

# SWCEC

Southern Worcester County Educational Collaborative

## Annual Report 2012-2013

Auburn, Dudley-Charlton Regional, Grafton, Leicester, Millbury,  
Northbridge, North Brookfield, Oxford, Quaboag Regional,  
Southbridge, Spencer-East Brookfield Regional,  
Sutton, Tantasqua-Union 61 Regional,  
Brimfield, Brookfield, Holland, Sturbridge, Wales,  
Uxbridge, Webster

*185 Southbridge Road, Dudley, MA 01571*

*(508) 764-8500*

*[www.SWCEC.org](http://www.SWCEC.org)*

## **Southern Worcester County Educational Collaborative**

*The Southern Worcester County Educational Collaborative was established in 1978 as an Educational Collaborative servicing regular and special education students and families. The Southern Worcester County Educational Collaborative services students ages 3-22 in a small, structured therapeutic and academic learning environment, paced to meet the needs of its students on an individualized basis. The Southern Worcester County Educational Collaborative program offers a strong academic component designed to accommodate the learning needs of our students and to encourage their motivation to achieve.*

**Our Mission:** *The mission of SWCEC is to conduct regional educational programs and services for member districts. The education programs and services provided by SWCEC compliment and strengthen the school programs of the member districts and increase and improve educational opportunities and outcomes for children and young adults with special needs. The SWCEC identifies, analyzes and implements programs and services for individuals with special needs in an efficient, effective, and economical manner.*

*Southern Worcester County Educational Collaborative*

*2012-2013*

*Regional Board of Superintendents*

<i>Mr. Allen Himmelberger, Chair</i>	<i>Oxford Public Schools</i>
<i>Mr. Sean Gilrein, Vice Chair</i>	<i>Dudley-Charlton Regional School District</i>
<i>Dr. Maryellen Brunelle</i>	<i>Auburn Public Schools</i>
<i>Dr. James Cummings</i>	<i>Grafton Public Schools</i>
<i>Dr. Judith Paolucci</i>	<i>Leicester Public Schools</i>
<i>Ms. Susan Hitchcock</i>	<i>Millbury Public Schools</i>
<i>Dr. Nancy Spitulnik</i>	<i>Northbridge Public Schools</i>
<i>Dr. John Provost</i>	<i>North Brookfield Public Schools</i>
<i>Mr. Brett Kustigian</i>	<i>Quaboag Regional School District</i>
<i>Dr. Basan Nembirkow</i>	<i>Southbridge Public Schools</i>
<i>Ms. Debora Zablocki, Acting</i>	<i>Spencer-East Brookfield Regional School District</i>
<i>Mr. Theodore Friend</i>	<i>Sutton Public Schools</i>
<i>Dr. Erin Nosek</i>	<i>Tantasqua -Union 61 Regional School District</i>
<i>Mr. Kevin Carney</i>	<i>Uxbridge Public Schools</i>
<i>Dr. Barbara Malkas</i>	<i>Webster Public Schools</i>

*Southern Worcester County Educational Collaborative*

*2012-2013*

*Special Education Advisory Council*

<i>Mr. Philip Campbell</i>	<i>Auburn Public Schools</i>
<i>Ms. Jody O'Brien</i>	<i>Dudley-Charlton Regional School District</i>
<i>Mr. Arnold Lundwall</i>	<i>Grafton Public Schools</i>
<i>Ms. Suzanne Morneau</i>	<i>Leicester Public Schools</i>
<i>Ms. Lesia Diego</i>	<i>Millbury Public Schools</i>
<i>Mr. Robert Lynch</i>	<i>Northbridge Public Schools</i>
<i>Ms. Carla Chioda</i>	<i>North Brookfield Public Schools</i>
<i>Ms. Patricia Susen</i>	<i>Oxford Public Schools</i>
<i>Ms. Wendy Prunier</i>	<i>Quaboag Regional School District</i>
<i>Mr. Michael Meyer/Ms. Colleen Culligan</i>	<i>Southbridge Public Schools</i>
<i>Ms. Karen Zaleski</i>	<i>Spencer-East Brookfield Regional School District</i>
<i>Ms. Margo Austein</i>	<i>Sutton Public Schools</i>
<i>Ms. Brenda Looney</i>	<i>Tantasqua -Union 61 Regional School District</i>
<i>Ms. Kathleen Baris</i>	<i>Webster Public Schools</i>

*Report of the Executive Director ..... Mr. Julian E. MacDonnell, Jr.*

The Southern Worcester County Educational Collaborative (SWCEC), like all educational collaboratives in Massachusetts, was faced with the challenges of the new Massachusetts Legislation, M.G.L. c. 40, Sec. 4E and 603 CMR 50.00 to provide a new Collaborative Agreement, timely Quarterly Reports, an Annual Report and certified Audit this past year. I am pleased to report that the SWCEC was able to fulfill these obligations and we continue to work with the MA Department of Elementary and Secondary Education for the benefit of our member school districts.

