



## To Our Keystone Family:

We would first like to thank you and your family for your hard work and support of your children and our district while we navigate these unprecedented times during the COVID-19 pandemic. We are incredibly proud of the work our students, teachers, and community leaders have done despite the uncertainty of this school year. As our Fall 2020 semester draws to a close, and we begin looking forward to a new year, we want to take the time to celebrate what we have accomplished so far. This newsletter shows only a handful of examples of reasons to be proud to be a member of the Keystone family! Please trust that we will continue to collaborate with our member districts to meet the needs of students in spite of any adversity.

**Thank you again for your support, and Happy Holidays!**

*Doug Anderson*

Keystone  
Executive Director

# Looking Back

## September:

- Amended IEPs to include contingency plans.
- Implemented the Navigating Change plan designed over the summer.
- Opened Turning Point, a new program for students 18-21.

## October:

- Statewide a 12% reduction in special education students is reported. At Keystone the September headcount showed only 6 fewer students or .6%.



## November

- Conducted a critical analysis of staff vacancies due to COVID.
- Incorporated a new Medicaid billing process to reduce the impact of COVID.
- Adapted IEP processes to better align with current needs.

## December:

- Took advantage of new ways to contact professional staff and support needs as they arise.
- Analyzed professional development needs and designed the winter inservice accordingly.

# Looking Forward

## Working with our Students:

- Some students have done very well in hybrid or remote learning environments! We want to make sure that we study the components of the delivery models that appealed to some students to ensure that we incorporate those things in the future.
- We are also getting better at determining which students do not adapt well to virtual or remote learning and have developed alternative plans for those students.
- No matter what challenges we face we will always adhere to the *individualized* requirement in IDEA to ensure that the unique needs of each student are addressed.

## Working with our Community:

- We have learned that virtual meetings often result in better attendance and more balanced participation. This has become an efficient way to conduct Board meetings and IEP meetings. We plan to continue using this forum for meetings in the future for those who prefer that method.
- Remote learning offers an alternative for lost instruction time traditionally associated with snow days or other technical issues that cause onsite instruction to be disrupted.

## Working with our Team:

- We have found new ways for dedicated staff to contribute from home or remote sites in a number of different ways. **This should continue!**
- We have learned to incorporate technology into our direct instruction and professional development activities that improves student engagement and the timeliness of interventions for staff. **This should continue!**
- We will study student outcomes and the effectiveness of alternative delivery models so that we can incorporate successful strategies in the future, and amend those things that were not successful. **This will continue!**
- **We will celebrate the amazing staff response to the adversity created by Covid-19! We will use this experience to change for the better traditional instruction in the future.**