

MEMORANDUM

TO: Finance Committee

FROM: Lisa Engbrecht
Early Childhood Special Education Facilitator

DATE : November 10, 2022

RE: Early Childhood Special Education Teacher addition district wide

Please consider approving the addition of a 1.0 special education teacher in the Early Childhood Special Education (ECSE) program for the 2022-23 school year. The ECSE program currently employs 11.7 FTE teachers and is requesting to increase to 12.7 in order to address the needs of increased: birth to 3 caseloads; birth to 5 referrals and evaluations; and students with significant needs requiring Setting 3 preschool classrooms.

The current Faribault birth to 3 caseload capacity is 21.6 without going over the maximum caseload limit of 12 set by Minnesota Administrative Rules. As of 11/9/22 the number of birth to 3 special education students is at 21 with new referrals arriving weekly.

As of 11/9/22, 139 referrals have been received by the Faribault ECSE program. Last year at this time that number was only 115 referrals. This increase of referrals to the Faribault Public Schools aligns with the statewide increases identified by the Minnesota Department of Education. Additional staffing is necessary to complete evaluations within compliance of due process timelines and provide the services those found eligible will require.

Also, within the increase of referrals is a rise in the identification of students with significant needs requiring Setting 3 classrooms. Even with the addition of a Setting 3 classroom for the 22-23 school year, the Setting 3 enrollment capacity is 48 students. The current ECSE Setting 3 enrollment is already at 39, with 7 potential students coming from evaluation and 6 months of the school year remaining in which new referrals will be received.

The approximate cost of this added position is \$37,500 less approximately 52%, or \$19,500, which would be reimbursed through the special education funding formula. This leaves an additional cost of \$18,000 to the special education budget.

If you have any questions, please contact me.

Lisa Engbrecht