From Sean Casey. A summary of 5 articles regarding the use of sensory integration and behavioral treatments. Links are included in the articles.

As per my last email regarding sensory rooms, I have added 5 articles that discuss this potential approach as potential solution. I believe each article has its merits but the main reasons for each are as follows:

**Barton et al. (2014)** - 30 studies involving 856 participants met our inclusion criteria and were included in this review. Considerable heterogeneity was noted across studies in implementation, measurement, and study rigor. The research on sensory-based treatments is limited due to insubstantial treatment outcomes, weak experimental designs, or high risk of bias. Although many people use and advocate for the use of sensory-based treatments and there is a substantial empirical literature on sensory-based treatments for children with disabilities, insufficient evidence exists to support their use.

**Devlin et al. (2008)** - A sensory-integration therapy and a behavioral intervention were compared .... Results from this study clearly demonstrate that the behavioral intervention was more effective in reducing SIB than the sensory-integration therapy. Finally, in the best treatment phase, the behavioral intervention only was implemented and further reduction was observed in the frequency of SIB."

**Zane et al. (2015)** - "... many fad treatments exist that have no such proof of effectiveness. The use of such treatments waste time and money, and prey upon the emotional vulnerability of parents and caregivers. Two such fad treatments, Sensory Integration Therapy and Relationship Development Intervention® are discussed in terms of data on effectiveness and cost of treatment."

**Howard et al. (2014)** - "At least three studies have compared eclectic and ABA interventions directly. Eikeseth et al. (2002) studied children with autism who entered treatment at ages 4–7 years (M = 5.5 years), slightly older than children in most of the other studies of early intensive behavioral intervention.... After 1 year, the ABA treatment group had gained an average of 17 points on IQ test scores, 13 points on tests of language comprehension, 27 points on tests of expressive language, and 11 points on an adaptive behavior scale. The eclectic treatment group had average gains of only 4 points on IQ tests and 1 point on language tests, and no change in adaptive behavior. A follow-up study conducted when those children were 8 years old found that after about 3 years of treatment, the ABA treatment group had gained an average of 25 IQ points and 9–20 points on adaptive behavior scales in comparison to baseline. The eclectic intervention group had a mean gain of only 7 points on IQ tests, and declines of 6–12 points on adaptive behavior assessments (Eikeseth et al., 2007)."
Green (1996) - Elucidates the reasons why it is important as educators that we base programmed decisions that affect hundreds, thousands and tens of thousands of children be based on solid evidence and illustrates how easy it is to not make these decisions.

In conclusion, multiple evidence-based reports and several studies indicate that this tactic for addressing problem behavior has no evidence-based and what little there is, shows ineffective outcomes. These studies are fairly recent, but if there is additional research support showing that this method has come a long way since 2015, I think it it is very risky to consider moving forward with sensory rooms as a solution on any dependent measure for an entire building, district, AEA and a SEA.