The Southern Worcester County Educational Collaborative continues to develop and design high quality educational programs and services to meet the challenges faced within our 20 districts. Contained within this Annual Report are cost effectiveness comparisons for similar programs and services. We are proud to be able to provide our members continued savings on these services through the collaboration that the SWCEC offers. This past year, the Southern Worcester County Educational Collaborative serviced over 203 students within our specialized education programs. Additionally, our contracted services personnel provided specialized therapy to over 300 students within our member school districts.

The Southern Worcester County Educational Collaborative operates two school sites, The Grow Elementary School in Southbridge, MA and The Grow Middle and High School located in Dudley, MA. The Dudley site also includes the SWCEC Work Experience Program, Transportation Services Program and our Main Office. Our Specialized Developmental Programs were located in Spencer, MA at the Wire Village Elementary School and Webster, MA at Bartlett High School. We are thankful to both communities for their support of our students.

This year, we have expanded collaborative opportunities through monthly meetings of the Special Education Advisory Committee. This collaboration has led to new professional development opportunities that were designed for our member districts and the personnel of the SWCEC.

Our mission to provide the highest quality programs and services is encompassed in each and every action we undertake. It is with tremendous pride and respect to acknowledge the strong and visionary leadership of our Board of Superintendents, the Special Education Advisory Council, the dedication and commitment of the entire SWCEC staff and the wonderful partnerships within our communities that make the Southern Worcester County Educational Collaborative a respected institution throughout Massachusetts; an organization dedicated to excellence and cost efficiencies. It is our distinct pleasure to work with each of our communities in partnership and collaboration to enhance the educational opportunities for all of our students, and for all the professionals who work so tirelessly with them, now and in the future.

Respectively submitted,

Julian E. MacDonnell, Jr.  
Executive Director

Mr. Tim Harrison, auditor from Borgatti, Harrison & Co., completed the Independent Auditor's Reports Pursuant to Governmental Auditing Standard and OMB Circular A-133 and the Basic Financial Statements for year ended June 30, 2013. A management letter was not provided as there are no current recommendations made by the auditor.

The following items were noted:

1. Independent Auditor's Reports – No findings of non-compliance
2. Basic Financial Statements
  - Statement of Net Position – Total net position of -\$1,643,618 due to liability of unfunded retirement benefits (OPEB)
  - Balance Sheet – Governmental Funds – Positive total fund balance of \$837,418

The Collaborative had a balanced budget for FY2013 with a deficit of -\$128,671. This was due to actual revenues being \$8,201,841, over budget by \$120,228, primarily due to tuition fees collected being more than anticipated and actual expenditures being \$8,345,512, over budget by \$248,899, primarily in salaries and the related insurance benefits, in reaction to the decrease in revenues due to student decreases in enrollment. Unreserved surplus of \$15,000 was expended on technology.

**Report of the Principal, The Grow School .....Mr. Ken Gillon**

SWCEC The Grow School																							
2012-2013 School Year																							
	Aburn	Dudley/Charlton	Holden	Leicester	Milbury	Norbridge	North Brookfield	Oxford	Palmer	Quabbin	Quabson	Southbridge	Spencer/East Brookfield	Sutton	Tantasqua	Thompson	Uxbridge	Webster	Webster	Worcester			
Total Students Served - 156																							
Total Number of Referrals - 108	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x				
Number of Students Anticipated to Graduate - 11	x						x					x		x		x	x						
Number of Students Who Returned to Districts - 16		x		x	x	x					x	x	x		x								
Districts Served at the Elementary School	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x		x	x	x	x			x	x		x			
Districts Served at the Middle School	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x			x	x	x	x		x		x		x			
Districts Served at the High School	x	x	x	x	x	x		x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x		x			
Restraint Trainings	x			x	x	x		x						x						x			

**Program Overview**

The Grow School, established in 1978, is a Therapeutic Public Day Treatment Program that services children, adolescents, and families within the Southern Worcester County Community. Grow services students in grades kindergarten through twelve (K-12) in a small, structured therapeutic and academic learning environment, paced to meet the needs of its students on an individualized basis. The Grow program offers a strong academic component designed to accommodate the learning needs of our students and to encourage their motivation to achieve.

