



Mid-Valley Special Education Cooperative

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MEMORANDUM

TO: Mid-Valley Special Education Cooperative Executive Advisory Board

FROM: Marianne Fidishin, PhD, Executive Director

DATE: January 9, 2018

RE: Additional Positions for New Directions Program

The Executive Director recommend approval to add an elementary classroom and subsequent teaching and teaching assistant positions in the New Directions program.

The Mid-Valley Special Education Cooperative (MVSEC) New Direction program has typically been the program demonstrating the greatest mobility of student enrollment. Since the goal for all MVSEC programs is responsiveness to district needs, the program is experiencing an influx of student referrals that would substantially affect not only class size, but also student service provision (ability to function within the classroom environment, need for smaller class size). Due to the complex and significant student needs at New Directions, class sizes have been established to be 8 to 9 students designed to maximize student service provision.

At the beginning of the school year, the total number of students enrolled in New Direction K-5 was 17. By January, 2018, with the influx of six (6) elementary referrals, the total number of students K-5 will be 29. The grade/class size breakdown is below, indicating eight students K-2, 10 students in grades 3-4, and 11 students in grades 4-5.

This proposal seeks to add an additional classroom to service students in grade 5, thus limiting class size to seven. The K-2 classroom will be at a capacity of eight students. As a result of the young age and complicated needs of those students, this proposal seeks to add an additional teaching assistant to ensure adequate student supervision as well as quality and intensity of service provision.

Cost analysis

Program cost: \$25,000 per student

Additional students in January: 6

Total program costs for six students: \$150,000

Additional teacher and paraprofessional salary and benefits: \$100,000

Offset Cost: \$50,000

Proposal brought to review of administrative liaisons.

Grade	<i>August</i>		<i>Current</i>		<i>Proposed Changes</i>	
	Class Size	No. of TA	Class Size	No. of TA	Class Size	No. of TA
K-2	4	1	8	1	8	2*
3/4	6	1	10	1	7	1
4/5	7	1	11	1	7	1
5					7	1

* Liaison determination of class size limits of 8-9 students for New Directions