

# Special Programs Overview and Challenges

## Special Education

Program Description: The federal Individuals with Disabilities Education Act (IDEA) ensures that children with disabilities and the families of such children have access to a free appropriate public education (FAPE). IDEA is focused on improving educational results for children with disabilities.

### Students Served in Oak Harbor:

- Children with disabilities 0-2 are served through a contract with Toddler Learning Center
- Children with disabilities 3-5 are served at Hand in Hand in a collaborative program with Head Start
- Students K- 21 years are served in a variety of settings at each of our schools including:
  - Resource settings for students needing assistance with academic and social skills
  - Speech Language for students needing communication or articulation
  - Life Skills classes for students with significant disabilities requiring an alternative curriculum
  - CHOICES classes for students with significant behavioral needs requiring small class size and significant supervision
  - High school transition class for students 18-21 who need support to transition into the community or adult services

Staff: 31 teachers, 53 Instructional Assistant, 5 psychologists, 8 Speech Language Pathologists, 2 Speech Language Assistants, 2 Occupational Therapists, 2 Occupational Therapy Assistants, 1 Physical Therapist, 1 TOSA.

Number of Students Served (PK-12): 758 (633 out of 5647 K-12 total students = 11.2%)

Funding: Federal and state funding, a share of Impact Aid, and Medicaid Reimbursement.

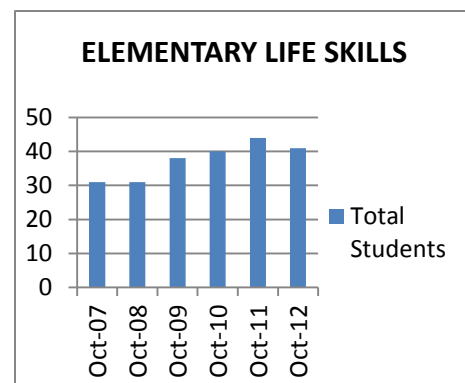
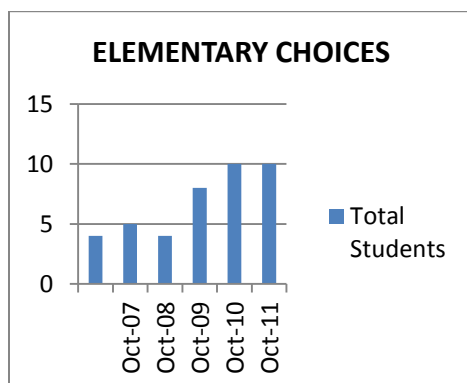
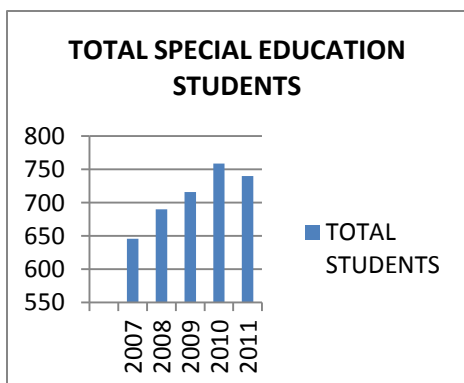
### **Challenges:**

- Per student funding does not cover costs of students with significant disabilities. Examples of services beyond our funding: full time nursing (2 students); Regional Deaf Hard of Hearing Program (2 students); smaller student : staff ratio (CHOICES and Life Skills programs)
- Although our overall numbers have remained relatively stable over the past 4 years, the number of students in elementary life skills classes has increased 30%. This population continues to rise and will affect our middle school next year where we project 22 life skills students which is almost a 60% increase and will require additional staffing. Our elementary Choices program has also seen an increase of 60% over the past 4 years. To properly staff these programs requires additional staffing.
- Decreased funding this year due to across-the-board federal budget cuts. Potential decreases in funding next year for the same reason.
- Need for maintaining and updating assistive technology and for technical support for training and implementation.

- Professional development to keep up with current practices and teaching strategies for special populations
- Providing support for students in general education while interventions are being implemented – prior to evaluation or change of placement
- Medicaid reimbursement to schools was eliminated January 2011. It was reinstated under a new program September 2011, but it continues to be a pilot program and we have not received reimbursements. This program is likely to be eliminated by the legislature.

