THE LAKE AND PENINSULA SCHOOL DISTRICT
101 Jensen Drive
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To: Board of Education
Lake and Peninsula School District

November 16, 2025

From: Marjorie Waggoner
Special Education Director (Contractor)

Re: Special Education Report

Fall Oasis Report

The Fall Oasis report was due November 7. It was a little challenging this year on the special education side because our new records platform, Embrace, needed to formulate a report that drew the information from its data base. I appreciate Casandra working with me on this project. It is always a challenge to ferret through the special education data to make certain the report is correct.

Update On Student Count

The October count for students who had an IEP in our district on October 1st was 53. This number is the same as last year's count. The number of students in each disability category has few slight changes. The current count is as follows:

02 Cognitive Impairment—5 students
03 Hearing Impaired—0 students
04 Speech or Language Impairment—13 students
05 Visual Impairment—0 students
06 Emotional Disturbance—0 students
07 Orthopedic Impairment—0 students
08 Other Heath Impairment—3 students
09 Specific Learning Disability—26 students
10 Deaf Blindness—0 students
11 Multiple Disabilities—0 students
12 Autism—0 students
13 Traumatic Brain Injury—0 students
14 Developmentally Delayed—6 students

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We claimed 3 students as in need of intensive services this year. This is one fewer than last year because one student did not enroll this fall. The three we claimed were previously verified; however, we were required to resubmit special education documents for one of the students due to an additional audit. We submitted the required paperwork for verification on November 13th. The state will determine whether or not the students continue to meet the eligibility requirements for intensive services. The district usually receives that determination in February.

LPSD Fall Inservice

The fall inservice was rewarding for all! It was wonderful to meet and network with the Bristol Bay teachers and administration. The sessions on preserving indigenous languages were enlightening and educational. This is such an important cultural undertaking.

The special education team had a session where we discussed the issues teachers were having implementing the Embrace special education records platform. Paulene Manning worked with the sped teachers on ins and outs of the system as well as many "tricks" to do things more efficiently. We also worked on developing functional behavior assessments and using the function of the student's behaviors to develop a behavior support/intervention plan to decrease or ameliorate problem behaviors including teaching alternate acceptable behaviors. This is an ongoing challenge for teachers.

Paulene and I also met with individual teachers to work through questions and concerns, and to celebrate the good things happening in their teaching. This was very beneficial and rewarding to have personal, face-to-face meetings.

Special Education Director Training

Council of Administrators of Special Education (CASE) and the Alaska State Special Education Department sponsored a four-day training for special education directors the last week in October. This was a wonderful time for networking, sharing challenges and

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successes, and learning. Some of the topics included understanding new federal grant regulations, Special Education being moved from the Department of Education to the Department of Health and Human Services, as well as current legal updates including what to do and what NOT to do when it comes to providing FAPE for special education students! Other topics included the generational teacher shortage dilemma, in particular, special education teachers. Another interesting trend discussed is the increased prevalence of anxiety and depression in students. Across the country, this is the largest "growth area" in special education.

The special education team worked hard this first quarter to meet the needs of their students and facilitate growth in student goals and objectives.

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