

Rhode Island Department of Education Office of Student, Community and Academic Supports

School Support System Report and Support Plan

Paul Cuffee Lower, Middle & Upper Schools March 2023



SCHOOL SUPPORT SYSTEM A Collaborative System of Focused Monitoring

Introduction

The purpose of the School Support System (SSS) is to provide a means of accountability for delivery of programs and services for students with exceptionalities. The School Support System model is designed to promote the involvement of the whole school district, general educators as well as special educators and parents. It is designed to learn if the district meets the regulations and what effects programs, and services have on student outcomes. Finally, the SSS develops a school support plan for training and technical assistance.

To accomplish this the SSS includes these components:

- <u>The Orientation Meeting</u>: The Rhode Island Department of Education (RIDE) staff meets the Local Education Agency (LEA) to plan the site review and identify issues or initiatives that may influence programs or service delivery.
- Data Analysis Meeting: The RIDE staff meets to review LEA demographic information on selected reports including: the state performance plan, census information, and information collected through record review, staff questionnaires and parent interviews. To ensure that the child is at the center of the study, all analyses begin with the child. Thus, a stratified random sample of students with IEPs is selected; the records of these students are reviewed; their parents, teachers and related service providers are interviewed, and their classrooms are observed. The result is an in-depth, unified examination of the actual provision of programs and services for students with exceptionalities. The RIDE staff compiles a preliminary summary of their analyses of this data.
- <u>Presentation by the LEA and School Site Review</u>: The on-site review begins with a presentation of programs by teachers and staff. The presentation provides the review team with general and specific information on delivery of programs and services to students. Following this presentation, on-site reviews to all schools are made. The team embers interview school administrators and teaching staff. Parents and central office staff are also interviewed. The team gathers sufficient information and works with the LEA personnel to generate a report, covering the following:
 - o The district's compliance with the state and federal regulations, relative to the education of students with exceptionalities.
 - $_{\odot}$ The quality and effectiveness of programs and services provided by the district.
 - The need for professional development and technical assistance that will enable the LEA to improve programs and services.
- <u>The Support Plan</u>: The Ride team, LEA central office and building administrators meet to review the data and complete a report of results. The group designs a professional development/technical assistance support plan with timelines for implementation. This plan enables the school and district to correct areas of non-compliance and to strengthen promising programs and correct areas of weakness to improve services and programs for all students.
- <u>The SSS Report:</u> The report summarizes the findings from the various data sources. The format of the report uses four divisions: Indictors, Findings, Documentation, and Support Plan. Indicators describe either performance/result or compliance in the topical areas of Free and Appropriate Public Education (FAPE) in the Least Restrictive Environment (LRE), Evaluation/Individual Educational Program (IEP) and IDEA Transition. The documentation section of the report distinguishes the source of the finding as compliance or result. The support plan reflects the response to the described findings. The support plan describes the corrective action by the district as well as resources and timelines to improve programs and services.

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Paul Cuffee Lower, Middle & Upper Schools School Support System Review

Record Review Team Leaders

Team A – Susan Wood and Sandra Cambio Gregoire

The RIDE, Office of Student, Community & Academic Supports School Support System process was facilitated to provide a means of accountability for delivery of programs and services to improve outcomes for students with disabilities. The following pages reflect the findings of that process.

1. FREE APPROPRIATE PUBLIC EDUCATION IN THE LEAST RESTRICTIVE ENVIRONMENT (FAPE/LRE)

Indicator		Findings	Support Plan
Result 1	1	 Least Restrictive Environment Data (State Performance Plan Indicator #5) Based on the FY July 1, 2020– June 30, 2021, State Performance Plan information on Paul Cuffee Charter Schools Placement is as follows: The percentage of students educated 80 to 100% of the time in general education settings is 100% (RI District Average is 85.49%) Percentage of students educated for less than 40% of the time in general education settings is 0% (RI District Average is 15.7%) Documentation: Data Analysis; State Performance Plan 	
Result 2	2	 Participation and performance of children with IEPs on statewide assessments (State performance Plan Indicator #3): A. Participation rate for children with IEPs. ELA 87.5 B. Proficiency rate for children with IEPs against grade level academic achievement standards. ELA 3.7% Math 3.7% C. Proficiency rate for children with IEPs against alternate academic achievement standards. ELA N Too Small D. Gap in proficiency rates for children with IEPs and all students against grade level academic achievement standards. 	

