

The 15th Annual Changing Suburbs Institute® Educational Forum
Meeting the Needs of Diverse Learners in the COVID-19 Era
virtual multi-day conference
March 6 – March 13, 2021

Tuesday, March 9

3:30pm

Changing the Landscape of Special Education Through Quality Instructional Support

Rachel DePaul, Assistant Director of Special Education, and the Special Education Instructional Team, Mt. Vernon City School District

Workshop description:

The challenges associated with meeting the needs of students with disabilities, especially those who are English Language Learners, has been compounded due to repeated school/class closures, virtual learning and hybrid options. The Special Education Instructional Team in the Mount Vernon City School District (NY) has developed systems and protocols which have been a game changer for their teachers and support staff working with ELL students with disabilities. This presentation by members of the Mount Vernon Special Educational Instructional Team will highlight the methods they have implemented and supported to promote learning and progress in a hybrid learning environment.

Presenter bios:

Rachel DePaul has been a special educator and administrator in the Mount Vernon City School District (MVCSD) for 13 years. Currently preparing to defend her doctoral proposal in Supporting Trauma in the Classroom, she has worked to share knowledge, experiences, and resources to close the gaps that are evident in the high-needs community. Over the past 6 years, Rachel has built relationships within the school community and amongst all stakeholders. She is most proud of the work that the Special Education Instructional Team has accomplished through coaching, implementation of Explicit Direct Instruction, the use of data and training all educators in specially designed instruction.

Dr. Joyce Corpas has led the Special Education Instructional Team in the MVCSD as a Supervisor of Special Education.

Jessica Baruffo, a special educator in the MVCSD has become an expert in Orton Gillingham multisensory phonics approach for remedial reading instruction. Her knowledge of resources has supported her colleagues since trained in both Level I and Level II of OG.

Glenda Sanchez and **Teyana Hawkins** are Special Education Instructional Coaches in the MVCSD. They have taken their classroom experience and wealth of knowledge and resources to support all teachers of students with disabilities across the continuum of services.