

Special Education Department
Board Report
July 25, 2018

All of the special education grants have been submitted and we are waiting for approvals from MDE. There is stronger focus on the ISDs to ensure that all of their local school districts are providing a Free and Appropriate Public Education to their students with an IEP. The emphasis will be on improving the number of students that receive the majority of their instruction in the Least Restrictive Environment (LRE). The LRE is typically the general education classroom and that is the setting that MDE-OSE (Office of Special Education) collects data and has set as one of five priority areas for ISD's to concentrate on for students with an IEP.

We have received the temporary approval from MDE for the two school social workers that we hired at the last board meeting. School Social Workers are required to work under a fully approved SSW for their first year of employment and therefore, both of our new SSWs will be under temporary approval for the 2018-19 school year. They are all set to start on August 27th!

Through connections at Boss, Roehl Transportation has generously donated all cost associated with transporting the new playground equipment from Minnesota to our schools at Forest Park and Norway-Vulcan on July 23rd. Lofholms Building Center is also generously assisting us in the final leg from their store to the Norway-Vulcan School. We will have pictures of both sites and the new equipment in the near future. We will be putting a thank you to the above businesses in both the paper and on our DIISD Facebook page. It definitely shows what a great community we live in! We are so excited to see the students' faces when they see their new playground equipment!

Tricia has been working on updating the ISD Plan for Delivery of Special Education Programs and Services. The plan for our ISD has not been updated for fourteen years. She will be providing a copy to the board once the draft plan is completed. Wendy will also be reviewing the plan and providing input. In addition, the plan will be reviewed by the local district superintendents and the Parent Advisory Committee prior to submission to MDE.