2011-12 Budget Cuts to Program due to Loss of ARRA (funding ended August 2011) and Budget Cuts (Medicaid and Federal IDEA Funding):

- **Eliminated Positions:**
  - Psychologist
  - Preschool Teacher Career Specialist in
  - Transition Program at OHHS
  - 4 Instructional Assistants in Life Skills, CHOICES, and Resource
  - Technology TOSA
  - .5 teacher at Middle School Life Skills
  - Assistant Director position to a TOSA position
- **Reduced Positions:**
  - Hours and days for Instructional Assistants at Hand-in-Hand
  - Hours of Middle School Instructional Assistants (.5 hours / day)
  - Hours of OT and SLP Assistants (.5 hours / day)
  - Secretarial support in Special Programs Office (3 hours/day)
  - contracts with consultants
- **Other Reductions:**
  - Professional Development Opportunities for Staff
  - Supply Budget
  - Technology budget



## Special Education Average Caseloads (October counts)

<u>Program</u>		<u>2007</u>	<u>2008</u>	<u>2009</u>	<u>2010</u>	<u>2011</u>	<u>2012*</u>
<b>Preschool</b>	Total Students	64	75	67	64	66	63
	Avg. Caseload	16	19	17	16	22	21
<b>D-K</b>	Total Students	9	14	17	16	14	14
	Avg. Caseload	9	14	17	16	14	14
<b>Elementary Resource</b>	Total Students	137	153	174	163	140	136
	Avg. Caseload	23	26	25	27	20	19
<b>Elementary Life Skills</b>	Total Students	31	31	38	40	44	41
	Avg. Caseload	10	10	13	10	11	10
<b>Elementary CHOICES</b>	Total Students	4	5	4	8	10	10
	Avg. Caseload	4	5	4	8	10	10
<b>Middle School Resource</b>	Total Students	87	88	80	100	110	108
	Avg. Caseload	22	22	20	25	28	25
<b>Middle School Life Skills</b>	Total Students	12	14	10	15	14	21
	Avg. Caseload	12	14	10	10	14	21
<b>Middle School CHOICES</b>	Total Students	9	10	7	8	7	8
	Avg. Caseload	9	10	7	8	7	8
<b>High School Resource</b>	Total Students	95	102	105	117	118	130
	Avg. Caseload	19	20	21	23	24	26
<b>High School Life Skills</b>	Total Students	11	13	14	13	15	16
	Avg. Caseload	11	13	14	13	15	16
<b>High School Transition</b>	Total Students	11	11	11	16	13	14
	Avg. Caseload	11	11	11	16	13	14
<b>High School CHOICES</b>	Total Students	9	14	17	13	14	12
	Avg. Caseload	9	14	17	13	14	12
<b>Psychs</b>	Total Students	508	559	648	610	592	
	Avg. Caseload	102	112	108	102	118	
<b>Speech</b>	Total Students	336	348	356	376	361	
	Avg. Caseload	45	47	48	51	49	
<b>OT</b>	Total Students	101	113	106	130	124	
	Avg. Caseload	15	57	53	65	62	
<b>PT</b>	Total Students	26	30	31	37	39	
	Avg. Caseload	26	30	31	37	39	

\*Projected caseloads for October 2012 based on student roll-up numbers

## **Title 1**

Program Description: Title I, Part A is a federal program that provides financial assistance to local educational agencies and public schools with high numbers or high percentages of poor children to help ensure that all children meet challenging state academic standards. Title I, Part A is a formula grants program for "improving the academic achievement of the disadvantaged."

Students Served in Oak Harbor: OHSD concentrates Title 1 funds in 3 elementary schools: Crescent Harbor Elementary, Olympic View Elementary School, and Oak Harbor Elementary School. All three schools have school-wide programs allowing us to serve all students with low performance. Services include reading and math intervention. Title 1 also includes a district-wide full-day Kindergarten intensive intervention program which serves 16 students. Title 1 and LAP also provides a three week summer intervention program for pre-Kindergarten through 3<sup>rd</sup> grade students.

Staff: 4 teachers, Instructional Assistants, 2 half-time coaches.

