

School Districts Must Plan Now to Ensure Their Special Education Programs in FY 17

It is budget development time once again. A period when districts need to begin to plan for FY 17, but before they begin the process, they must ask what program changes and development need to take place for FY 17? The importance of planning makes the next few months a difficult time of the year for administrators of special education programs. There are many aspects to consider such as balancing the demand for additional services, bringing on paraprofessionals, refining current operating programs, attempting to reduce the number of students in out-of-district placements, and building capacity to keep students in the district.

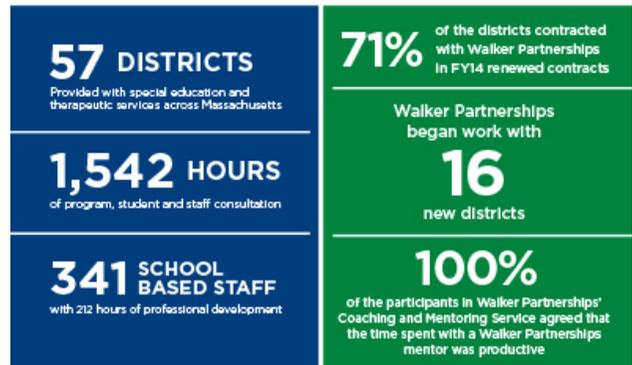
Walker Partnerships has assembled a group of former special education and collaborative directors. With their vast experience, they can work with administrators in devising strategies to increase a district's capacity to serve students, improve the quality of therapeutic and instructional interventions within existing programs, and student outcomes.

Given that 50% of children in the welfare system face mental health challenges (Journal of American Academy of Child & Adolescent Psychiatry, 2014), there is considerable evidence for appropriate programming at all levels for this group. Many districts have a high percentage of students who are part of the state's child welfare system. This group requires supports that go beyond what the state agencies are providing. Walker Partnerships can assist school districts in identifying the areas that need to be strengthened and enhanced to support these students. In 2014, the U.S Department of Health & Human services reported that 1 in 5 adolescents has a mental health disorder, which increases their risk for struggles within school, home, and community. The report also found that the likelihood that these students begin using drugs and alcohol, which can lead to the development of chronic illness in adulthood, is higher than it is with other groups.

Walker Partnerships is positioned to assist school districts through a number of services that can lead to containment in the growth in special educations costs. Walker Partnerships can partner with districts to build credibility in the programs that they are operating for students with social/emotional/behavioral health needs. With so much at stake, and budget development planning season upon them, there is no better time for school districts to schedule a no-obligation consultation to review how Walker Partnerships can work with them to build their district's capacity to serve this most challenging population.



Walker Partnerships supports school districts in assessing and addressing the needs of students facing social, emotional, behavioral and learning challenges, and in making the critical changes needed to allow those students who require special care to remain in their classrooms without disruption.



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Contact Us and Learn How We Can Help

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About Walker Partnerships

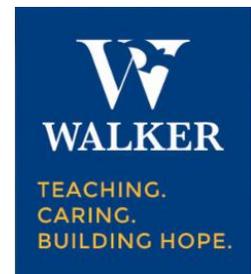
Since 1994 Walker Partnerships has been providing comprehensive services to school districts throughout Massachusetts to help them increase their capacity to include students with serious emotional disabilities. Walker Partnerships' model of service delivery focuses on increasing student participation in general education, reducing barriers, restructuring policies, teaching best practices, and shifting culture. Walker Partnerships is fully committed to finding better ways of including students who are at risk of marginalization or exclusion.

[Learn More](#)

About Walker

Walker is a nonprofit organization that provides supportive environments for children, teens, and families through an array of academic programs and therapeutic services. Each year, Walker directly serves more than 2,000 children on the Needham and Watertown campuses, impacting an additional 33,000 children and families through trainings and consultation services.

[Learn More](#)



Please contact Walker Partnerships to learn more about the organization and the services it provides to assist school districts in serving their populations of students with social, emotional, behavioral needs.

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Your Needs Today**