

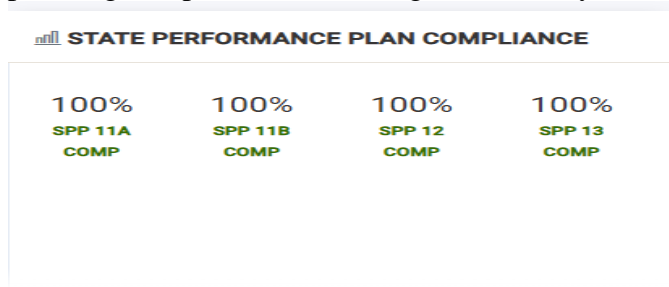


Hallsville ISD Department of Special Education

Director:
Amy Collins

Update for November School Board meeting:

- 1.) Below is current data shared from TEA indicating 100% compliance for SPPI 11a, 11b, 12, and 13 for brick and mortar and TVAH. These performance indicators measure HISD compliance with special education evaluation timelines, ARD timelines, Early Childhood testing compliance, and transition planning compliance. Achieving 100% in any area is a celebration!



- 2.) It is important to me to ensure that teachers and paraprofessionals are supported with the amount of **personnel** needed to serve our students, the right **resources** to differentiate instruction and meet IEP goals, as well as provide any **training** that will facilitate academic and functional progress of our students. I take seriously any concerns regarding support for our campus personnel. I immediately began the process of looking into the details delineated by teachers and parents at the 11/18 school board meeting. Here is what I found:
 - a. Based on the recent **staffing** review from TASB conducted in September 2024, the number of paraprofessionals assigned to our “high needs” classroom is “well above the state average.” HISD has more than twice as many paraprofessionals assigned to structured learning classrooms when compared to 11 peer districts of the same size and demographics. In fact, the recommendation from TASB is that HISD **absorb** 36 special education aide positions (we are staffed at 29 special education paras ABOVE the state average.) The claim made that we are unable to hire enough paraprofessionals to support our structured learning classrooms is not accurate
 - b. The next area I focused on was **resources**. Have the teachers been able to purchase materials, curriculum, supplies, etc...that they have requested to support the students in their classroom? For the 2023/2024 school year, the Special Education Dept spent \$616, 245.84 *solely* on structured learning classrooms. \$90,000 of these funds went to purchasing/installing brand new playground equipment and PIP flooring for the East Elementary SL classrooms. The half a million left over went

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to supplying materials to teachers they requested. So far this year, we have spent \$50, 176.03. These teachers have had all of their requests for materials granted. No other district in this area provides this same level of support with staffing and money.

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- c. Training: Structured Learning teachers received **training** late July and early August this year. I have scheduled a consultant from San Antonio to come and train structured learning teachers and paraprofessionals together in January. I had a different consultant that works with HISD on a monthly basis evaluate all of the structured learning classrooms this week (November 21, December 2-6) and determine what supports might be needed that have not been considered. She completed the “Classroom Critical Components” checklist developed by the state of Texas. It details the *minimum*

standard of practice that should be evident in a structured learning classroom.

Those are: Classroom organization
Rules and structure
Positive Behavioral Supports and Intervention
Communication

The majority of her findings were very positive. Of the 9 SL classrooms in the district, **6 of them have all areas of critical practices in place and students are thriving!** Teachers are making good use of materials and staff. They are implementing best practices and it shows in student progress.

The plan moving forward is:

1. Review the areas listed above with all SL teachers.
2. CELEBRATE the areas where students are thriving!
3. All structured learning teachers will do a self evaluation this week and come up with a plan of action for themselves
4. I will work with campus administrators to develop a written plan to address the structured learning classrooms who need specific intervention to ensure the minimum standards are being followed. We will meet with those teachers on a weekly to bi-monthly basis.
5. Formal training will take place in January and early August. Monthly meetings with all SL teachers to determine their progress on goals they have set for themselves based upon the self evaluation and ratings on the “Classroom Critical Components” checklist. This is also a great opportunity for the teachers to share with one another what works for specific challenging areas.