Number of Students Served: 170

Funding: Federal funding

### **Challenges for Title 1:**

- The current Title 1 Budget is relying on carryover from 2010-11 when we had substantially more money because of ARRA funding. Next year, we will be facing budget reductions with little or no carryover to use as a buffer.
- Federal law, NCLB, requires schools that are in improvement to set aside 20% of the Budget for School Choice (bussing students to schools that are not in improvement) and SES (Supplemental Educational Support from private tutoring services). When this first occurred, we were receiving ARRA funding that buffered the impact of this 20% loss in funding.
- We are currently not providing intervention programs at the middle school . There are many students who would benefit by having reading and math intervention.
- Decreased funding this year due to across-the-board federal budget cuts. Potential decreases in funding next year for the same reason.
- Continuing summer school intervention program with reduced budget

Budget Cuts to Program due to Loss of ARRA and Budget Cuts:

- Reduced Instructional Assistants
- Reduced technology budgets
- Reduced supplies budgets

## Learning Assistance Program (LAP)

Program Description: The Learning Assistance Program (LAP) is Washington's state-funded program that provides additional academic support to eligible students. Eligible students are those achieving below grade level on the state's assessment, and 11th and 12th grade students at risk of not graduating. Achievement on district assessment of basic skills may also be considered. LAP funds are available to support programs in grades K-12 in reading, writing, mathematics, and readiness for those subjects.

Students Served in Oak Harbor: LAP assistance is concentrated in elementary schools in OHSD. It provides support at Broadview Elementary and Hillcrest Elementary, which do not qualify for Title 1 funding. It also supplements the Title 1 funding at the other 3 elementary programs. The focus is on reading and math intervention.

Staff: 2 teachers, Instructional Assistants

Number of Students Served: 207

Funding: State Funding

### Challenges for LAP:

- Current budget relying on carryover funding.
- LAP budget is focused on elementary, leaving no intervention services for middle or high school students.

## The Transitional Bilingual Instructional Program and Title III

Program Description: TBIP and Title III provide funds to local education agencies to ensure equal educational opportunities for students whose primary language is other than English.

Students Served in Oak Harbor: Students are served K-12 in all schools.

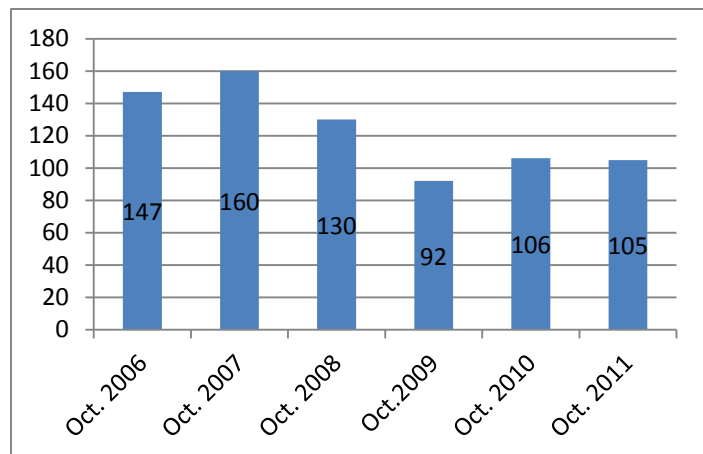
Staff: .5 teacher and 1 Instructional Assistant

Number of Students Served: 107

Funding: The Transitional Bilingual Instructional Program (state) and Title III (federal)

### Challenges for Bilingual:

- Understaffed
- Students served across grade levels and in all schools
- 13 different native languages
- Translators for parent teacher conferences



## **Special Programs Guiding Questions:**

1. How do we continue to meet the needs of students with significant disabilities as this population grows and our resources decline?
2. Federal stimulus money through ARRA funding in 2009-2011 gave us opportunities such as professional development, assistive technology purchases, and lower student/staff ratios. How do we sustain these services?
3. Early intervention is the key for struggling students to become successful. How do we continue to meet their needs with decreasing budgets in Title 1 and with the diversion of 20% of our Title 1 budget to school CHOICE and SES?
4. How do we address intervention in the middle school and high school?