		Math 2.14%
		Documentation: Data Analysis; State Performance Plan
Result	3	Multi-Tiered System of Support (MTSS) Response to Intervention (RTI)/ <u>Academics</u>
		Elementary Level Tier 1 supports include core instruction in all areas: Fundations (Foundational Reading Skills, grades K-3), EL Education (ELA curriculum grades K-5), Eureka Math (math curriculum grades K-5), FOSS kits/Gemsnet (science grades K-5) In reading & math, all PCS elementary students are screened three times a year using the AimswebPlus assessment as well as additional diagnostic reading & math assessments. Classroom teachers provide Tier 1 focused supports in areas the majority of students need additional help with. Classroom teachers provide Tier 2 support in class, usually during station rotations, with targeted support to small groups of students need help with. Interventionists & special educators provide small group and 1:1 pull out intervention for the students who need the most intense supports. All interventions are progress monitored weekly, biweekly or monthly. The school data team convenes three times a year to review progress and adjust groups.
		Middle Level Tier 1 supports include core instruction in all areas: EL Education (ELA curriculum grades 6-8), Illustrative Math (math curriculum grades 6-8), FOSS kits/Gemsnet (science grades 6-8) In reading & math, all PCS middle school students are screened three times a year using the Renaissance STAR assessment as well as additional diagnostic assessments. Humanities/math teachers provide Tier 1 support in areas most students struggle with. Students are scheduled for Tier 2 & 3 support in the SEAS block (reading, math, enrichment, or intense intervention). Progress monitoring occurs biweekly or monthly. The school data team meets three times a year to review progress and adjust groupings.
		High School Level Tier 1 supports include core instruction in all areas: Into Literature (ELA grades 9-12), CPM (math, grades 9-12), InquiryHub Biology & Chemistry, Inspire Physics, and AP courses in a variety of content areas. Evidence-based argumentation is a key instructional strategy that is implemented across

tent areas and disciplines. All students have access to No Red Ink, an ne program that supports both writing and grammar. students are screened using the STAR assessment, which is administered east three times per year. Furthermore, the school has a school-wide writing ric that is developed from The Writing Revolution, and teachers use this to ess writing across all grade levels and content. The data from these essments is used to determine whether students need additional support. er reading assessments, like Reading Inventory can be used to further ess reading abilities. The school also uses coursework grades and other essments, like the PSAT, as additional data points (when needed). roup of staff, including department chairs, grade level teachers, ninistrators, and other support staff will determine if students are in need of itional intervention. The team reviews and records assessment and essroom data and creates a plan for each student which includes current
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a, goals, interventions and progress monitoring. The plan is reviewed and sed in a 6-to-8 week cycle.
ddition to classroom supports and accommodations, many students are ced in specific small-group interventions
 Enrollment in support courses. For students struggling in literacy, students are enrolled in Power Up, an intervention program. For students struggling in math, students are enrolled in a math foundations course that uses Khan Academy with teacher support to enhance learning and the curriculum from Illustrative Math. Both interventions take on a blended learning approach. Access to online reading materials through Learning Ally.
cumentation: Data Analysis; State Performance Plan
P Disproportionate Representation (State Performance Plan Indicator and #10)
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			Black or	African /	American	
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		**	**	7	9	8
		157	157	153	162	160
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		1.18	1.40	3.06	3.03	2.74
Result	5	Document Suspens discrepand days as c greater th Schools a State Per by race of 10 days in practices requirement of positive	ion (State acy in the r ompared t an 10 day as no (0) si formance r ethnicity, n a school that contri ents relatir e behavior	Perform ate of sus to the rate s. This wa tudents w Plan Ind in the rat year for c bute to the g to the c al interven	ance Plan of susper as not app ith IEPs w licator #4I e of suspe children wit e significa levelopme ntions and	Indicato (for student isions (for licable for ere suspe b 0% had ensions are th IEPs; a nt discrep nt and imp supports, Performant
Result	6	Multi-tier Emotiona	ed Syster al Resour			

