

Special Services Department Report

June 2023

Submitted by: Rebecca Rappold

MT OPI Monitoring Follow-Up

At this time, Special Services Confidential Secretary, Colleen Nolan has submitted all required documentation for the 5-Year Special Services Department Monitoring with the Office of Public Instruction. Attached to this report are the final correspondence from the MT OPI for the Elementary and High School Districts. Although no corrective action was given, BPS Special Services will have follow-up documentation to provide to the OPI during the 23-24 SY. It is our intent to submit this follow-up documentation by November 30, 2023 and close-out our monitoring file with the MT OPI. I am GENUINELY GRATEFUL for the additional time, attention to detail, and diligence that Colleen contributed to this critical process. Also, a special thank you to the case managers, related service providers and Ginny Crawford for persevering in the task of making the needed corrections.

Student Services

During May, the special education teachers EK-12, Colleen Nolan, and myself met for transition planning to plan caseload placement for the 23-24 school year. It is our intent to finalize caseload assignments before June 20th so that teachers have access to their caseload of students within Infinite Campus to begin planning for 23-24 instruction, as well as provide building administrators with a list of special education students within their respective buildings.

BPS Special Services Department met with KW-VC Elementary leaders, Blackfeet Early Childhood Center to plan our annual BPS ChildFind Event to be held the week of August 7-11, 2023. We will meet an additional time in June to

finalize planning and the Special Services Secretary, Tracie Coursey will begin making public service announcements to the community, hang flyers and send out family notices to BECC and BPS Early Kindergarten families. During this event young children will participate in DIAL Screening (language, motor, and academic testing), Health, Hearing, and Vision Screening. This screening event will ensure appropriate student placement in preschool and early kindergarten general and special education programs for the 23-24 school year.

Student Evaluations

The Special Services Department Team met on June 6th to review the list of completed student evaluations for 22-23 and finalize the list of students who received a referral for special education who may need an evaluation in the 23-24 school year. At this time, referral numbers are high due to COVID Learning Loss. This creates a large load of students who need an academic evaluation. At this time, we are working to have 2-on site school psychologists for the 23-24 SY and one virtual school psychologist returning under a contract with the Soliant Company.

Professional Development

During the month of May, Ginny Crawford and the Special Services Department hosted Day 2 of MANDT Training, as well as an Extended Wednesday PD on the topic of Autism. Teachers, paraprofessional, and personal care attendants EK-12th grade attended these learning opportunities and received renewal units.

Upcoming Department Events

ChildFind	August 7-11, 2023
IEP Writing & Caseload Management Training	August 7-8, 2023
New School Year SPED Department Meeting	August 17, 2023
23-24 SY Ext. Wed. Applied Behavior Analysis Series	TBD