



THE LAKE AND PENINSULA SCHOOL DISTRICT

101 Jensen Drive
King Salmon, AK 99613
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1617 S Industrial Way #1
Palmer, AK 99645
907-745-7090



To: Board of Education
Lake and Peninsula School District

October 2, 2024

From: Marjorie Waggoner
Special Education Director (Contractor)

Re: Special Education Report

A Great Start to the School Year!

Through their hard work and collaboration, the special education teachers and regular education staff at each school made certain that every special education student was provided the program and services as determined by their individual IEPs. This is no small task, particularly when also juggling all the paperwork and documents that are part of each new school year as students return, move in, and move out.

Paraeducator Training

Every year the special education teachers are tasked with providing 6 hours of training to each sped paraeducator under their supervision. The topics are required by law to include: confidentiality, IEP contents, disability specific training, safety procedures, and instructional procedures. Other areas may be covered as needed. The training is specific to the students that the para works with and helps paras provide the services needed for the students' to meet their IEP goals and objectives. The teachers are required to send in a signed document verifying that the training has been completed. I appreciate the timely way our teachers complete this para training. This task is one of the Special Education Assurances that the state requires.



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Assessing Success Gaps: Indicators of Success Rubric

During the August inservice a team of LPSD special education teachers met to discuss the disproportionate number of Alaska Native and American Indian students that are found eligible for speech services in LPSD. As reported last month, the district was found to be disproportionate in this area. We are making progress with this as in the previous two years the finding was for significant disproportionality. The team completed the Success Gaps Rubric, a self-assessment, which required a discussion of reasons for the disproportionality and developing a plan to reduce the number of referrals through regular education interventions and adhering to the practice of determining whether the student exhibits a language difference or a language disability.

Professional Development and Training

We will continue our PD activities during the inservice held in October. We plan to hold sessions for regular education teachers as well as special education teachers and staff. We are planning to include topics such as: new state and federal special education happenings as shared at the Special Education Directors' Training, best practices for supporting students on IEPs in the regular classroom (including accommodations and modifications), using the skills of our paraeducators to best support our students, and other relevant topics.

Special Education Directors' Training

The annual fall special education directors' training with the DEED special education team will be held October 2-4 in Anchorage. This is a wonderful opportunity for directors to network and sharpen skills in special education administration. Ann M. Alexander, Ph.D., Esq. will provide a keynote on the topic of national legal trends on the 3rd. A session on ACES/Trauma informed instruction will be presented by Pat Sidmore. The keynote on the 4th will be presented by Michael Caulfield, who will discuss Alaska state legal trends. I am happy to have this opportunity for growth and look forward to this training.