



YONKERS PUBLIC SCHOOLS

INTEGRATED CO-TEACHING PROGRAM

Elementary School Program

The New York State Commissioner of Education strongly encourages school districts to include an integrated co-teaching program in the continuum of services provided to special needs learners. In an integrated co-teaching program, a general education and a special education teacher jointly develop and provide instruction. The integrated co-teaching class typically has a heterogeneous mix of students, general education students of mixed abilities and eligible classified special education students.

In the Yonkers Public Schools model, the instructional and support staff in an integrated co-teaching classroom includes a:

- General education teacher
- Special education teacher with responsibilities for two classes
- Teaching assistant

Components of the Yonkers integrated co-teaching program include:

- Two full-time educators provide instruction throughout the day for all students – general education teacher and certified teaching assistant
- Literacy and mathematics instruction is collaboratively designed and delivered by three full-time educators - special education teacher, general education teacher and certified teaching assistant
- Non-integrated skills class provides small group instruction for special needs learners with the special education teacher concentrating on literacy skills aligned with the special education student's Individual Education Plan
- Continuous instructional and behavioral support by the teaching assistant for general education and special needs learners

To enhance the implementation of the integrated co-teaching program, the teachers and teaching assistants will participate in research-based professional development in literacy and mathematics instruction throughout the 2009/2010 school year. Through this training, these professionals will develop techniques and strategies to improve the delivery of instruction in order to meet all students' individual needs.

Student proficiency levels will be measured through formative assessments. There will be a strong focus on improving student academic performance across all curriculum areas.

The Yonkers Public Schools integrated co-teaching model addresses New York State mandates for special needs learners, the necessary program adjustments outlined in the Special Education Audit completed in 2008, and is designed to enhance the academic performance of all students participating in the co-teaching classroom.

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