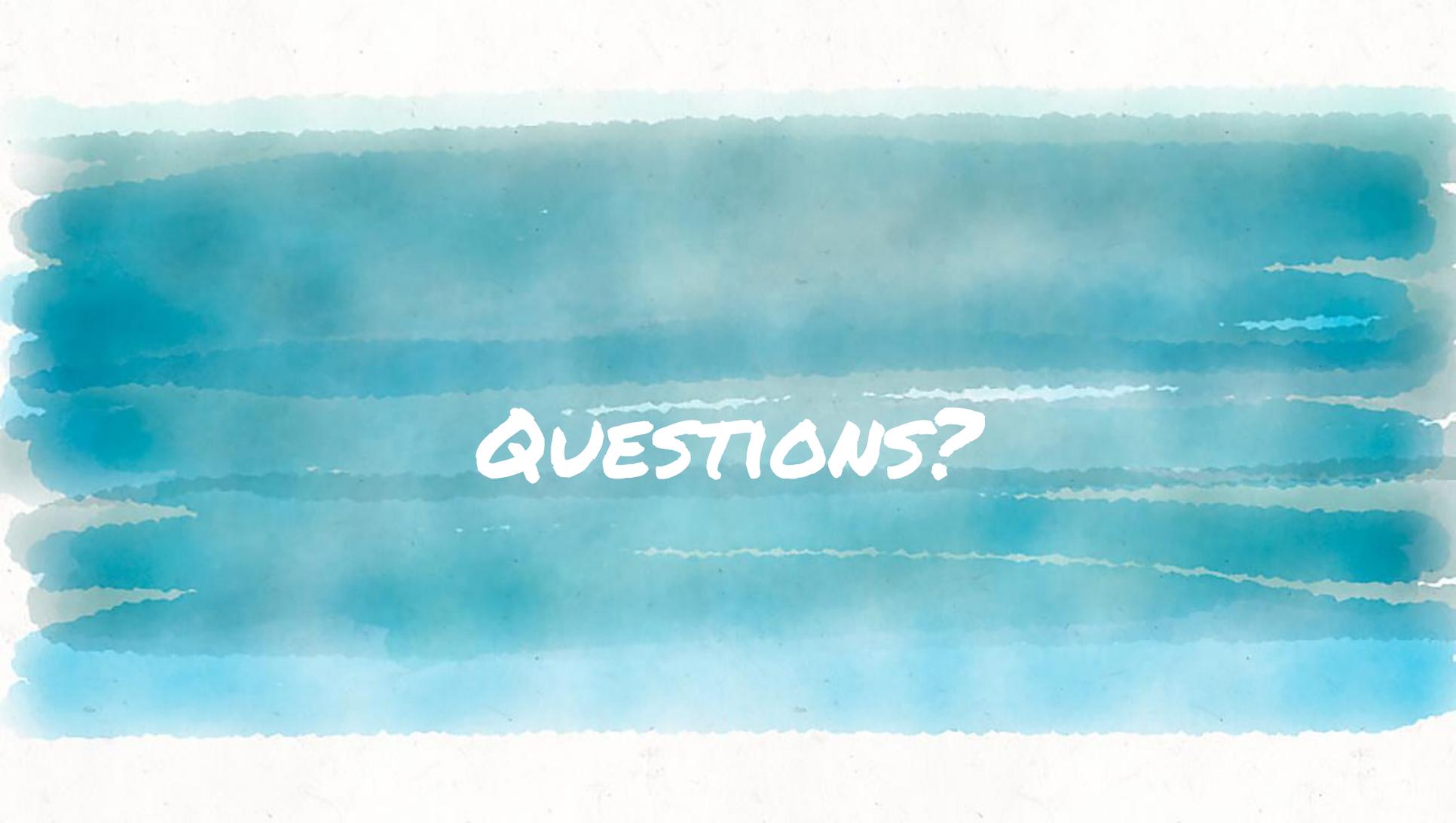
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The background consists of several horizontal, overlapping watercolor strokes in various shades of teal and blue, creating a textured, painterly effect. The strokes are centered and fill most of the frame.

QUESTIONS?