

Phases of 1st year Teaching: Survival

The first month of school is very overwhelming for new teachers. You are learning a lot and at a very rapid pace. You are instantly bombarded with a variety of problems and situations that you had not anticipated. Despite your college prep programs or internships, you might be caught off guard by the realities of all your teaching responsibilities.

During the survival phase, it is normal to feel like your are struggling to keep your head about water. You might become focused and consumed with the day-to-day routines of teaching. There is little time to stop and reflect on your experiences. It is not uncommon for new teachers to spend up to seventy hours a week on schoolwork.

Mentor Minute

Better than a thousand days of diligent study is one day with a great teacher.

-Japenese Proverb

<u>MyPGS</u>

If you haven't been asked to access MyPGS, your administrator will probably be asking shortly. You can find the link to MyPGS on the WCSD home page under Quick Links OR under the "Departments" tab and by clicking on "Professional Growth Systems."

This site is used in conjunction with the WCSD teacher evaluation system. Your administrator may ask you to complete your self- assessment and meet with them to set goals and a time to formally observe your teaching.

All novice teachers should have 3 formal observations during their first year of teaching. Each observation should include a pre-observation conference, formal observation, and post-observation conference.

I have attached the Teacher Evaluation Critical Attributes & Possible Examples document. This document is a helpful tool to help orient you to the WCSD Teacher Evaluation Rubric. We will review this document throughout the year and it may be helpful to print it out if you do not already have a copy.

REMINDER

You can utilize your IC and IS to assist you with procedural and IEP questions. If you don't know who they are, I can provide that information,



Manual:

this.

Special Education Procedures

This is your "go to" for answers to ALL IEP questions. Please remember to refer to

101 Ways to Deal with Stress

- Do one task at a time
- Read a poem or a good book.

Focus on 'get to' vs 'have to'. Each day focus on what you get to do and not what you have to do. Life is a gift, not an obligation.

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Six Month Review

Six month reviews are done for any student receiving special education services under the age of six. A six month review is a meeting with the parents to review the progress that their child is making towards their goals and objectives. The six month review is held six months after the annual IEP is held. The case manager needs to send an invitation to the meeting (SES12) and written notice (SES14)

If the case manager anticipates that changes will need to be made, then the sixth month review is held just as any other IEP meeting and required team members must attend. If changes are not anticipated, but during the meeting it is determined that changes to the IEP are needed, a revision to the IEP is held and required IEP team members must be gathered. If it is not possible to get a team together at that time, then the meeting must be rescheduled. Clear documentation must be present on the status log to document what transpired.

Parent Notification of Eligibility/IEP Team Meeting - SES 12 (to be completed on Easy IEP)

Parental Prior Written Notice - SES 14 (to be completed on Easy IEP).