

# Board of Education Presentation: Proposed Partnership Between Pocantico Hills School And The Children's School For Early Development For The 2015–2016 School Year

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Superintendent

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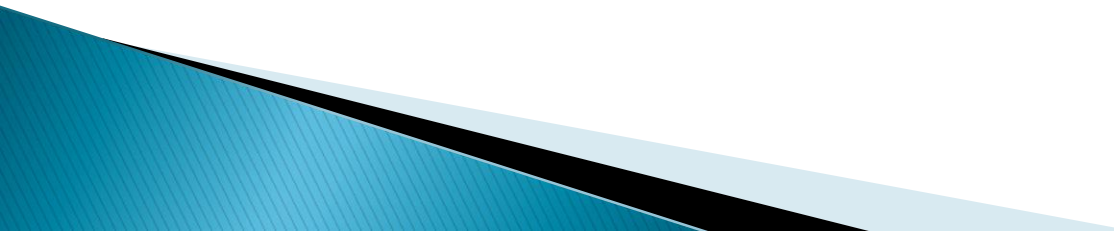
David Wilens, Trustee

# Pocantico Hills School


## GUIDING PRINCIPLE Number 6:

- ▶ *“Community partnerships provide opportunities to promote communication and global awareness.”*


# Some Questions To Address Our Shrinking Enrollment :

- ▶ Just as we send our students to three local high schools, why couldn't the three local districts send their Pre-K students to our building?
  - ▶ Just as we send our students to out-of-district Special Education programs, why couldn't we develop a Special Education program that fits the needs of the three partner school districts?
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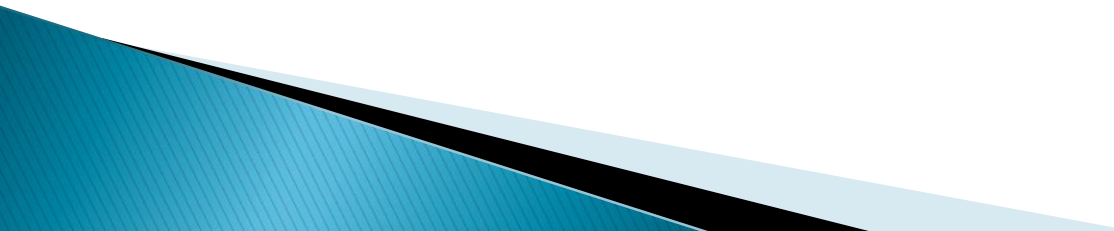
# What Is The Children's School For Early Development?

- ▶ The Children's School for Early Development is a division of Westchester Association for Retarded Children (Arc) that provides educational, social and support services for children, from birth to five years of age, and their families.
  - ▶ Presently the Children's School for Early Development offers Integrated classrooms in the Lakeland, Peekskill, and New Rochelle School Districts.
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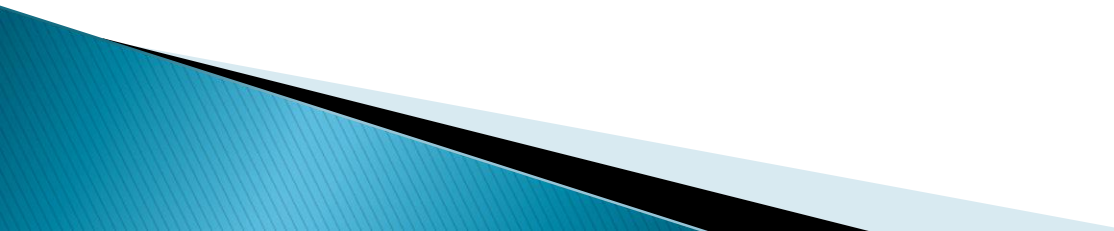
# What Is Their Mission?

- ▶ Their mission is to promote community integration for people with developmental disabilities, the Children's School is the largest provider of community-based services for children with developmental disabilities in Westchester County in terms of the number of children served and the number of community sites at which we have opened inclusion classes.
  - ▶ Their early intervention services are now delivered entirely in community settings, and more than 80 percent of the pre-school children whom they serve attend community schools.
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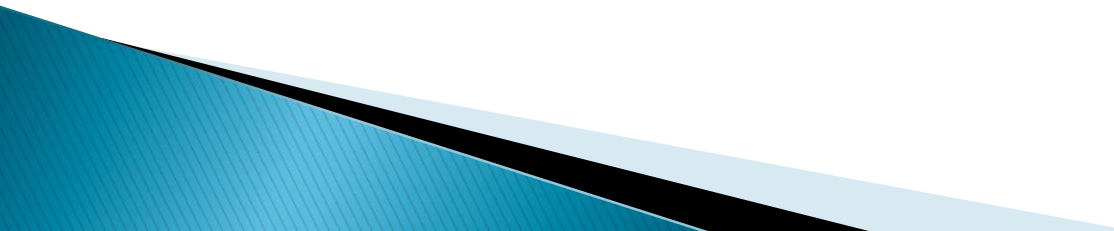
# How Did We Form A Relationship With The Children's School For Early Development?

