

## **Bernadette Laughlin, OSPA Spring Conference 2020, PowerPoint Slides Speaker's Notes**

1. Slide 12, Beliefs
  - a. School psychologists are critical to Each Child Our Future.
2. Slide 13, Related Services Workgroup January 2018
  - b. House Bill 49 July 2017 mandated that Ohio Department of Education (Department) establish a workgroup on related services personnel. The workgroup included:
    - i. Department Staff Members
    - ii. Department of Higher Education professionals
    - iii. Representatives of Ohio Speech Language Hearing Association, Ohio School Psychologists Association
    - iv. Ohio Educational Service Center Association
3. Slide 14, Mission Statement
  - c. The workgroup's mission was to:
    - i. Identify and evaluate causes and solutions for the shortage of related services personnel and evaluate sustainability of solutions.
    - ii. Establish goals to address the shortage of related services personnel.
    - iii. Report on the findings.
4. Slide 15, Why
  - d. Ideally, this work will help inform efforts to address other areas of educator shortages.
5. Slide 16, Recommendations
  - e. The Related Services Workgroup supports revisions to the special education funding components of the state's school funding formula as needed to address issues of attracting and retaining sufficient numbers of related services staff.
  - f. **Recommendation 1** mirrors recommendations made by the workgroup of Ohio school superintendents and treasurers convened by Representatives Bob Cupp and John Patterson to review the state school funding formula. This requires legislative action by the General Assembly. See the Related Services Workgroup Report for details- available on the Department's website.

- g. **Recommendation 2** supports:
  - i. Incentives for working in hard-to-staff districts, such as district grant opportunities.
  - ii. Resources for building and district administrators to enhance their knowledge base and understanding of the related services professions.
  - iii. Support district cultures that promote related services personnel being viewed as members of the school staff.
  - iv. Support continuing education and professional development.
  - v. Providing clerical assistance to related services personnel.
  - vi. Applying for waivers when a district is out of compliance with the workload/caseload requirements.
  
- 6. Slide 17, Recommendations (continued)
  - h. **Recommendation 3** is the position of Related Services Education Program Specialist, Bernadette's position as of January 5, 2020. My role includes partnering with related services professional organizations and licensure boards, guidance and technical assistance, development of resources, technical assistance for selection and implementation of evidence-based therapies, tracking shortages among related services and partnering with higher education to monitor enrollment in related services professions.
  - i. **Recommendation 4** creating expedited pathways to licensure such as credential reviews and developing appropriate professional standards for aides or other support personnel for related services.
  
- 7. Slide 18, Recommendations (continued)
  - j. **Recommendation 5-** Related services personnel should be considered important members of the school staff and learning community.
  - k. The Department will develop a guidance document discussing the need for benefit of collaboration for evaluation and identification of student needs, development of goals and implementation of services and programs.
  
- 8. Slide 19, Related Services Webpage
  - l. The Department's website has a page dedicated to Related Services. Service specific videos for SLPs, Educational Audiologists, School Nurses, OTs, PTs, and School Psychologists.
  - m. In October 2019, the Related Services Workgroup published a report of their work and recommendations to improve the coordination of state, school and provider efforts to address the related services needs of students with disabilities in Ohio which is posted on this webpage.

Informational videos about the roles and responsibilities of related services providers are on the website.

- n. Printable versions of each of the Related Services are provided which you are welcome to download and print for your own use.
9. Slide 20, Operating Standards Revision
- o. Go to the Department's website to enroll in EdConnection. (Put EdConnection in the search box. You will get a link that takes you to the webpage where you can sign up by entering your email.)