**Program Features**

Grow has three model programs specifically addressing individual needs. The main components of our programs address challenges including, but not limited to, Emotional, Social, Behavioral, Psychiatric and Learning disabilities. Students learn self-control, social skills, and become more confident to challenge themselves to achieve academically. Grow students learn how to navigate their own learning, and identify a path to achieve positively. Additionally, Grow offers three summer programs (outward bound, social skills, vocational) to prevent substantial regression over the course of the summertime and credit recovery for high school students.

**Parent Involvement**

The Grow School is in daily contact with each student’s parents through the use of a daily communication sheet. Parents and family members are also invited to attend the monthly Excellent Effort award assembly recognizing student accomplishments and improvements. Additionally, The Grow School encourages parents to become involved in therapy sessions, parent advisory council and classroom visits.

## **Special Education Director Involvement**

The Special Education Directors are directly involved in the referral process for all students on IEPs. Administration is in frequent contact with local member and non-member Special Education Directors when issues arise with their students. Additionally, administrators receive input from local Special Education Directors regarding program development and trends in both populations and practices through our monthly Special Education Advisory Meetings.

## **Accomplishments**

The 2012/2013 school year at The Grow School was marked by continued growth in referrals at all grade levels. Our part-time school psychologist has seen an increase in requests for psychological testing, FBAs, risk assessment, and behavioral consultations. The Grow School has implemented PBIS tier one (school wide) at the elementary building. The Grow School has initiated a junior/senior high school PBIS leadership for tier 1 implementation in the fall of 2013. Technology has been added to classrooms to improve the delivery of instruction. These technologies include interactive white boards and iPads. Grow will continue to utilize the technology plan in order to accommodate the vast learning needs of the students it services. The Grow School is in the process of converting to a Power School database which will enable precise student tracking, mandated state reporting and parent interactions through the parental portal of Power School. The Grow School has restructured the Grow Work Experience Program to meet each individual's self-determination and transitional needs. This restructuring includes a name change to the Grow Career Development Program which embodies a comprehensive transition program that provides students with a strategic career pathway from job readiness to exploration to emergence. The program is predicated on the philosophy that each student is the motivating force behind the decisions and goals relative to their education/training, employment and independent living. Along with State academic requirements, curriculum areas include financial literacy, time management, transportation, effective communication, critical thinking, job readiness, interpersonal skills and desired independent living.



**PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT**

*Trainings planned and provided for the 2012-2013 School Year:*

Training Schedule:	Date:	Audience:	Training Hours:	Number of Attendees	Districts that Attended
Educator Evaluation	9/9/2012	Professional Staff	1	42	SWCEC
Writing Measurable Goals	9/10/2012	WEP	1	10	SWCEC
Diapering Procedures	9/21/2012	Specialized Development Teachers	1	7	SWCEC
Annual MCAS Test Security and Integrity Training	9/24/2012	MCAS Administrators	1	19	SWCEC
Science Solutions	10/1/2012	Elementary Teachers	2	7	SWCEC
Implementing the 2011 Curriculum frameworks for ELA & Math	10/22/2012	Middle and High School Teachers	3	8	SWCEC
iPad	10/22/12	Professionals and Therapists	3	9	SWCEC
Paraprofessional Roles & Responsibilities	10/22/2012	Paraprofessionals	3	28	SWCEC
PBIS	10/22/2012	Grow Elementary	3	30	SWCEC
EPI-PEN & Specific Allergy Action Plan	10/23/2012	Specialized Developmental Staff	30 Mins	5	SWCEC

The Team Process: Obstacles and other traps for the Unwary*	11/5/12	Teachers and Administration	3	13	Millbury Northbridge
EPI-PEN & Specific Allergy Action Plan	12/4/2012	Specialized Developmental Staff	30 Mins	10	SWCEC
VNS	12/5/2012	Specialized Developmental Staff	1	10	SWCEC
Universal Design for Learning*	1/28/2013	Teachers	3	19	SWCEC Auburn Northbridge Webster Spencer
Writing Goals and Objectives	1/28/2013	Job Coaches	3	5	SWCEC
Dealing with Difficult Parents, Attorneys, and Advocates*	2/25/2013	Teachers, Team Chair	3	10	SWCEC Spencer Mendon
Post-Secondary Transition Planning and Fair	3/15/2013	Teachers , Team Chairs and Families	Due to lack of registrations, the PD was canceled.		
CPR Training	3/15/2012	Driver and Monitors	3	7	SWCEC
The Role of the Regular Educator	4/29/2013	Teachers , Team Chairs	Due to lack of registrations, the PD was canceled.		

