



Discussion Item

Date: March 3, 2025

Division: Schools/Special Education

Subject: SD3 Special Education Update

Background Information:

- Based on the 2024 Results Driven Accountability (RDA) report issued by the Texas Education Agency, Lewisville ISD is Significant Disproportionality (SD) Year 3 in the use of out-of-school suspension (OSS), for less than or equal to ten days, of African American students with disabilities.
- A designation of SD Year 3 requires LEAs to allocate a mandatory 15% of IDEA-B Federal Funds towards improvement strategies related to the area identified with SD Year 3.
- The district was identified as SD Year 3 in prior years and has shown some improvement.
- The Special Education Department has partnered with the Texas Special Education Leaders and Educators Addressing Disproportionality in Special Education (LEADS) through the American Institute of Research (AIR) to address the finding via on-going technical assistance.
- The Special Education Department meets with LEADS every two weeks as well as an ESC Region 11 liaison.
- For the 2024-25 school year, the district is required to engage in a Strategic Support Plan (SSP) submitted to the TEA in December 2024. The SSP follows the requirements established in IDEA to review and revise, as needed, policies, practices, and procedures contributing to SD.

Administrative Consideration:

- To provide proactive support, 54 schools have participated in five days of training in Safe and Civil Schools over the course of the school year, with the final day being held the week of March 24th.
- At Safe and Civil training, campuses complete an Exit Ticket indicating where they are in the process of MTSS layered supports, and what next steps their campus will achieve.
- MTSS Behavior Administrator provides on-going campus visits to consult with staff regarding the reframing of Tier 2 and Tier 3 supports including access to behavior interventionists, counseling services, and psychological consultation.
- ISS aides have received training in Positive Learning Environment(PLE)/BASE to proactively provide interventions as alternatives to more punitive disciplinary actions.

- Collaboration with Student Services, Professional Learning, the Schools Chiefs, and Counseling have allowed for consistent and robust processes to be developed that engage stakeholders in the work to reduce SD.
- Since 2023, the district has seen a steady decrease in the total number of students with disabilities receiving special education services who receive OSS, as well as a decrease in the number of students in that category who are African American.
- Additionally, a gradual decrease has been seen in the risk ratio in assignment of OSS for African American students receiving special education services.
- Moving into 2025-26, the Department is focused on training the remaining campuses in Safe and Civil schools, supporting campuses in implementation of behavior PLCs, and campus-based support in implementation of strategies identified during the 2024-25 school year.