**Director of Special Education Board Report**

**November 2026**

Last week our High School and Jr High instructional students took a trip to Carlyle for a holiday dance. Not only did the students enjoys themselves, but they were able to work on skills they have been working on at school. These skills include, social skill, money usage, speech goals and behavioral goals. The students were excited to tell me about the trip upon returning to Dupo.

We are currently waiting for the Excess cost documents to open in ISBE. This is the process of proving that we have incurred excess costs for the district due to special education services. Upon submission and approval, this will allow us to continue to receive all IDEA grant funds.

Our instructional programs will be doing their annual holiday outing soon. They do holiday shopping and go to a restaurant for lunch. This is yet another way to allow our students to work on skills in a real-world setting. This is called generalization, and it provides great feedback for our teachers to measure progress. Students either buy gifts for family members, or for a peer in their class.

We added a couple of new staff members this year. Our current staff have been assisting and supporting our new staff on a daily basis. It is great to see this teamwork in action.