

## Special Services December Board Report

I moved into my new home over at the special services building on Halloween. I will greatly miss everyone a Napi, but at least I can go visit when I am lonely. Have spent time rearranging, cleaning, and decorating my new office. It is very quiet over here without all of the students coming in my office to say hi every day.

The Family Support Team paperwork needed to be clarified so that all buildings are utilizing the same forms. I also created a special education referral checklist, to help streamline the process for referrals. The process of referring students for 504 plans, qualifying students, and implementing plans will be presented at next week's Monday's leadership meeting to ensure compliance and consistency are maintained throughout the district.

Colleen Nolan worked very hard to meet the deadline to submit our Child Count data to the Office of Public Instruction. We were able to count 270 students for special education funding. On December 9<sup>th</sup>, the Speech Pathologists will be meeting with Laurie DeLong, from Montana Medical Billing, LLC, to learn how speech services need to be documented so we can get reimbursement for services provided to our students. We are also in the process of working with Vocational Rehab to get a contract in place to get reimbursement for vocational services that we provide for students who are on IEP's.

There has been an increasing need for Personal Care Attendants in our district over the past year. The number of students in the lower grades needing one-on-one services for a variety of disabilities continues to rise. Personal Care Attendants provide a valuable service to our students with disabilities. Training for all paraprofessionals and personal care attendants is a priority. I will be presenting to the administrators next Monday an online training resource for paraprofessionals, so they can better meet the needs of our students.

Wishing Everyone a Merry Christmas,

Jill Mattingly