



Perth Amboy Public Schools

Department of Special Services
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Marcia Stillo, Director of Special Services Ext. 30-240
Alyssa Rush, Supervisor of Special Services Ext. 30-219
Andrew Perez, Supervisor of Special Services Ext. 30-227

September 1, 2023

Dear Parents,

We are pleased to announce that staff assigned to our Autism programs at Perth Amboy Public Schools will participate in the Pyramid Classroom Certification Program for the 2023-2024 school year!

The Pyramid Approach to Education® is a unique model of teaching that establishes effective learning environments for individuals of all ability levels. Designed by Andy Bondy PhD, and based on the principles of broad spectrum Applied Behavior Analysis (ABA), this model offers sound principles for those who teach in classroom, home or community settings.

The Pyramid Approach is based on two types of learning elements: structural and instructional. The structural elements form the base of the Pyramid, creating an environment conducive to learning. The base elements include:

- Functional Activities
- Reinforcement Systems
- Functional Communication
- Identification and Replacement of Contextually Inappropriate Behaviors (CIBs)

The instructional elements form the top of the Pyramid and include information relevant to the creation of effective lessons. The top elements include:

- Generalization
- Lesson Formats
- Teaching/Prompting Strategies
- Error Correction (uniquely developed and suited to specific prompting strategies)

All elements involve data-based decision making. When all the elements are combined, the approach results in success in a range of settings. The Pyramid emphasizes how to teach, rather than simply what to teach. Team members will learn how to make systematic changes in their learning environments to improve all learner outcomes.

Training is paired with program consultation to assist classroom team members in implementing all skills described during training.

The key benefits of obtaining Pyramid Program Certification include:

- A decrease in challenging behaviors
- An increase in learners' communication skills
- Improvement in classroom organization
- A common language for all
- A boost in staff morale
- Identification of leadership team to sustain skills

Please find more information on the Pyramid Educational Consultants website:

<https://pecsusa.com/the-pyramid-approach/>.



We are happy to equip our staff assigned to our Autism programs with this important training and coaching and as always invite you to be part of your student's learning course. In collaboration and partnership, we anticipate great results in their development this year.

For those of you I have not personally met yet, my name is Ms. Marcia Stillo and I am the new Director of Special Services. I also work alongside Ms. Alyssa Rush and Mr. Andrew Perez, both of whom you should contact with any questions, inquiries or concerns. We are always available to discuss your child's progress, program, and services as needs arise. Please refer to our contact information on the letterhead.

We are looking forward to a great year. Thank you !

Sincerely,

Marcia Stillo

Marcia Stillo
Director of Special Services