

Special Education in Action

Engaging Stakeholders through Communities of Practices and Program Development



Highlighting the "Dog Tales" Therapy Program out of Sandyston-Walpack Consolidated School

Tyler, the Great Pyrenees, comes to join the students at a Sussex County school to provide academic, social and emotional enrichment. The Therapy Dog Reading Program ("Dog Tales") has become an embedded part of their Reader's & Writer's Workshop curriculum.

In addition to Tyler's time with students in the classroom, he has also become an intricate part of the efforts in supporting students' social and emotional learning needs and behavioral supports. The Child Study Team (CST) has added an additional day each week to Tyler's schedule solely focused on this area. The CST incorporates Tyler into counseling sessions, social groups, SEL lessons, and as a positive reward for both academic and behavioral goals that have been set for students as part of its Response to Intervention (RTI) programming. These types of supports allow for the learning experience to be personalized for all students and gives students the opportunity to meet their full academic potential.

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Compensatory Education, December 2021



<u>Focus</u>: The NJDOE released the <u>Comprehensive School-Based</u> <u>Mental Health Resource Guide</u>

Spotlight: "Dog Tales" Therapy Program,
Sandyston-Walpack
Consolidated School in
Sussex County



Funding and Support Opportunities:

NJ Positive Behavior Support in

Schools Enrollment and

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