
Northeastern Educational Intermediate Unit

Mr. Robert McTiernan
Executive Director
Kelly Dickey
Special Education Director

Date: August 8, 2017

To: Parents, Staff, and All Interested Parties of the SOAR Program

From: Kelly Dickey, Special Education Director

Re: Notice of Request for a Waiver of Caseload Regulations

The regulation caseload of students per teacher roster set forth by Chapter 14 of the Pennsylvania Code regarding Special Education Services and Programs is 8 students per Autistic Support classroom which includes our SOAR Transition Program on campus at Marywood University. This notice is being sent to inform you that NEIU 19 is requesting that a 9th student be added to the roster for this classroom for the 17-18 school year.

All parents and staff need to be notified and allowed an opportunity to comment as part of the process for the Bureau of Special Education to determine if they will approve of having a 9th student in the class. The following is information that has been shared with the Bureau and may be most important to parents and staff:

- This is a one year request due to the graduation of 5 out of the 9 students.
- This is only a request for 1 additional student. No additional student referrals/additions will be accepted for the 17-18 school year.
- An additional half day paraprofessional or job coach will be added to the program to accommodate supports in the work that that students complete on campus. This will allow all of the assigned staff to deliver the services indicated in all 9 students' IEPs.

This notice will be posted on the IU Website for the 10 day comment period for all interested parties. Anyone may provide comment over the next 10 days by contacting Kelly Dickey, Special Education Director at kdickey@iu19.org or at (570) 876-9215. All comments will be forwarded to the Bureau of Special Education for consideration in their decision.