

Student Services Special Education Board Report – January 2021
Submitted by: Carol Randolph

The special education department has been receiving praise from the special education teachers in regard to working with Presence Learning. Presence Learning offers a live videoconferencing-based program including direct video contact with certified specialists. Our students tend to be more engaged during their speech, occupational, and physical therapy sessions. In order for our students to receive services during the COVID-19 pandemic Presence Learning has been providing services within the students' home using school provided technology. If a student lacks the ability to join via the internet, either the therapist or school paraprofessional would contact the student over the phone as a way to provide the necessary services.

Special education teachers and staff have been working diligently in order to provide the necessary personal contact and educational supports for our students when the district was in Red/High-Risk status by delivering meals, making phone calls and holding zoom meetings.

Special education paraprofessionals participated in a week-long training to learn how to more effectively deliver instruction to students in general and how to implement interventions targeted at systematically teaching reading, writing, and math skills to 'close the gaps' in particular. This is an intervention that will be used with a number of students and this training is designed to teach specific skills needed to be effective instructors.

The Special Education department will be sending out Child Find information by the first of February. Child Find is a legal requirement that schools find all children who have disabilities and who may be entitled to special education services and covers every child from birth through age 21.