



# **FIVE PILLARS OF CONTINUOUS IMPROVEMENT IN SPECIAL EDUCATION**

## **OFFICE OF STUDENT SERVICES**

**Elizabeth Kurlan, Director of Student Services**

**Elizabeth O'Neill, Assistant Director of Student Services**

**December, 2016**

# Hingham Public Schools

## MISSION STATEMENT

The mission of the Hingham Public Schools is to provide challenging and comprehensive educational programs in a safe and supportive environment, enabling all students to develop the knowledge and skills necessary for success as local and global citizens.



# Hingham Public Schools

## CORE BELIEFS

FULFILLMENT OF INDIVIDUAL POTENTIAL

RESPECT FOR SELF AND OTHERS

CIVIC RESPONSIBILITY

COMMITMENT TO LIFE-LONG LEARNING

SERVICE TO OTHERS



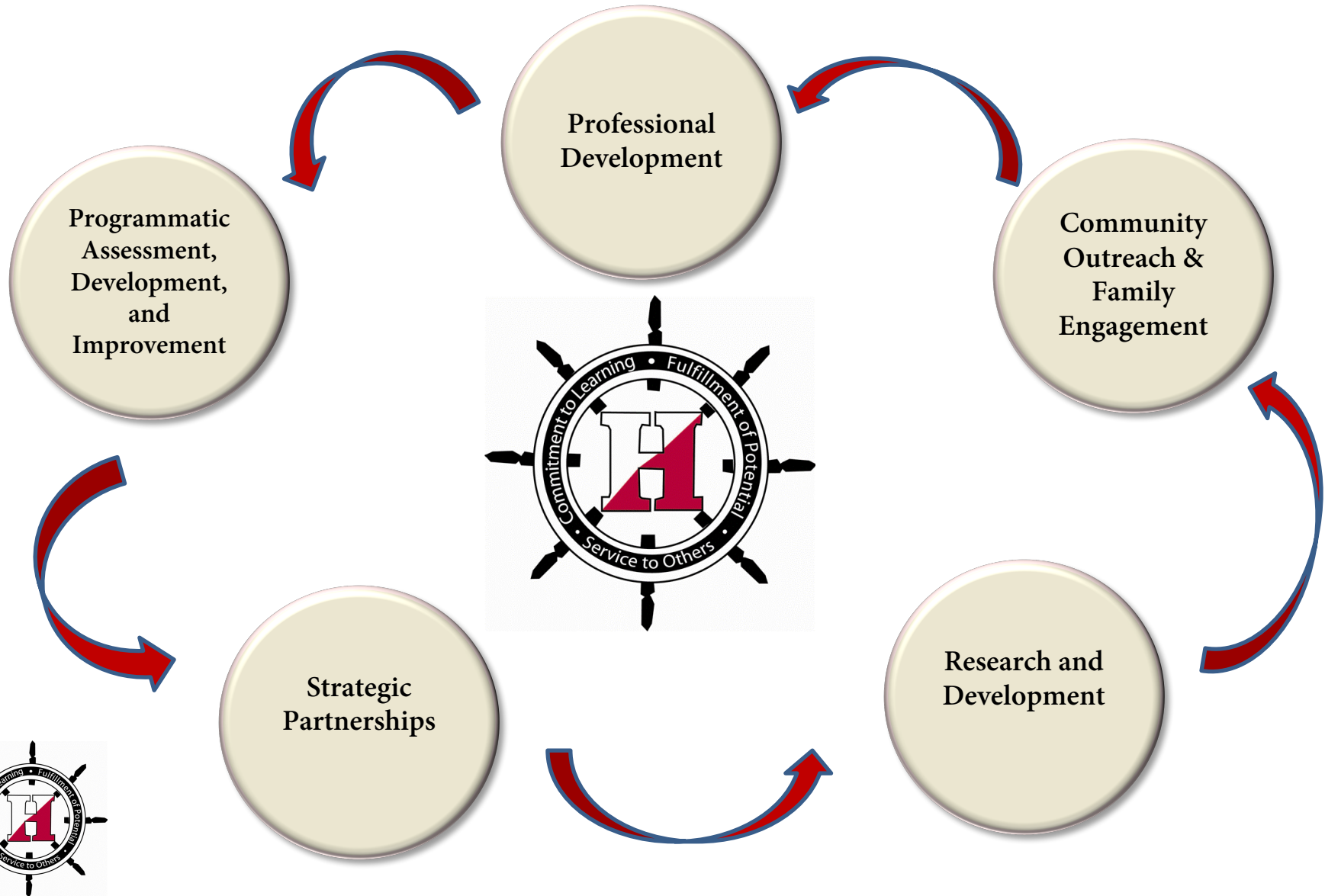
# Hingham Public Schools

**In partnership with families and the community, the HPS strives to develop in students:**

- academic excellence, including content knowledge, communication skills, critical thinking skills, and problem solving capacity
- habits of physical and emotional well-being, including a spirit of self-worth, resiliency, and adaptability
- personal responsibility, integrity, and active citizenship
- responsibility for the environment
- skillful and responsible use of technology
- respect for the diverse views and backgrounds of others
- collaborative engagement as a means of both learning and problem solving
- intellectual curiosity that motivates future learning
- creative expression through the fine, performing, and applied arts



# 5 Pillars of Continuous Improvement in Special Education



# Pillar I: Programmatic Assessment, Development, and Improvement

Ongoing review of programs offered in Hingham Public Schools and, where needed, implement reform to ensure alignment with department and district goals.

- Revise and Publish HPS Special Education Procedures Manual
- Paraeducators (assignment, use, training)
- IEP writing
- Provision of Support to students with Emotional/Behavioral challenges (e.g., role of School Adjustment Counselors)
- Intensive Skills Programs



# Pillar II: Professional Development

**Develop and implement a multi-year professional development plan, aligned with the HPS Professional Development Plan, to ensure continuity of programs, services, and core instructional methods.**

- Training on revised Procedural Policies and Practices
- Instruction: Long Term; Evidence-Based Practices
- New Special Education Teacher Induction: “Boot Camp”
- Mentoring Program
- Regular Education: Inclusive Practices, Curriculum Access, Grading
- Middle School Focus Group: Quality of T&L, Course Offerings



# Pillar III: Community Outreach and Family Engagement

**Work to sustain collaborative relationships with community organizations/institutions and launch a focused plan to increase family engagement in the Special Education process.**

- SEPAC
- Student Services Website
- Community Presentations
- SNAP





# Pillar IV: Strategic Partnerships

**Work to strengthen collaborative partnerships with local, state, and national organizations/institutions to enable strategic partnerships and targeted support.**

- Hingham Public Schools Tiered Systems of Support (HTSS)
- University and Colleges
- Organizations
- Schools



# Pillar V: Research and Development

**Establish an internal procedure to research and develop evidenced-based practices focused on improving student performance and outcomes.**

- Paraeducators
- General Benchmarking & Curriculum Assessments
- Academic Tiered Systems of Academic Support
- Specialized Reading Instruction
- Secondary: Level IV Classrooms



# 2016-2017 Focus Areas

## ***PROGRAM IMPROVEMENT:***

- Strengthen Intensive Skills Program PK-12+
- Emotional/behavioral support
- Targeted IEP improvement

## ***DESE COORDINATED PROGRAM REVIEW:***

- Ready for self-study 2017
- Program and procedures manual
- Website

## ***OTHER:***

- Ongoing work with families and students around transitions
- Ongoing parental feedback regarding the special education and team process
- Budget