- ▶ Over the summer I met with Fran Pocaro, Director, of the Children's School for Early Development and discussed partnership ideas.
  - ▶ Ms. Pocaro came to our school, toured our school, and met with Dr. Douglas, Mia Wrobel and myself on October 29th.
  - ▶ Dr. Douglas and I visited the Integrated classrooms at the Peekskill's Uriah Hill Elementary School.
  - ▶ Mrs. Carrigan, Mrs. Lepore, Ms. DiStefano and I visited the Peekskill's Uriah Hill Elementary School.
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# What Will An Integrated Class Look Like?

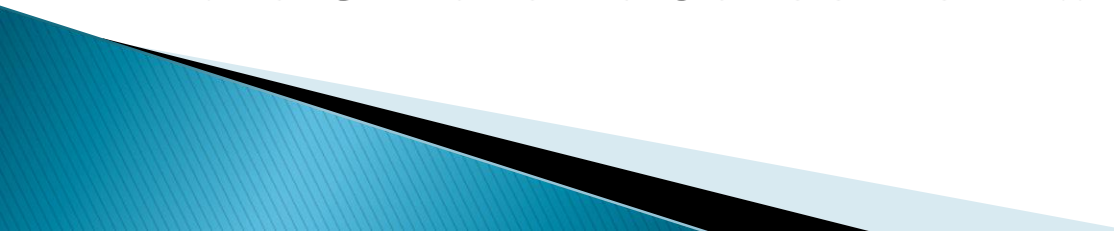
- ▶ A total of six (6) identified Pre-School students will be integrated into a regular education Pre-K class with non-disabled students.
  - ▶ This class will be co-taught by a regular education and special education teacher.
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# What Will The Children's School For Early Development Contribute To The Integrated Class?

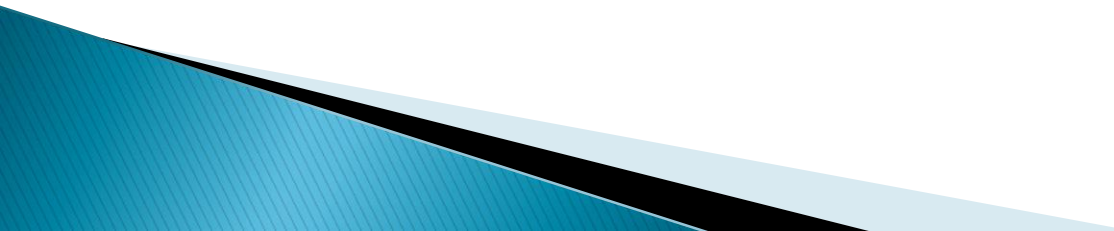
- ▶ A trained and certified Special Education teacher.
  - ▶ A teacher assistant.
  - ▶ Commitment to weekly team meetings for all the students in the class.
  - ▶ School Psychologist services will be provided as needed.
  - ▶ A commitment to share their special education expertise including their knowledge of the behavioral management techniques taught at the Carbone Clinic. The Carbone Clinic is nationally recognized for their work in student self-regulation skills and the training of ABA.
  - ▶ The special education services, therapies and/or family support services to the pre-school disabled student to meet each child's individualized education program (IEP).
  - ▶ Transportation of disabled students attending the pre-school program.
  - ▶ The 4410 permit to operate a Pre-School Integrated Special Education class. The 4410 permit is necessary as part of the Commissioner's Part 200 regulations.
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# What Will Pocantico Hills Contribute To The Integrated Class?

- ▶ We will provide the space for the enrollment of the six (6) identified students.
  - ▶ A regular education teacher.
  - ▶ A teacher assistant.
  - ▶ The non-identified students in the room.
  - ▶ Up to six hours a week of speech therapy – reimbursed by the Children's School for Early Development.
  - ▶ Working space as needed for the support staff of the Children's School for Early Development.
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# How Will This Integrated Class be Funded?

- ▶ The County of Westchester pays for all Pre-K Special Education Services.
  - ▶ Pocantico will receive approximately \$300 per month from the Children's School for Early Development for each identified children in the program (maximum six students).
  - ▶ The Children's School For Early Development will pay for up to six hours of speech therapy provided per week by our speech teacher for the identified students.
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# How Will Our District Benefit From Having an Integrated Classroom?

- ▶ In the past, identified Pre-K students from our district would have been placed in an out-of-district placement, they will now be placed here.
  - ▶ Students from our partner districts will have a positive, educational experience here.
  - ▶ We will learn specific skills and strategies utilized by the staff of the Children's School for Early Development and the Carbone Clinic.
  - ▶ Our non-disabled students in the classroom will learn acceptance of the differences of others.
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# Questions?

