

Team Members



Leslie Brinkman George, Ph.D., Executive Director of Academic Intervention

Dr. Brinkman George leads the department of Academic Intervention which includes Special Education, Section 504, and Multi-Tiered Systems of Support for both academics and behavior. Dr. Brinkman George has been a proud member of Tyler ISD since 2013. She has over 30 years of experience in public education with the majority of those in special education. She has been a teacher, principal, program administrator and adjunct professor. Her passion is creating possibilities for students with disabilities. Leslie.George@tylerisd.org



Michelle Reed, Executive Assistant to Executive Director of Academic Intervention

Michelle is responsible for Special Education student record requests, SSI requests, and staff payroll, as well as maintaining inactive student files and acting as a liaison between the Executive Director of Academic Intervention and other personnel. Michelle.Reed@Tylerisd.org



Chris Bell-Roberson, Coordinator of Behavioral Support Services

Chris coordinates a team of professionals in providing a seamless continuum of behavior support throughout Tyler ISD. The behavior team consists of Licensed Specialists in School Psychology, Behavior Specialists, and Board Certified Behavior Analysts. This team of skilled individuals provides the students and teachers with guidance by offering consultation to campus staff, psychological assessment, determination of eligibility for direct and in-direct service to both general and special education students, and crisis intervention to those students enrolled in Tyler ISD. Chris.Bell-Roberson@tylerisd.org



Jenny Brandt, Coordinator of Speech Language Pathology & Therapy Services

Jenny is a Speech-Language Pathologist who has served students in the educational setting and adults in the Skilled Nursing Facility setting. She is currently the Coordinator of Therapy services for Tyler ISD and supervises Speech Therapy, Occupational Therapy, Physical Therapy and Assistive Technology. Jenny is excited to be a part of Tyler ISD and has an amazing team of therapists who are "dedicated to student success!" Jenny.Brandt@Tylerisd.org



Bridget McCaslin, Coordinator of Assessment & Compliance

Bridget supports the Educational Diagnosticians, ARD Specialists and Diagnostician Clerks in Tyler ISD in regards to the development and implementation of best practices in Special Education evaluation, interpretation and reporting; thereby, enabling accurate diagnostic information for eligibility and interventions. See also oversees 504 and dyslexia assessment. Bridget.McCaslin@Tylerisd.org



Kerry Palmquist Jackson, Coordinator of Instructional Services

Kerry coordinates Response to Intervention/Multi-Tiered Systems of Support (RtI/MTSS), the Dyslexia program, and resource/inclusion. She provides administrators and teachers with professional development, best practice teaching strategies and guidance on how to meet the needs of all students. "We work together to provide a variety of opportunities for students to achieve success in and out of the classroom." Kerry.Palmquist@Tylerisd.org



Kathy Robertson, Coordinator of RDSPD & Visual Impairment

Kathy coordinates the Regional Day School Program for the Deaf providing educational and family support services to the deaf and hard of hearing from birth through age 21 in the following counties: Anderson, Cherokee, Henderson, Rusk, Smith, VanZandt and Wood County. The program is housed under Tyler ISD and provides a full continuum of service and placement options. In addition, she supervises services for students, birth through age 21, that have visual impairments within Tyler ISD. Kathy.Robertson@Tylerisd.org



Hatiera Currier, Coordinator of Low Incidence Disabilities

Hatiera provides support and training for the teachers of students in the Preschool Programs for Children with Disabilities, Precision Teaching, Structured Teaching, and Life Skills classrooms. She focuses on empowering teachers in order to promote successful student outcomes.

Hatiera.Currier@Tylerisd.org



Tracy Johnston, Coordinator of Transition and College & Career Readiness

Tracy provides information and resources to students enrolled in special education about effective transition planning and services. She provides teachers, parents, and administrators with professional development related to improving self-advocacy, college and career readiness, and outcomes for students of all abilities. She has been with Tyler ISD for 21 years serving 18 of those years within special education as a Diagnostician and Transition Facilitator. She is the Transition and Employment Services Designee. Tracy.Johnston@Tylerisd.org



Chris Buchanan, Lead Licensed Specialist in School Psychology (LSSP)

As the Lead LSSP for Tyler ISD, Chris provides support and guidance to fellow LSSPs and Behavior Specialists. The LSSPs offer services in counseling, consultation, psychological evaluation, and behavior intervention across the district. Chris' additional responsibilities include supervising LSSP Interns and Practicum students, as well as conducting professional development for district staff. You can contact Chris at Christopher.Buchanan@tylerisd.org



Kim Paetzel, Student Interventions Facilitator - Response To Intervention (RtI) and 504

Kim is the district's Section 504 Specialist and supports the campus staff, students and parents with understanding Section 504. She has worked for Tyler ISD for 24 years, serving as a Behavior Specialist, PBIS Facilitator and as the Section 504 Specialist.

Kim.Paetzel@Tylerisd.org



Martha Waggoner, Dyslexia Assessment Designee

Martha assesses students at all Tyler ISD campuses for dyslexia and provides the 504 and ARD committees with training and data. She attends the 504 or ARD meetings for each student to assure that teachers, parents, and students are able to make informed decisions to maximize student success. She also provides dyslexia training for campus committees, teachers, and administrators to aid them in identifying at-risk students. Martha.Waggoner@Tylerisd.org



Darren Avey, Assistive and Special Education Technology Specialist

Darren manages and provides training in the use of educational and assistive technology for students, parents and staff.

Darren.Avey@Tylerisd.org



Sindy Oldham, Elementary Academic Intervention Coach

Sindy provides instructional support in the areas of academic intervention and dyslexia to elementary campuses and staff across the district. This support is provided through campus training, one on one teacher support, and hands-on in class support with a focus on successful student outcomes.

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Rebecca Young, Secondary Academic Intervention Coach

Rebecca provides instructional support in the area of academic intervention to secondary campuses and staff across the district. Her primary emphasis is working with special and general education teachers to increase student literacy and success in all content areas.

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Matt Letsinger, Academic Intervention Technology Specialist

Matt provides administration and technical support for academic intervention software systems.

Matt.Letsinger@Tylerisd.org



Marissa Barron, Administrative Assistant, Special Ed Coordinator of RDSPD and VI Services

Marissa acts as a liaison between the Coordinator of RDSPD & Visual Impairment and other districts served by her department. This involves coordinating communication to identify and provide educational services for the hearing and visually impaired. She coordinates with local agencies to ensure timely identification and services for families and students including obtaining consents and securing eligibility forms. Marissa.Barron@Tylerisd.org



Karen Phillips, Administrative Assistant, SPED Resource System (SERS)

Karen orders and maintains office supplies for the Special Education department. She calculates travel reimbursement for all in and out of district travel, processes purchase orders, direct pays and workshop/conference registration forms and payment of fees.

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