



**IRVINGTON  
PUBLIC SCHOOLS**

**BOARD OF EDUCATION**  
**1 University Place, 4th Floor**  
**Irvington, NJ 07111**  
**973-399-6800**

**BUILDING A COMMUNITY ONE STUDENT AT A TIME**



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**Lia Varsalona, Supervisor**

**PRESCHOOL INTERVENTION & REFERRAL SPECIALISTS**

**PIRS**



**THE ROAD TO SUCCESS BEGINS IN PRESCHOOL**

**97 Augusta Street, Room 219**  
**Irvington, NJ 07111**  
**Phone: 973-399-3942**  
**ext. 1511, 1512**  
**[www.irvington.k12.nj.us](http://www.irvington.k12.nj.us)**



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## **Preschool Intervention and Referral Specialist (PIRS)**

### **Who is PIRS?**

PIRS is a team of specialists that includes a combination of school psychologists, school social workers, a learning disabilities teacher-consultant, and a behaviorist. Collectively, the team has a strong background in early childhood education, child development, the district chosen curriculum, and the four levels of the Pyramid Model. Supervision is provided by Tawana Moreland, Director of the Office of Early Childhood and Lia Varsalona, Supervisor of the Office of Early Childhood.

### **What is the primary role of PIRS?**

The primary role of the PIRS team is to provide support to the classroom teacher by modeling strategies and providing written interventions for children who exhibit persistent challenging behaviors and learning difficulties. We are committed and work collaboratively with the parents and families, Early Childhood nurses, family/social workers, and preschool instructional coaches to ensure that your child is in a nurturing environment, where his/her strengths are highlighted and a quality education is valued and emphasized. We give prominence to kindergarten readiness skills and life-long learning such as: social and emotional development, language and communication skills, and cognitive skills.

### **How is my child referred to PIRS?**

If your child is experiencing learning or behavioral difficulties in the classroom that interfere with learning, your child's teacher will enlist the help of the parent or family and preschool master teacher. If the difficulties persist after modification of the curriculum and environment, the classroom teacher contacts the PIRS team for additional support. The PIRS member will speak with the parent or family and all relevant staff to obtain accurate information. Observations will occur in the classroom to identify the problem and implement strategies that are tailored specifically for your child. Through regular communication and reporting, we monitor and revise interventions as needed while your child is enrolled in our preschool program. Parents are encouraged to seek support if needed.

If you are concerned that your preschool child is developing or learning differently, you can call your district to request an evaluation for preschool special education and related services. For more information call: 973-399-6800 ext. 1920.

# Team of Specialists



### **PIRS Team**

**Maribel Adamo**  
School Psychologist  
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**Tawana Singleton**  
School Social Worker  
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**Dr. Dan Bender**  
Learning Disability  
Teacher Consultant  
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**Kindlyne Vilcant**  
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**Windy Ortega**  
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**Joshua Wrinn**  
School Psychologist  
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### **Social Workers**

**Brenda Browne**  
Preschool Social Worker  
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**Danielle Robinson**  
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