

BLACKFEET EARLY CHILDHOOD CENTER



MEMORANDUM OF AGREEMENT BETWEEN
BLACKFEET EARLY CHILDHOOD CENTER 0-5 AND
BROWNING PUBLIC SCHOOLS SPECIAL SERVICES
2023-2028

Approved:

Blackfeet Early Childhood Center, Director

Date:

BECC Policy Council, Chairperson

Date:

Blackfeet Tribal Liaison

Date:

MEMORANDUM OF AGREEMENT BETWEEN BROWNING PUBLIC SCHOOLS DISTRICT #9 AND BLACKFEET EARLY CHILDHOOD CENTER

For the Period of April 30, 2023 until April 30, 2028

This agreement defines the policy framework between the Browning Public Schools (BPS) and Blackfeet Early Childhood Center (BECC) ensuring collaboration on the provision of service to the individuals with disabilities ages 3-5.

The purpose of this agreement is to describe the responsibilities of each agency while providing for local collaboration between the BPS, BECC and appropriate agencies in the order to:

- Ensure that individuals with disabilities receive a free and appropriate education program
- Maximize services through the joint utilization of services
- Ensure the transition of BECC age 0-3 students with disabilities to the BECC ages 3-5 disability program, and IEP identified BECC moving up students to kindergarten

Responsibility of Browning Public Schools/ Blackfeet Early Childhood Center

- Child Find
- Referral Services
- Collaboration with BECC
- Provision of special education services
- Parent rights and involvement
- Ensure all procedural safeguards and provide for children with disabilities and their families
- Joint Evaluation Report and Individual Education Plan (IEP) meetings
- In-service Training
- Assigned BECC staff and BPS Special Services Staff will meet a minimum of once a quarter

Browning Public Schools will Provide:

- Speech-Language Pathologist services as per the IEP

- School Psychologist services as needed at BECC
- Staff and Child Find screening: locate and evaluate individuals with disabilities ages 0-21
- Special Education Preschool Class: Individual needs as per IEP (ages 3-5)
- Special Education Preschool teacher as a consultant as needed
- Copies of ER/IEP program reports to parents and BECC Disabilities Manager

Responsibility of Blackfeet Early Childhood Center (0-5 years)

It shall be the responsibility of BECC to abide by the tasks below in regard to providing special education services:

- Staff to provide referrals to Disabilities Manager for special education assessment/services
- Staff to involve parents in special education assessment/services if available
- Staff to provide individual child observation and assessment information before the ER/IEP meetings
- Staff to attend ER/IEP meetings with BPS staff special education personnel
- BECC will provide an adequate facility for speech and special education services
- BECC will provide BPS with an end of the year pre-kindergarten educational development assessment of students entering kindergarten

BECC Disability Manager

- The Disabilities Manager 0-5 will be in attendance of all Benchmark Health Human Services (Part C to B) transition meeting in order to verify if a child will continue to qualify for special education services or to be exited from services
- Receive referrals for special education assessment and refer to appropriate BPS personnel
- Explain rights and rules to parents while gaining written permission for special services assessment as part of the prereferral process
- Provide with prereferral: hearing screening, medical information, and a copy of tribal enrollment, birth certificate to appropriate BPS staff prior to special services/assessment
- Attend ER/IEP meetings with parents and appropriate staff when possible
- Collaborate in Child Find Screening with BPS
- Inform parents of continued services when their student transitions to public school
- Ensure procedural safeguards, including confidentiality of records are provided for all children with disabilities and their parents

- Ensure that all agencies serving preschool children with disabilities work together cooperatively to share all information and services in regards to the welfare of the child and family
- Supply quarterly assessments, screening results, hearing/vision screenings to special education staff as requested

Additional Areas of Cooperation:

In-Service: BPS and BECC include other agency's personnel to be involved with in-service training activities whenever appropriate.

Shared Resources: BPS and BECC have developed a system of shared resources which may include:

- o Shared Personnel
- o Contracted Services
- o Exchange of in-kind services

The local interagency councils consist of the following:

- Stamiksiitsiikin Elementary School Principal
- Special Services Director
- Speech-Language Pathologist
- Special Services Preschool Teacher
- BECC Director or Representative
- BECC Disability Manager
- BPS School Psychologist
- Part C Representative
- BECC Enrollment Representative
- BECC Education Supervisor

Screenings/Child Find: BPS and BECC have a coordinated Child Find and screening programming utilizing the resources of each agency.

Transition of Special Needs Students: BPS and BECC programs develop procedures to provide smooth and orderly transitions of children with disabilities from BECC to BPS. All information involved in the process is confidential.

- If a child in need of special services is not being serviced by Benchmark Human Services and is close to their 3rd birthday, then the referral process to the Browning Public Schools will be the same followed as the Disabilities Manager 3-5.
- A child that turns three before transition to the 3-5 BECC and is in need of special education services through the Browning Public Schools will receive the said services at the 0-3 center up until the time of the BECC transition and will continue to be served in the 3-5 center.

Transitions: BPS and BECC programs will cooperatively develop procedures to provide an organized and systematic transition for BECC students entering kindergarten via visits to the elementary school.

Signatures:

_____ **Date:** _____
Browning Public Schools, Board Chairperson

_____ **Date:** _____
Browning Public Schools, Superintendent

_____ **Date:** _____
Blackfeet Early Childhood Center, Director

_____ **Date:** _____
BECC Policy Council, Chairperson

_____ **Date:** _____
Blackfeet Tribal Liaison

_____ **Date:** _____
Browning Public Schools, Special Services Director