Tier 1 social emotional support is provided to all students: Responsive Classroom (K - 5) and Positive Behavioral Interventions and Supports Primary Prevention including common practices and expectations across K - 5. The social workers and school psychologist support students in classrooms as well. Paul Cuffee provides coaching and strategies to support staff with classroom management. The school has a number of positive behavior support strategies as well: Bright Spots weekly awards, Head of School's list, attendance award, acknowledgements at Monday Morning Meeting and Town Meetings, pop up parties, and classroom positive supports. Students are identified for Tier 2 & 3 through teacher referral to the SEST (Social Emotional Support Team) or via screening of the school's office referral data (SWIS system). The Social Emotional Support Team is composed of the principal, positive behavior support teaching partner, classroom teacher, social worker, art teacher, and other specialists, with consultation from a BCBA. The SEST meets weekly and more frequently as requested by the teacher. The SEST creates a set of interventions or plan for each student and meets every 6 weeks (or more frequently) to review data and adjust the plan. The team also provides coaching support to staff. For some students in Tier 2, individualized and positively oriented behavior plans and feedback systems are created and supported, and for students in Tier 3 additional crisis response plans are supported. For a few students in Tier 3 a paraprofessional staff is assigned.

Middle Level

Tier 1 social-emotional supports are provided to all students: Developmental Designs is used as the schools approach; this includes a daily 25-minute advisory, a weekly 45-minute Wellness class, and a number of relationship/culture building strategies that are incorporated into all classes. The school's philosophy has long been that that S.E.L. should be embedded throughout the day. All staff are trained in Developmental Designs upon hiring (week-long workshop during the summer). When problem behaviors arise, advisors will first problem-solve with students by using the social-conference planning template. Advisors will often involve parents at this stage.

Students are identified for Tier 2 and 3 through teacher referral to the SEST (Social Emotional Support Team) or via screening of the school's office referral data (SWIS system). The Social Emotional Support Team is composed of the

principal, Dean, social workers, teaching partner, core teachers, and at times other specialists. The SEST will provide an Individualized Positively Oriented Behavior Intervention Plan, which includes supports, accommodations, crisis response plans, and parent-involvement plans. Some specific interventions include Check-In/Check-Out, behavior contract/reward systems, mentoring relationships, modified schedules, special seating arrangements, sensory diets, frequent check-ins, planned ignoring, and 1:1 pairing.

High School

At the Upper School, Tier 1 supports are provided to all students. All students are enrolled in an advisory course that supports social emotional learning. The course is based on the Developmental Designs framework. Staff receive Developmental Designs training. Furthermore, the Upper School incorporated positive behavior interventions in a number of ways: providing whole-school acknowledgements at the weekly school meeting, awarding "Turtle Points" when students meet the school's expectations, and acknowledging students for grades, community membership and attendance through the Head of School List, Scholar's List, and regular attendance awards. Furthermore, at the end of each guarter, the school hosts a school-wide awards show. Paul Cuffee school also has a "Behavior Back-Up" team which includes the Dean of Students, Student Success Manager, social worker and two teaching partners who support staff and students with behavioral expectations. Students are identified for Tier 2 and 3 through staff referral to the Behavior Back-Up team. The Behavior Back-Up will provide an Individualized Positively Oriented Behavior Intervention Plan, which includes supports, accommodations, crisis response plans, and parent-involvement plans. Some specific interventions include behavior contract/reward systems, mentoring relationships, modified schedules, special seating arrangements, sensory diets, frequent check-ins, check-in and check-out and planned ignoring.

School Removals/Disciplinary Policies. Throughout the district behavioral expectations along with disciplinary action protocols and policies are comprehensively defined in a student handbook.

Documentation: Data Analysis; Interviews; Observations

Result	7	Preschool Continuum	
		The Paul Cuffee Charter School K-12 does not have a preschool program.	
Result	8	Program Continuum Elementary Level	
		There are 359 students at the elementary level and approximately 32 have IEPs. The special education program continuum is as follows:	
		Lower school has an inclusion continuum. Curriculum is differentiated based on students' needs. Special education services are provided by three professional teaching staff through a combination of in-class support and pull- out services (for example, Orton Gillingham reading).	
		Each kindergarten and first grade class of 20 students are supported by a full- time general education teacher and paraprofessional for every 2 classrooms. Each grade 2-5 classroom of 20 students are supported by a full-time general education teacher, and one paraprofessional supports each grade level.	
		Five students are supported by paraprofessional staff- two are in a 1:1 capacity and 3 are provided significant access to paraprofessional support.	
		Two full-time social workers support the Lower School, and a full-time psychologist supports the three school campuses.	
		A full-time speech and language pathologist, part-time occupational therapist, and part-time physical therapist support students across the Lower School.	
		Documentation: Data Analysis; Interviews; Observation	
Result	9	Program Continuum Middle Level	
		There are 188 students attending Paul Cuffee Middle School, 25 are students with IEPs.' At the middle school, a full-inclusion model is used. There is one	

