

PUPIL & STAFF SUPPORT SERVICES
Educational & Budget Priorities

2009-2010

The proposed 2009-2010 budget for Pupil & Staff Support Services addresses both Connecticut State Statutes and the federal Individuals with Disabilities Act (IDEIA, December 2004) laws that require the provision of special education and related services to eligible children with disabilities as well as guiding principles found in the Board of Education Mission Statement. Mandated laws ensure that children with a disability have available to them “a unified and coordinated continuum of educational opportunities and supports within the least restrictive environment with age appropriate peers”. The mission statement for Coventry Public Schools seeks to “ensure that all children will reach their individual potential”. The PSSS department’s budget reflects the special education and related services needs that are necessary to ensure that students are offered programs designed to address individual needs while serving and benefiting all students to reach their maximum potential.

The Pupil and Staff Support Services Department is committed to adhering to the tenets of the district’s long-term goals and annual objectives. The department services children with very diverse cognitive, physical, emotional, and behavioral needs. Subsequently, the nature and variety of line items within this budget reflect the diversity of this population as well as the varied special education, related services, nursing, guidance, and classified personnel who work with these students.

The current proposed budget represents a 0 % increase for thirty-two accounts related to instructional supplies, textbooks, and equipment. In this projected budget, significant cuts impact special education instructional supplies. Anticipated increased costs in contracted services are associated with leasing space for the CEIS preschool program, contracting services for specialized services for students with Autism spectrum disorder, specialized vocational programs and independent student evaluations by outside contractors. Tuition accounts reflect increases associated with more anticipated placements due to students becoming Coventry NEXUS, increases in specialized program placements for students with autism, and special education tuition associated with mandated magnet school placements/vo-ag placements and mobility services for visually impaired students. Unanticipated outside placements are not reflected in this budget.

Respectfully submitted,

Judith A. Richard,
Director of Pupil & Staff Support Services