

**Bow School District
Special Education Department
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Bow, NH 03304
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**SPECIAL EDUCATION DEPARTMENT REPORT
PREPARED AUGUST 24, 2010 FOR SEPTEMBER 2, 2010
SCHOOL BOARD MEETING**

The summer of 2010 has flown by and the first day of school is fast approaching. Our Extended School Year (ESY) programming barely ended and we are gearing up for the 2010-11 school year. The buildings have come alive with staff and students coming and going in preparation for the year ahead.

As of today the Special Education Department is fully staffed! A new staff workshop is being held on August 25th.

The Department of Education's, Bureau of Special Education has instituted a new online Individual with Disabilities Education Act (IDEA) grant application process. The system mirrors the process districts have been utilizing for the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act (ARRA) funds. IDEA does have a number of additional documents which are required and have to be entered as attachments. DOE is working to incorporate the additional documents in the system. It is unclear how long it will take to complete the web based program entirely.

Early feedback on the grant process has been positive. Bow's grant was submitted and approved within two days. In the past our paper application submissions received approvals as late as February. This is a significant improvement.

The next school year will be the last year the district will have ARRA funds. The Special Education Department planned distribution funds in a way that would provide expenditures during the 2009-10 and 2010-11. This allows us to offer professional development opportunities, the purchase of equipment/supplies and related services over a two year period. The students have certainly benefited from the opportunities ARRA provided.

I look forward to the coming year and recognize the many challenges ahead. However, I'm confident the entire special education staff is ready to move the district forward in our goal to educate all students.

Respectfully submitted,

Daniel J. Ferreira
Director of Special Education