	1		
		special educator associated with each grade level (three grades, three	
		teachers). Students are grouped heterogeneously with the general population.	
		Students have three core classes (science, math, humanities) with the general	
		education teacher and receive in-class support determined by their IEP goals	
		and required class support hours. Students are given work modified at their	
		appropriate level driven by the common core state standards and class	
		content. Students receive additional skill support throughout the day but not	
		interfering with their general education classes (advisory, lunch, recess, after	
		school). The school has an intervention block in which all students (including	
		special-education students) are grouped according to specific needs. For	
		example, some students receive Orton Gillingham reading and some receive a	
		math skills block while others might receive a science or art enrichment class.	
		Paul Cuffee also finds time within the class to add in re-teaching and pre-	
		teaching opportunities, using small groups. Additional resources are given to	
		students as deemed appropriate by the teacher and case manager. There are	
		no students at the middle school that were in alternate assessment or self-	
		contained settings.	
		Two full-time social workers support the middle school, and a full-time	
		psychologist supports the three school campuses. A full-time speech and	
		language pathologist and part-time occupational therapist support students	
		across the middle school.	
		Documentation: Data Analysis; Interviews; Observations	
Result	10	Program Continuum High School Level	
		At Paul Cuffee Upper School there are approx. 268 and 45 have IEPs. The	
		program continuum is as follows:	
		At the upper school a full-inclusion model is used. Differentiated curriculum is	
		used based on students' needs. Special education services are provided by	
		three professional teaching staff through a combination of in-class support and	
		pull-out services. One special educator supports grade 9, one special educator	
		supports English in grade 10-12, and one educator supports math in grade 10-	
		12. In grades 9, the special educator supports in all core classes (English,	
		algebra, biology, and global studies). In grades 10-12, all students with an IEP	

		have a special educator who supports in math and/or English, depending on the child's needs and what is outlined in their IEP. Students are given work differentiated at their appropriate level driven by the common core state standards and class content. Students receive additional skill support throughout the day but not interfering with their general education classes. The school has an intervention block in which all students receive a variety of supports. Special education students may be pulled for extra support if their IEP requires it. The school finds time within the class to add in re- teaching and pre-teaching opportunities, using small groups. Additional resources are given to students as deemed appropriate by the teacher and case manager and organizers to help them feel successful. Paul Cuffee does not have any students in a self-contained classroom. Each core class and elective classroom consists of 12-26 students and are supported by a full-time general education teacher. One paraprofessional supports each grade level. The Upper School has one student who requires 1:1 support from a paraprofessional. A full-time social worker supports the Upper School, a full-time school counselor, and a full-time psychologist supports the three school campuses. A full-time speech and language pathologist and part-time occupational therapist support students across the Upper School.	
		Documentation: Data Analysis; Interviews; Observation	
Result 1	11	Adapted Physical Education (APE) Paul Cuffee Charter School does not currently service a student who is in need of adaptive physical educational needs.	
		Documentation: Data Analysis; Interviews; Observation	

Result	12	Extended School Year (ESY): 16 students total participated in ESY summer of 2022	
		Lower school had 6 students who participated in ESY during the summer of 2022. The ESY program is for students as identified in IEPs. The ESY program addresses reading, writing and math regression and recoupment. Related services are provided for speech/language, occupational therapy, and physical therapy.	
		Middle school had 3 students participate by qualify through collection of data related to their IEP goals and showing they either have regressed in past years during the summer they have lack of sufficient progress on goals in current year. Students work on remedial math, reading and writing in coordination with their IEP goals. Related services are provided per IEP.	
		Upper school students had 3 students participate by qualifying through collection of data related to their IEP goals and showing they either have regressed in past years during the summer they have lack of sufficient progress on goals in current year.	
		The ESY program runs 3 mornings per week, Tuesday, Wednesday, Thursday, for 4 weeks in July. Students work on remedial math, reading and writing in coordination with their IEP goals. Related services are provided per IEP.	
		Documentation: Data Analysis; Interviews	
Result	13	Local Special Education Advisory Committee (LAC)	
		The Paul Cuffee Charter School has a parent association dedicated for special education families in alignment with Rhode Islan regulatory requirements (300.900). The LAC currently has two parent co-chairs.	
		The parent association meets 4 times a year, on a quarterly basis. The Director of Special Education meets over the summer with the co-chairs to develop topics for each meeting that are aligned with and meet the needs of the families. For the 2022-2023 school year, the following meetings and topics are below:	