Universal Design for Learning: Part 2	5/20/2013	Teachers	Due to lack of registrations, the PD was canceled.		
Educator Evaluation Module 1	5/13/2013	SWCEC Teachers	1	25	SWCEC
Power School	5/20/2013	SWCEC Teachers	3	26	SWCEC
PBIS	6/6/2013	Grow Elem	3	22	SWCEC
AVN Train the Trainer	6/25/2013	All Staff	3	12	SWCEC
ANV Training*	6/24/13-6/28/13	Teachers	32.5	14	Southbridge

\*These Professional Development activities were collaboratively designed and the cost of the presenters shared among our participating school districts. This collaboration resulted in high quality professional development at a fraction of the cost if any district were to assume the cost separately.

A “like” Professional Development Day is planned for October 11, 2013. This new district-wide Professional Development Day was approved by the Regional Board of Superintendents for the 2013-14 school year which builds upon the success of our efforts this year and requires delicate coordination of all school calendars from our member districts. The SWCEC’s Executive Director and the Director of Special Education and Professional Development will be meeting with Curriculum Directors and Special Education Directors to lead the planning for this all district professional development day designed to enhance teacher instructional effectiveness.

Along with training that the SWCEC provided, there were numerous trainings that the Director of Special Education / Professional Development participated in. The Director of Special Education participated in: Special Education Law Update, Great Beginning Conference, DESE Educator Evaluation Trainings and Therapies in the School Conference.

# **DEVELOPMENTAL PROGRAMS**

## **Program Descriptions**

### *Dawning Place-Wire Village School, Spencer, MA*

The Dawning Place program services students from 5 to 22 years of age in self-contained classrooms located within the general education population. Dawning Place consists of classrooms specializing in a variety of developmental disorders including moderate special needs as well as mild behavioral needs. Dawning Place is an educational day program providing academics, activities of daily living as well as supplemental therapeutic services.

The daily classroom schedule may include periods for: Community Awareness, Hygiene and Self-care Skills, and Academics (English Language Arts, Mathematics, Science, Social Studies). The academic component of the program is geared to the individual student's needs and is aligned with the Massachusetts Curriculum Frameworks. Social Communication may be practiced through oral and augmentative communication, such as Picture Exchange Card System (P.E.C.S.), Speech Generating Devices, and Sign Language.

### *Project S.M.I.L.E. Wire Village School and David Prouty School, Spencer, MA*

The Project S.M.I.L.E. (Sensory Motor Integrated Learning Environment) program consists of students with intensive special needs ranging in ages from 3 to 22 years. This program is a multi-sensory environment, which services students with severe developmental, cognitive and physical disabilities, many of who also require close medical supervision due to seizures, respiratory issues, GI tubes, etc.

Students address the curriculum through entry/access skills, which also addresses daily living skills, sensory integration techniques, oral motor skills, communication skills including augmentative programs and assistive technology, fine/gross motor activities, pre-readiness socialization skills in behavior management.

### *Project READY David Prouty School, Spencer, MA*

Project READY is a classroom set up for children with Autism Spectrum Disorders and other related communication and/or behavior disorders or moderate special needs between the ages of 5 to 16 years. Teaching methods include Applied Behavior Analysis, pre-vocational and life skills training and practiced socialization, as well as pre-academic/academic programs that are aligned with the Massachusetts Curriculum Frameworks.

The daily classroom schedule includes periods for: Community Awareness, Hygiene and Self-care Skills, Lunch, and Academics (English Language Arts, Mathematics, Science, Social Studies). Social Communication is practiced through oral and augmentative communication, such as Picture Exchange Card System (P.E.C.S.), Speech Generating Devices, and Sign Language.

The end of the year brought a change in the name of the Developmental Programs. The board approved a tuition change to better reflect programs costs. The new program name is: ***SWCEC Specialized Developmental Programs***.

