



Regional School Unit #34

Alton, Bradley, and Old Town

Special Education Department

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Special Education Enrollment as of 11/12/2021: 349/1452 24% of total enrollment

Schools Attending: Old Town Elementary, Viola Rand School, Alton Elementary, Leonard Middle School, Old Town High, Orono Middle School, Orono High School, Brewer Community School, Brewer Alternative Program, Bangor Regional Program, Stillwater Academy and Easter Seals, NH

Referrals: 33

State Reports:

EF-S 04 a/b State Agency Client billing

Professional Development/Updates/Links:

Staff vacancies: We are continuing to advertise for educational technicians in the district. We currently have 4 vacancies, K-12. The posting can be found on the RSU #34 website, ServingSchools.com and on [Indeed](http://Indeed.com).

Social and Emotional Learning Supports in RSU #34

The district continues to have ongoing discussions surrounding social and emotional well-being for staff and students. To address the current needs, we have brought on a few extra clinical providers to help. We currently have 5 clinical staff beyond our **amazing** school counselors in the district.

We currently partner/contract with Pathways to provide school-based counseling for our students. This partnership has been in effect since January 2013. Unfortunately, this year services changed (financial hardship for the company) and we had the potential of losing 2 providers. We were able to negotiate with the company and contracted with them to off set some of the costs allowing us to continue with 2 providers instead of 3. One provider covers K-5 and one 6-12 with billing primarily through Maine Care. We can provide services to students who do not qualify for Maine Care through the contract.

Another support that has been provided for many years is substance abuse counseling and prevention services for at risk youth. Tona Evans provides services for 4 hours per week at Old Town High School.

We also contract with Northern Light Hospital for social work services and have expanded this contract this year to address the needs of our students. Both contracted providers from Northern Light Hospital are full time with RSU #34. Maranda Drouin provides services to students with disabilities across the district and provides some support services to elementary students impacted by the pandemic. Shelly Dyer, LCPC, provides social work services, consultation, and training in grades 6-12.

I cannot emphasize enough the benefit of having these clinical providers on site and available to support students. Given the limited availability of clinical services in our community and the long waitlists we are very fortunate in RSU #34.

Students currently being served:

Pathways-Jenny Metzger 21 Karen Grotton Pelletier- 20

Substance Abuse and Prevention Services- Tona Evans 4

Northern Light Hospital- Maranda Drouin 42 Shelly Dyer 20

Purpose is the ultimate fuel for our journey through life. When we drive with purpose we don't get tired or bored and our engines don't burn out. ~ Jon Gordon