



June 2026 Board Briefs
Sussex County ESC
Andrea Romano, Superintendent

SUPERINTENDENT REPORT

Congratulations to New SCESC Board President: Suzanne Ross, Lafayette

Andover Byram Franklin Hamburg Hardyston Kittatinny Lafayette Montague Newton
Ogdensburg Sparta Stanhope Sussex Wantage Vernon Walkill Valley Warren Hills

Representative Assembly

Frankford Frelinghuysen Fredon Green Hampton High Point Hopatcong
Lenape Valley North Warren Regional Sandyston-Walpack Sussex Tech Warren Hills

Thank you for your commitment to our school district!

Our next Board of Director's Meeting is scheduled for Monday, August 24th at 7:00pm at Northern Hills Academy. Please note that we have no July meeting and because we did not have a quorum for the meeting on June 29th, we will need to ratify the entire agenda from last night in August. It is so very essential that you show up for the meeting. Thank you!

SUPERINTENDENT'S REPORT

District-Wide

Looking back at this school year, we accomplished so many items on our task list and really did things well. We hired several new staff members who are already making systematic changes to our programs and creating real change to student behaviors. We welcomed a new BCBA, had several agency supports in Occupational Therapy, saw our Speech team expand and grow all while being able to meet the needs of students at Northern Hills Academy as well as itinerant programming.

Our itinerant program continues to grow. We have helped numerous districts with one shot evaluations for School Psychologists, LDTC's and Social Worker evaluations. In addition, Occupational Therapy evaluations saw a greater need from our public schools. We worked collaboratively with a number of districts to share services of staff members and ease the needs in the public schools. Most of these areas included Child Study Team services as well as Related Services.

Professional development was another area that has continued to remain steady. Our para training and training on verbal deescalation continue to be popular. With the addition of a new BCBA the more dynamic training of specific behavioral needs can be addressed.

We hired a new facilities staff member who has brought so much advanced skill to the position. He has taken ownership of so many of the tasks that the Business Administrator has had to manage. This has helped the business office immensely.

Northern Hills Academy

The month of June goes so quickly in school. This year was no exception. From field day to BBQ's, graduation and awards ceremonies, students' routines were definitely challenged. As we attempt to make routines such an integral part of each student's day so they know what to expect, in June we throw so many activities at students that it is hard to maintain the routines of consistency.

Students also use this time to separate from our staff. So a plethora of behaviors shine through. They have to work towards that separation so that they cago off for the summer not needing the reliance on our staff. For some students this struggle is very real.

We held a beautiful awards and recognition ceremony on June 18th. Each of our 3 high school graduates wore a cap and gown, were able to secure their high school diplomas and graduated from our program successfully. All students received awards from their respective teachers in areas of academics, behavior and emotional support/ Staff even received some awards to showcase the talent by so many of them.

Project Search

Graduation was on June 12th. It was another dynamic celebration of the success of the interns. Each of the interns were celebrated and honored for their achievements in employability skills and transition activities. Each gave a quick speech about how their journey to Project Search happened and what they were able to grow through during the program.

It is always magical to watch these young adults change throughout the program and really establish themselves as a viable workforce. Congrats to all!

Non Public and Public Itinerant

As we wait for the changes in Non Public funding to be announced, we are busy continuing to program for the start of a new year. Each student at the non public schools has been identified for automatic qualifications for basic skill instruction. Students receiving supplemental instruction and /or speech services has been identified and all required forms have been shared out.

As soon as the state NJDOE sends out the new procedures, SCESC non-publics will be ready.

Preschool Instructional Coaches (PIC)

As we have made some changes to this program and are looking to expand with hiring a new PIC, we will continue to strive for programming that meets the needs of our staff.

Sussex County ESC Program Offerings: Itinerant Services

Related Services Staff to share services:

Occupational Therapy

Physical Therapy

Speech Therapy

Child Study Team Services

Administrative Assistant/Secretarial Services

Para Professional Outsourcing

PreSchool Instructional Coaching (PIC/PIRS)

Why should your school district consider this option?

Staffing is and always will remain a challenge for both small and large school districts. Let Sussex County ESC provide Para-Professionals to your school district.

- Cost-Effective- paraprofessionals are hired on SCESC salary guide and become members of SCESC association
- SCESC provides a unique experience for what works for YOUR district. You can partner with us on all aspects of the program and/or leave many of the decisions up to us. Your district partners with SCESC to make the best decisions for your district.
- Through attrition and/or new hires, SCESC can make this work for your needs.

Please call Andrea Romano at 973-579-6980 x102 or email aromano@sussexesc.org or

Anthony DeFelice adefelice@sussexesc.org 973-579-6980 x123

Huge thanks to all of our Board of Directors and Representative Assembly members for an incredible year!

Next Sussex County Board of Education Meeting is scheduled for

Regular Meeting

August 24, 2026

7:00pm

Northern Hills Academy 10 Gail Ct Sparta, NJ 07871