

February 2024 Special Education Report

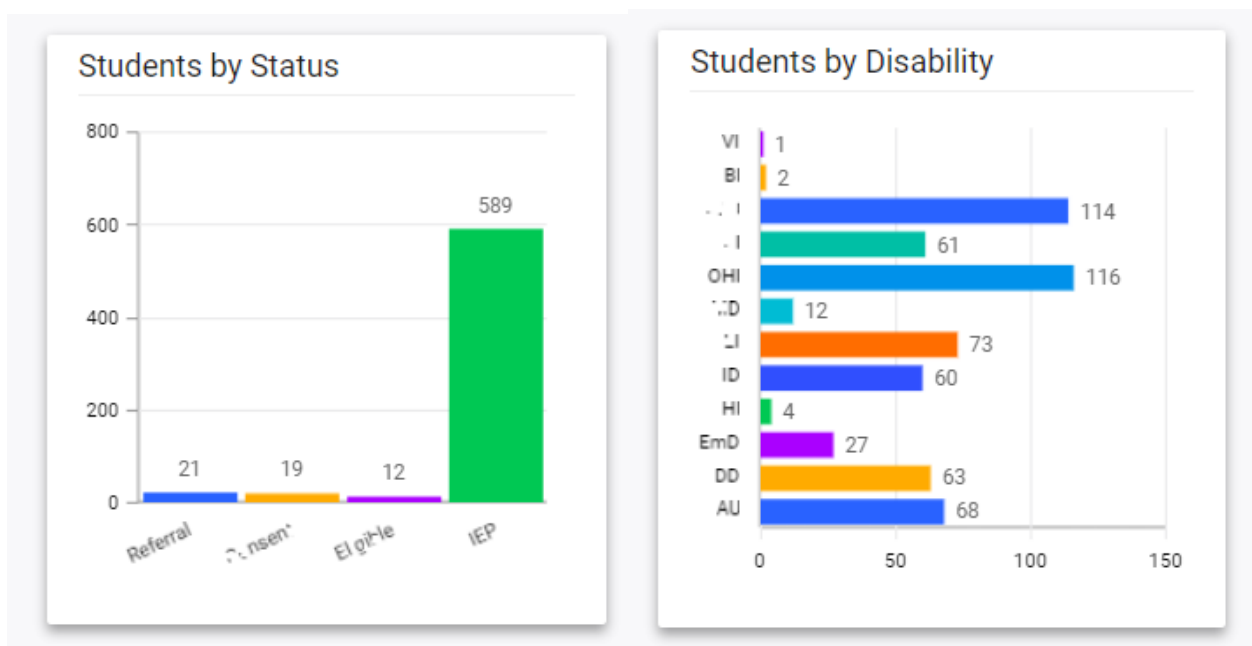
As we are a little over halfway through the school year we are busy with making some changes and adding staffing. In addition we are already looking into next year and staffing possibilities for the upcoming school year.

In January we contracted with Ampersand for an in-person teacher for Marsing Elementary. The first candidate we hired through this company only attended for 2 days. We were fortunate to be able to find a second in-person candidate for that position, Sarah Lacey, who is filling the needs for Marsing Elementary.

Last week we were able to find an in-person School Psychologist for Homedale School District. There will be a 30 day transition period to let the on-line school psychologist transition and finish up things to Kristina Jones. Kristina is finishing up her internship and lives in the Marsing area. She is excited to be working close to home with COSSA and we are excited to have her and she has jumped right in and is already working diligently to support our teams in the district.

As you know contracted staff has more of a financial impact on the budget than hiring staff directly through COSSA. We continue to look for teachers and staff that would be willing to work directly with districts through COSSA and still provide quality services for our students to limit these contracts moving forward.

In addition, we continue to interview and hire paraprofessionals as needed. As you can see in the personnel report we continue to look for these essential support staff.



General State File Review

Two of our districts were 100% compliant without corrections needed in the file review. Congratulations to Parma and Wilder. The other three districts had very minimal corrections. Those have been addressed and sent to the SDE for review to ensure that we systematically are in compliance, and that those few corrections were only seen on the file selected.

Next School Year

We have several teachers who have reached out about next school year seeking a position within COSSA. We are currently setting up interviews with these candidates and looking at what potential openings we may have within COSSA. This is exciting for our special education students as this indicates that COSSA's reputation for being a desired place to work is getting spread through word or mouth. We are hopeful that we can secure great candidates and be fully staffed for the 24-25 school year.