

LYON COUNTY SCHOOL DISTRICT

*Staff Travel Report
to
School Board of Trustees*

Your recent request to travel has been approved. Within two weeks of the date of the conference, the following report is due in the office of the Deputy Superintendent via Margaret Heim.

Please Download & TYPE the following information.

Staff Member: Paula Patterson School: Dayton Area Schools
Assignment: School Psychologist Name of Conference : PNWI SpEd Law Conf
(Do not use acronyms)
Location of Conference: Bellevue, WA Dates Attended: Sept 16, 17, 18, 2024

General Overview: Do not use acronyms

The Pacific Northwest Institute (PNWI) on Special Education and the Law conference provided an overview of selected legal issues (focused on the 9th circuit court) affecting special education administration and practices. The conference provides the learner with updated empirical and practical studies of special education law. The conference highlighted key judicial decisions and federal guidance from the past 12 months to illustrate a variety of compliance conundrums faced by public school districts.

I attended several sessions throughout the 3 days. Specifically, I attended sessions that reviewed the non-FAPE legal requirements that apply to both IDEA and Section 504, which require that school administer these programs in a manner that affords student with disabilities an equal opportunity for access. I also attended a session that reviewed the confusion and questions that arise regarding the relationship between dyslexia and Specific Learning Disability (SLD) and how a determination of dyslexia can be important in meeting a student's reading needs in an IEP. I attended a session that outlined the legal framework, procedural nuances and practical considerations surrounding manifestation determination reviews (MDRs).

How will this impact student learning in a positive way?

In my role as a school psychologist, it is my responsibility along with my team members, to make sure IDEA procedures governing special education are followed. The conference provides the attendees with updated federal guidance and practical pointers gleaned from judicial decisions to help IEP teams make legally sound decisions and assist in avoiding costly litigation. The conference provides best practice tips regarding documenting IEP meetings and decisions made by IEP teams. This specific conference especially applies to LCSD because it reviews the Ninth US Circuit Court of Appeals decisions impacting western states regarding special education issues ranging from child find to least restrictive environment (LRE), and to school district obligations to parentally placed private school students. It is important that special education staff have an understanding how these court decisions influence our practices. By making sound decision through the IEP process we (IEP team members) are better able to meet the educational, social/emotional, and behavioral needs of our students and the families we serve.

How will I implement what I learned and how will I share this information with my colleagues?

Our schools are presented with an increasing number of students that are struggling academically and behaviorally. It is important that we continue to build our skills to be better practitioners who are prepared to deal with these complex cases. Upon my return, I will provide the IEP team members at my school with a presentation of current federal guidance and practical pointers gleaned from judicial decisions that impact IEP development, the relationship between Dyslexia and SLD evaluations, and current reading science and appropriate reading services. Provide copies of speaker handouts quick reference guides that I believe to be helpful to support and build teachers/staff skills.

Other Comments:

The Pacific Northwest Institute on Special Education and the Law Conference 2024 was excellent! Most of the speakers are current practitioners/attorneys who are experts in the field of special education law. This conference was very informative and presents a legal perspective which is very valuable in the practice of school psychology. Thank you, for allowing me to attend this conference. LCSD is a good school district to work for and is filled with staff that genuinely care about students and their families. Paula Patterson

Rachel Stewart

Site Principal/Supervisor Approval

Sawantuckabaf

Deputy Superintendent Approval

10-3-24

Date

10-4-24

Date