		October 27, 2022 RIPIN Bullying and Harassment January 12, 2023 Social Media, Gaming, and Screen Time: How is it affecting our children? with the school psychologist March 23, 2023 Positive Family Engagement with consultant from Empowering through Education Consulting June 1, 2023 Transitions and ESY Documentation: Data Analysis; Interviews; Observation	
Result	14	 School Efforts to Partner with Parents (State Performance Plan Indicator #8) The Paul Cuffee Charter public-school district's rate of parent participation (for parents whose children have IEPs) in the annual Special Education Statewide Parent Survey (2020-2021) was 33 families. Percent of the responding parents (with a child receiving special education services) who report that schools facilitated parent involvement as a means of improving services and results for children with disabilities is 90% <u>Documentation</u>: Data Analysis; State Performance Plan 	
Result	16	Drop Out / Graduation Rate (State Performance Plan Indicator #1 and #2)The Paul Cuffee Upper School's 4-year graduation rate for 2022 is 89.6% for all students and 90% for students with disabilities. These rates approximate the state average rates of 83.7% for all students and 64.7% for students with disabilities.Documentation: Data Analysis; State Performance Plan	

2. EVALUATION / INDIVIDUAL EDUCATION PROGRAM (IEP)

Indicator		Findings	Support Plan
Result/ Compliance	1	Records of approximately 8 students were reviewed prior to the on-site review by the team leaders. Students' records were very accessible. The record review process identified by following: -Specific learning disabilities evaluation process was not aligned to the RI Regulatory Requirements (300.307) -Progress reporting not consistently seen in file (300.320) -Short-term objectives not consistently measurable (300.320)	The Rhode Island Department of Education, Office of Student, Community and Academic Supports, will verify that compliance issues are addressed and rectified. This Support Plan is applicable for all compliance findings in this section. Timeline : Immediately
		(RI Regulations Subpart D Evaluations, Eligibility Determinations, Individualized Education Programs and Educational Placements)	Progress Check: December 2023
		Documentation: Data Analysis; Interviews; Observation	FOLLOW-UP FINDINGS:
Result	2	Child Outreach Screening	
		As a charter school child outreach is not applicable.	
		Documentation: State Performance Plan; Data Interviews	
Result	3	Child Find (State Performance Plan Indicator #11)	
		Paul Cuffee Charter Schools for the 2020 - 2021 year was at 100% compliance for meeting evaluation timelines for initial referrals. As of 02/1/23 Paul Cuffee Charter Schools was thus far at 100% compliance for meeting evaluation timelines for initial referrals.	
		Documentation: State Performance Plan Data	
Result	4	Student Accommodations and Modifications	
		Throughout the district special educators completed an "IEP At A Glance" attaching the IEP supplementary aids and services accommodations page, which they review with general education teachers. That is then sent to the general education teachers. Special education teachers and general education teachers collaborate to determine appropriate testing accommodations. Special educators also meet with general education	

Result/ Compliance	5	teachers on a regular basis to review accommodations and modifications and to co-plan for students, K-12. <u>Documentation</u> : Data Analysis; Interviews; Document Reviews Specific Learning Disabilities Determination (SLD) The Evaluation Team (ET) reviews referrals, which may come from individual teachers, parents, or MTSS; and, the ET reviews current students in special education who are up for re-evaluation. The ET collects performance data, classroom observation reports, parent reports, and formal assessments to determine whether evaluations are required. Once evaluations are complete, the team reviews the evaluations and determines if there is evidence of a learning disability. If it is determined that the student is eligible based on specific learning disability, the ET completes the learning disabilities determination document. Record reviews indicated that the process of determining a specific learning disability is not aligned with Rhode Island regulatory requirements (300.309) <u>Documentation</u> : Interviews; Record Reviews	Paul Cuffee will review, refine and revise their SLD policies, protocols and procedures for SLD. Special education staff will be provided professional development on the refined and revised processes. Timeline : Immediately Progress Check : December 2023 FOLLOW-UP FINDINGS :
Result	6	Due Process Information (State Performance Plan Indicators) Over the past three years no (0) complaints, mediations, or hearings <u>Documentation</u> : Data Analysis, RIDE, Due Process Data Base	

