

Department Initiatives

Two exciting programs have recently been implemented in the District. Both of these programs, described below, include students with disabilities, within the general education program with supports.

Include Grant

The Perth Amboy School district promotes differentiated instruction for students in order to increase individual academic achievement. The Implementing New Curricular Learning with Universally Designed Experiences (INCLUDE) grant program, recently launched by the New Jersey Department of Education is an initiative that embraces the concept of individualization/personalization in two critical core curriculum content areas: mathematics and educational technology.

As an awardee of INCLUDE Grant, the district administration and teachers work closely together to increase student achievement in mathematics for all students. The district will utilize grant funds to create more understanding and knowledge around those skills.

Laptop Program

McGinnis Middle School has benefited over the past four years from one of the first university-based 1-1 laptops initiatives in the country. The 7th and 8th grade program was brought to the district through a federally funded grant sponsored by Kean University. For the last 4 years, 2 teams of students use laptops for learning in the classroom. The students use the machines across all their content area studies. The digital classroom environment has allowed students to focus on their learning with information at their fingertips.

The programs described below, include students with disabilities, within the general education program with supports, as well as in more restrictive programs.

READ 180

READ 180 is an intensive reading intervention program design to meet the needs of students whose reading achievement is below the proficient level. The program directly addresses individual needs through adaptive and instructional software, high interest literature, and direct instruction in reading and writing skills.

“Foundations” (Wilson Reading System)

“Foundations” is a phonics and spelling program that is being implemented in some of our in class resource programs and in Learning and/or Language Disabilities classrooms, at the kindergarten and first grade levels. “Foundations” is incorporated into language arts

classroom instruction. Lessons focus on carefully sequenced skills that include alphabet awareness, phonemic awareness, phonological awareness, decoding, vocabulary, fluency, and spelling. Over the next school year, it will be expanded through grade 3.