### **SWCEC Specialized Developmental Programs**

The programs service students from 3 to 22 years of age in self-contained classrooms located within the general education population. The programs consist of classrooms specializing in a variety of developmental disorders including moderate/intensive special needs as well as mild/moderate behavioral needs. They are educational day programs providing academics, activities of daily living as well as supplemental therapeutic services. These programs have a multi-sensory environment, which can service students with moderate/severe developmental, cognitive and physical disabilities. Many students may also require close medical supervision due to seizures, repository issues, GI tubes, etc. The programs are staffed with a nurse to address medical needs. The programs also have monthly appropriate durable medical equipment.

Teaching methods include Applied Behavior Analysis, pre-vocational, life skills training and practiced socialization, as well as pre-academic/academic programs that are aligned with the Massachusetts Curriculum Frameworks/Common Core. Appropriate modifications and accommodations are provided for each individual student. Intensive Special Needs Students address the curriculum through entry/access skills, which also addresses daily living skills, sensory integration techniques, oral motor skills, communications skills including augmentative programs and assistive technology, fine/gross motor activities, pre-readiness socialization skills in behavior management. Social Communication may be practiced through oral and augmentative communication, such as Picture Exchange Card System (P.E.C.S.), Speech Generating Devices, and Sign Language. Assistive technology and augmentative communication devices include: I-pads, touch screen computers, Go-Talks, step-by step switches, Big Mac switches, Cheap talk switches, Say it Rocking Plate switches, a variety of adaptive switches, and more. The daily classroom schedule may include periods for: Community Awareness, Hygiene and Self-care Skills, and Academics (English Language Arts, Mathematics, Science, Social Studies). Some programs have access to a full kitchen with a stove for cooking and baking as well as a washer and dryer for community laundry programs. Community outings may occur up to once a month and students are accompanied by a nurse, if needed.

Inclusion opportunities within the Host School are available to SWCEC students, if applicable. The program also offers reverse inclusion and/or internship opportunities for regular education students within the Host School.

We were also notified of the need for a program move. At the end of the summer, the programs at Wire Village moved to East Brookfield Elementary School. This has increased our option to service students from pre-K through 6<sup>th</sup> grade.

## **Program Accomplishments**

Several students had a successful transition into their new classrooms. The program at Bartlett High School held a spirit week this summer. Themes included mismatch day, sports day, tie dye day, hat day, and beach day. During beach day, they set up their own beach in the gym with blankets, a palm tree, water, music, and beach balls. They also had an ice cream social one Friday. Throughout the summer, the students took a daily walk in the morning for exercise and fresh air. Their days consisted of independent work, various group activities, as well as therapy. Another class went on nature walks and did a scavenger hunt for things outside in nature. They made tie dye t-shirts. They printed a picture of our classroom students on t-shirts. They also had a beach party (in the gym because it was raining). They participated in spirit week and wore something different every day. The class also cooked and baked, had lunch outside on the veranda, and walked the Bartlett track and did a unit of exercise. They went to Park N Shop once a month to buy groceries so they could cook and bake on a regular basis. They also washed the laundry for the Bartlett High football and soccer teams, and folded and hung them up. They went to Mohegan Bowling Alley in Webster on a field trip with the gym teacher and did APE there.

In our Spencer classrooms, they learned about the election and had a mock election to vote for the new president. They talked about magic and watched and tried some magic tricks. They had a speaker come in to talk to us about Hurricane Sandy. He talked about his experience helping with the cleanup and showed pictures of the devastation that occurred from the hurricane. They also read the book "Dwarf", a memoir of the struggles and challenges of a disabled person in her quest to become "independent." They compared her story to the challenges they face and the adaptations they use in their struggle to become more independent. They also did math activities to measure how tall they were and made a graph of who was tallest/shortest. The class also participated in the school science fair in which they learned about and created a volcano and watched it erupt.

# CONSULTATIVE/THERAPEUTIC CONTRACT SERVICES

## **Service Descriptions**

### Physical Therapy

The goal of SWCEC's physical therapy department is to maintain and improve all aspects of physical functioning and prevent decline in mobility, to maximize each student's independence and participation in their education. Wheelchair and orthotics clinics are provided within the classroom environment to assist in obtaining needed bracing and other durable medical equipment. Treatment experience includes: Down's Syndrome, Autism, Cerebral Palsy, Orthopedic Dysfunction, Muscular Dystrophy, metabolic disorders, brain injury, cerebral vascular accident, pulmonary dysfunction, cardiac dysfunction and developmental delay.