3. IDEA TRANSITION

Indicator		Findings	Support Plan
Result	1	Part C (Early Intervention) to Part B Transition (State Performance Plan Indicator #12)	

		Paul Cuffee does not have preschool aged students, so this indicator is not applicable.Documentation: Data Analysis; Interviews; State Performance Plan	
Result	2	IDEA Transition Planning at the Middle LevelMiddle School special educators and general educators use a number of tools for transition planning, including interest inventories and career exploration. The Middle School is receiving training in Naviance to better assist students with transition planning in the future. Educators will then use Naviance to help students better explore and understand the career pathway they find interesting.Documentation:Data Analysis; Interviews; Record Reviews	
Result	3	 IDEA Transition Planning at the High School Level The Paul Cuffee School gives three transition assessments that are considered age and need appropriate. Proof is provided that a student was invited to the IEP meeting and the Paul Cuffee School's forms have been updated to demonstrate that student was invited. Attainable goals are listed under the "Post-School Goal" section in the IEP. A description of the results of the assessments is included in the "Present Levels of Performance" section in the IEP. A description of how a student's strengths, as outlined in the assessments, will help him achieve his goals and current supports that are aiding him in achieving those goals is listed in the "Present Levels of Performance" section in the IEP. 	
		A description of how a student's needs, as outlined in the assessments, will hinder a child from achieving his goals and what supports should be implemented to help him achieve those goals is listed in the "Present Levels of Performance" section in the IEP.	

	Three action items per category in the "Transition Services I Need to Help Me Reach My Post-School Goals" section of the IEP are specific and explain how they will help the student meet his or her goals. Accommodations in the "Supplementary Aides and Services" section of the IEP are designed to help a student meet his transition goals. The Paul Cuffee School is beginning to use MAPS and will review the results every year and make adjustments to the plan as needed.
	Documentation: Data Analysis; Interviews; Record Reviews
Result 4	At the high school, the case manager is the point for referrals to the Office of Rehabilitative Services (ORS) and to the Department of Behavioral Healthcare, Developmental Disabilities & Hospitals (BHDDH). At the high school, the case manager is the point for referrals to the Office of Rehabilitative Services (ORS) and to the Department of Behavioral Healthcare, Developmental Disabilities & Hospitals (BHDDH). ORS and BHDDH attend IEP meetings as needed and the high school has worked with ORS to provide trial work experiences for appropriate students. <u>Documentation</u> : Interviews; Document Review
Result 5	 The case managers facilitate Summary of Performance (SOP) as appropriate. The SSOP must be provided to the student in their final year of high school or eligibility under IDEA, including those who have dropped out. The timing of completion of the SSOP may vary depending on the student's postsecondary goals, but these documents are typically completed in the spring of the student's senior year. Timing of completion of the SSOP is often considered an IEP Team decision. At the Upper School, the SSOP was based off of forms used by other districts, but was modified by the Team. The Case Manager, with input from other professionals who are most knowledgeable

		about the student's performance and effective accommodations and supports, completes the SSOP. <u>Documentation</u> : Interviews; Document Review	
Result	6	Youth with IEPs aged 16 and above with an IEP that includes appropriate measurable postsecondary goals that are annually updated and based upon an age-appropriate transition assessment, and transition services. The Paul Cuffee Charter Schools are 100% compliant with the requirements. (State Performance Plan Indicator #13) <u>Documentation</u> : Interviews; Document Review	
Result	7	100% of youth who are no longer in secondary school, had IEPs in effect at the time they left school, and who have been employed, enrolled in postsecondary school, or both within 1 year of leaving high school. The state average was 78% (State Performance Plan Indicator #14)Documentation: Interviews; Document Review	