

**Franklin Public Schools
Franklin, Massachusetts 02038**

Action Required

Subject: Amego

Date: May 14, 2019

Dept: School Committee

Reason: Required Vote

Enclosure: yes

Recommendation:

- a. Amego School Approval

I recommend approval of the Amego School as recommended by Paula Marano, Director of Student Services as detailed.

Action Requested of the School Committee:

Majority vote of the School Committee is required.

Vote Tabulator

A. Bergen: Y / N

D. Schultz: Y / N

C. Douglas: Y / N

MJ Scofield: Y / N

D. Feeley: Y / N

G. Zub: Y / N

M. Linden: Y / N

Action: _____

English Language Support

Currently, all students at Amego are English Language Learners in that they need to learn language in order to communicate effectively. Amego, in accordance with the non-discrimination policy, will not discriminate or deny admission to a student based on the home language. For those students for whom English is a second language, Amego will work cooperatively with the referring school district to identify and implement support services and program modifications in accordance with the student's Individual Education Program and ensure that communication to the family/guardian is in their native language.

In addition, Amego employs teachers and teaching assistants who are bilingual and may provide assistance with communication to students and parents. Amego will also work cooperatively with the sending district to ensure that correspondence is translated when necessary.

Transportation

Amego personnel provide transportation for day students during community outings. Staff must possess a valid driver's license as an employment requirement. Driving records are checked with staff consent upon hire and staff is provided with an approved driver training that is part of our Orientation and Training curricular.

All staff is orientated to the Amego vehicles during orientation, and vehicle safety is reviewed annually during scheduled training days. Company vehicle maintenance is overseen by the Physical Plant Manager.

Braille needs (blind visually impaired)

When a student requires specialized services for a visual impairment, Amego will work cooperatively with the LEA to provide the necessary instruction and services to the student, including but not limited to a teacher of the visually impaired for consultation and direct services and mobility specialists where appropriate.

Assistive Technology

During annual and three-year reevaluation Individual Education Plan meetings, a discussion occurs around the topic of assistive technology. For students that have a skill deficit and the TEAM is in agreement that assistive technology will benefit the student in making academic gains or accessing the curriculum, it is documented within the student's IEP. Amego does not currently have a teacher certified in assistive technology, but if there is a need for an evaluation, Amego works cooperatively with the LEA to this end.

Communication Needs

For students who have communication needs due to being deaf or hard of hearing, Amego will work with the family, sending school district and the child's physician to provide access to the necessary devices and communication methods that will enable the student to understand and communicate more effectively.

Recreation Services

Amego provides students with recreational opportunities on a routine basis. Students have the opportunity to explore a variety of activities based on their own interests. During the school day, field trips are coordinated by the teaching staff and approved by an Educational Director. A student's ability to engage in an activity with appropriate behavior is considered before each outing. Some of the recreational activities a student may participate in include swimming at the YMCA, dining in local restaurants, shopping, attending theatrical performances and other community based physical fitness activities. Providing recreational opportunities in order to increase social skills and develop appropriate leisure activities is a priority.

Orientation & Mobility training

Amego works with the LEA to coordinate services for students with low vision or similar/related deficits that require or benefit from a trained O&M specialist. Typically, the Carroll Center is contacted and contracted direct/consultative services are provided as outlined in the student's IEP.

Psychological Services, Counseling Services, Rehabilitation Counseling and Social Work Services

Students receive psychological services as appropriate and directed. Amego has a consulting psychiatrist who provides monthly medication regimen reviews for some of our students. The teaching staff also provides instruction in social skills and emotions as part of a student's Individual Educational Program. Therapy and counseling services would be provided as necessary in coordination with the sending school district and the student's physicians.

Amego employs a full time licensed social worker who works with the families of students. Support is offered to families in matters related to insurance benefits, Social Security entitlements, assistance and oversight for students' personal needs accounts, admissions and discharges, TEAM meetings, DCF foster care reviews, transitions and guardianship. The Director of Social Services coordinates the Parent Advisory Committee (PAC) and sets the agenda for the quarterly meetings.

Parent counseling and training

Amego was founded by families seeking education for their children. Parents are valued and considered an integral part of the interdisciplinary team. Parent training is offered on an individual basis to address specific needs of the family to support their child. When a specific issue or need is discussed and assistance is sought either by the family or sending LEA, Amego will provide families with suggestions to help manage situations while they have their son/daughter at home and basic principles can be taught for home implementation. Amego offers parent progress meetings on their child as often as a parent requests. In conjunction to each Head Teachers/Case Managers having a minimum of weekly contact with each students family.

Health services, medical services

Amego employs a Director of Health Services, physician, two psychiatrists (children's and adults') and a school nurse. Medical care and health services are coordinated with these personnel and community based practitioners.

The overall health and safety of all students is the responsibility of all staff at Amego Staff are trained in First Aid and CPR and are required to renew their licenses in these areas through offered training, prior to expiration.

Medication is administered in accordance with procedures outlined by the Department of Public Health. No student is administered medication (including over the counter) without a physician's order and parental/guardian consent. The school nurse administers medication during the school day. If a student requires medication while on a school trip, our direct care staff are trained in medication administration and must pass and maintain certification as a job requirement.

In the event that a student requires medical attention beyond the scope of our nursing staff, the student's primary care physician is called for direction on the matter. When necessary, the students are transported to the local emergency room for medical attention. When this is the case, a Form 2 is completed in accordance with DESE requirements, and notifications are made to the parent/guardian and the sending school district.