Physical Therapy Contract services are provided to: Charlton and North Brookfield

Total Number of Students Serviced by Physical Therapy: **72**

### Speech and Language Pathology

SWCEC's speech and language department provides intensive services to students with a wide range of communication difficulties. The goal of therapy is to help students achieve their maximum communication potential. Services include: phonology/articulation, receptive language, semantics/vocabulary, expressive language, grammar/syntax, pragmatics/social language, total communication/sign, augmentative/ assistive communication, oral motor function/swallowing/feeding, auditory processing, fluency, and voice.

Speech and Language Pathology Contracted services are provided to: Auburn and Southbridge.

Total Number of Students Serviced by Speech and Language Pathology: **92**

### Vision

The vision program of the SWCEC is staffed by one full-time Teacher/Consultant of the Visually Impaired. This teacher provides consultative and direct vision services to students within the Collaborative and those in its member districts. The goal of the Collaborative vision program is to increase functional vision and to teach compensatory skills and independence. There are plans to add another full time Teacher of the Visually Impaired in the fall of 2013.

Vision services are provided to 11 districts and **36** students.

### Occupational Therapy

The SWCEC's occupational therapy department provides individual and group services to promote optimal performance to our students within the classroom setting. Assessment and intervention in performance areas of sensory integration, play, socialization, sensorimotor, and fine motor, perceptual, visual motor integration, activities of daily living and functional life skills are provided. Learning is maximized for our students through intervention strategies, adaptations, modifications and assistive technology.

Occupational Therapy Contracted services are provided to: Charlton and Southbridge

Total Number of Students Serviced by Occupational Therapy: **102**

### Adaptive Physical Education

Objectives of the SWCEC's adapted physical education program include helping students correct conditions that can be improved, providing students with an opportunity to learn and to participate in a number of appropriate recreational and leisure time sports and activities, improving physical fitness for the maximal development, helping students make social adjustments and develop a feeling of self-worth, aiding each student in developing knowledge and appreciation relative to proper body mechanics, and helping students understand and appreciate a variety of sports.

Adaptive Physical Education Contracted services are provided to: Webster, Southbridge and Dudley-Charlton

Total Number of Students Serviced by Adaptive Physical Education: **202**

### Orientation and Mobility

SWCEC's program for Orientation and Mobility training helps a blind or visually impaired child know where they are in space and where he/she wants to go (orientation). It also helps the students be able to carry out a plan to get there (mobility). Orientation and mobility skills should begin to be developed in infancy, starting with basic body awareness and movement, and continuing on into adulthood as the individual learns skills that allow them to navigate his world efficiently, effectively, and safely. There are plans to add a full time Orientation and Mobility provider in the fall of 2013.

Orientation and Mobility services are provided to a total of **15** students.

### Vocational Assessments

SWCEC provides contracted comprehensive vocational assessment through the use of the McCarron-Dial System (MDS). MDS is a battery of neurometric and behavioral measures introduced to the field of rehabilitation in 1973. MDS measures five neuropsychological factors (verbal-cognitive, sensory, motor, emotional and integration-coping) as predictive of vocational competency for individuals with learning disabilities.

Total of **8** Vocational Evaluations were completed for 4 districts.

### Assistive Technology

SWCEC provides contracted comprehensive assessments in assistive technology. Assistive technology (AT) is an umbrella term that includes assistive, adaptive and rehabilitative devices for people with disabilities and also includes the process used in selecting, locating and using them. AT promotes greater independence by enabling people to perform tasks that they were formerly unable to accomplish, or had great difficulty accomplishing, by providing enhancements to, or changing methods of interacting with, the technology needed to accomplish such tasks.

There were **19** Assistive Technology Evaluations completed and **2** consultation services completed.

Assistive Technology is being provided in **10** districts.



### Deaf Services

**8** Students within 5 member districts receive Deaf Services.

### Music Therapy Services

Music therapy is an established healthcare profession that uses music to address physical, emotional, cognitive, and social needs of individuals. It is the prescribed use (by a board-certified music therapist) of musical experiences and the relationship that develops to motivate a student to achieve therapeutic non-musical goals. Music therapy is provided in both group and individual settings. An individual with music therapy goals and objectives on his/her I.E.P. receives individual treatment following a formal assessment of the client's strengths and needs. Assistive technology, choice making, adapted songwriting, instrumental improvisation, movement with music, and client-directed music-making are a few of the therapeutic interventions utilized.

Total Number of Students Serviced by Music Therapy: **38**

### Psychological and Psycho-Educational Evaluations in the Areas of:

- Autistic Impairment
- Cognitive Impairment
- Emotional Impairment
- Developmental Delay
- Intellectual Impairment
- Learning Disabilities
- Academic Skills and Aptitudes
- Social Maladjustment

**31** Psychological and Psycho-Educational Evaluations were completed.

### Program Evaluations

A basic overview of any program the district chooses with recommendations for improving quality of care, program efficiency and program success. Program Evaluations were completed in Southbridge, Dudley-Charlton, and Webster.

## **OUTREACH**

Outside relationships were developed over the year. A “Next Step” program was established with Nichols College. This program will help students transition into the next part of their academic lives and will begin a valuable partnership with the college. The “Next Step” Program will be introduced and initiated in the 2013-2014 school year.

SWCEC has also initiated internship opportunities for students from Nichols College, Endicott College, Assumption College, Bay Path College, Worcester State University, Springfield College and Bartlett High School.

Our Director of Transitional Services, Ms. Erika Travinski, also sits on the Seven Hills Family Support Board and the Harrington Hospital Women’s Auxiliary Board. Ms. Travinski’s involvement with local community groups has opened many doors for our SWCEC students with new work sites.

## **WORK EXPERIENCE PROGRAM (WEP)**

The Work Experience Program had many different job and volunteer sites in the 2012-2013 school year. There were a total of **17** students participating in the program that were from **10** different districts. Different sites where they worked or volunteered included:

### **Auburn High School WEP**

#### Job Sites:

Auburn Youth &  
Family Services  
Park N Shop (Auburn)  
The Sturbridge Host Hotel  
Big Lots

#### Non Profit Volunteer Sites:

St. Vincent Hospital

### **Northbridge High School WEP**

#### Job Sites:

Koopman Lumber  
Whitinsville Community Center  
Papa Gino’s

#### Non Profit Volunteer Sites:

Salvation Army  
Northbridge Public Library

## **Shepherd Hill Regional High School WEP**

### Job Sites:

Park N Shop  
Nichols College  
Harrington Hospital

## **SWCEC WEP/ GROW WEP**

### Job Sites:

Napa Auto Parts  
Big Y Bakery  
Oakwood Nursing Home & Rehab  
Park N Shop (Dudley)  
McDonald's  
The Sturbridge Host Hotel  
Nichols College (Dining Services & Recreation Dept.)  
SWCEC Farm Stand  
Partridge Hill Nursery

### Non Profit Volunteer Sites:

Harrington Hospital  
Hubbard Hospital  
Jacob Edwards Library  
Salvation Army  
Meals on Wheels  
Here Today Adopted Tomorrow Cat Shelter

## **Cultural and Community Outings**

Hanover Theater  
Bowling  
Roseland Park  
Swimming and Boating  
Special Olympics  
Community Dining Out

Discussions were held with the local Special Education Directors and the Grow WEP Program regarding the planned expansion for the 2013-14 school year. Three additional classrooms are being developed to enhance student growth in career development opportunities and instruction. This is a goal of the Board of Superintendents and Local Special Education Directors. The new program will be named the Grow Career Development Program.

At the end of the year, The Sturbridge Host Hotel as well as Harrington Hospital had an appreciation luncheon to thank the students for their hard work and dedication during the year.

## **GRADUATION**

In June, a graduation ceremony was held at Nichols College. Parents and staff gathered to recognize our special students for their accomplishments. Four students from four of our sending districts received a certificate of achievement. The program was especially proud that two students had become gainfully employed upon graduating from the program.

The Southern Worcester County Educational Collaborative transportation department provided services to 128 students throughout the 2012-2013 school year. These services include daily transportation to and from school, summer program transportation, after school program transportation and special field trip requests by the Collaborative as well as the Dudley Charlton regional school district.

SWCEC provides transportation services to the following school districts: Auburn, Dudley/Charlton, Grafton, Leicester, Northbridge and Webster. Our buses can be seen in Dudley, Charlton, Webster, Watertown, Natick, Springfield, Southborough, West Boylston, and Worcester as well as many other towns

The drivers that SWCEC employs take great pride in their job and ensuring that the students on their buses arrive safely to school and have an enjoyable ride. At the end of the year, there were 22 drivers, three of which were hired within the year to accommodate an increased need. Nine of the routes provided had monitors attached to them, therefore employing seven additional staff as school bus monitors. All drivers and monitors are trained in CPR, first aid, AED and epipen. The Collaborative is fortunate to have several drivers that have been employees for a number of years. They are truly invested in their students and believe in the service the Collaborative provides.

In February of 2013, the Collaborative hired Lena Travinski as the Director of Transportation to replace Linda Labbe upon her retirement at the end of the school year. Lena worked closely with Linda in the final months of school to make sure that the transition was smooth.

The department looked into different GPS devices to be mounted into its school buses to further improve safety and accountability. After comparing the many features and the best pricing, a recommendation was made to invest in the Actsoft hard-mounted tracking devices. This new system will be purchased in the next school year and will be fully operational shortly thereafter. This will allow the administrative user to pinpoint the exact location of all buses in case of emergencies. The system has the ability to provide data regarding maintenance needs, wait times at residences and/or schools, weekly odometer reports as well as many other features.

Within the last two months of school, the transportation department was contacted to see if two families could be assisted with transportation for their children after they were displaced from their homes. Our driver quickly came to the rescue and pitched in to provide this much needed help. The families were very appreciative and our drivers were proud to help provide a sense of routine to these children in a time of chaos.

The department is hopeful that it will continue to grow and evolve in the next year and be able to provide many more students with a pleasant bus ride.

The SWCEC transportation department consists of 26 vehicles. Transportation services are provided to districts for summer programming and regular school year programming. The

SWCEC also provides transportation for special school field trips where applicable. The SWCEC Transportation Department transported a total of 115 students during the 2012-2013 school year. The SWCEC developed transportation contracts to provide special education transportation for Auburn, Dudley/Charlton, Leicester and Webster.

The SWCEC transportation program has been cost effective due to our ability to meet local district transportation bids and our ability to individually develop specialized special education transportation runs for our members in a cost effective manner due to our centralized location.

**SWCEC PROGRAM COST COMPARISONS**

**Developmental Programs**

**SWCEC Tuition: \$45,097 Total Students: 47 (budgeted)**

Other Private Day Schools

Radius Pediatric Center	\$67,706
Kennedy Donovan Center	\$54,186
May Institute	\$67,971
Center for Handicapped Children	\$67,507

**Private School Average: \$64,342 Cost Difference: \$19,245**

**Total District Savings: \$904,515**

**Behavior Programs-Grow Elementary School and Grow Middle/High School  
SY 2012/2013:**

**SWCEC Elementary Tuition \$28,704.60 Total Students: 34 (budgeted)**

**SWCEC Middle/HS \$27,892.80 Total Students: 75 (budgeted)**

Other Private Day Schools

		<u>Cost Difference</u>	<u>Total Savings (FY2012/2013 budgeted)</u>
<i>Devereux School</i>			
Elementary	\$44,258.00	\$15,553.40	\$528,815.60
Middle/High	\$44,258.00	\$16,365.20	\$1,227,390.00
<i>Y.O.U., Inc.</i>			
Elementary	\$34,389.00	\$5,724.83	\$194,644.22
Middle/High	\$34,389.00	\$6,496.20	\$487,215.00
<i>Victor</i>			
Elementary	\$48,580.00	\$19,915.83	\$677,138.22
Middle/High	\$48,580.00	\$20,687.20	\$1,551,540.00

**Average Private School Tuition:**

**Elementary \$42,409.00 \$13,744.83 \$467,324.22**

**Middle/High \$42,409.00 \$14,516.20 \$1,088,715.00**

**Total District Savings: \$1,556,039.20**

**Southern Worcester County Educational Collaborative Service and Therapy Hourly Rates**

<b>Services and Therapies</b>	<b>SWCEC Hourly Rates</b>	<b>Comparative Rates</b>
Occupational Therapy Treatment	\$56.00	\$57-\$70
Physical Therapy Treatment	\$56.00	\$57-\$70
Speech Treatment	\$61.00	\$68-\$95
Adaptive PE	\$77.00	\$80-\$90
Vision	\$95.00	\$110-\$130
Music Therapy	\$75.00	\$80-\$90
Vocational Evaluation	\$75.00	\$90-\$120
Orientation / Mobility	\$110.00	\$120-\$140
Therapy Supervisory Services	\$68.00	\$80-\$100