

**Director of Special Education**  
Board Report October 2018  
Jill Mattingly

I am very happy to report that our three teachers who have applied for emergency credentials have been approved. All of these teachers have a community mentor and also a mentor that is currently employed as a special education teacher. I am sad to report that we still have not had any applicants for speech pathologists or a school psychologist. I am working with several companies that help to place people in schools that usually work for one year. We had one great interview, but unfortunately the applicant declined the position. I am also working with the Montana recruitment project in an attempt to fill these vital positions.

The school based clinic has moved to their new home across from Vina Chattin. Special education will be taking possession of their old space. We have advertised for another special education teacher and will be utilizing that space for students with high needs. Having these students in one area allows for a consolidation of resources and we will better be able to meet the needs of these students.

We are very fortunate that our staff has worked so hard to submit billing sheets for us to receive reimbursement for speech and pca services for Medicaid qualified students. I am focusing on supplying all special education teachers with appropriate curriculum to help students meet the goals on their IEP's. We are also purchasing technology for students who need it. We have purchased several Chrome Books for student individual use. These students can use them at school and at home. Many of our students have great difficulty in handwriting, so I want all students who are on IEP's that have difficulty in writing to have their own Chrome Books and to become proficient in keyboarding.

We have been very busy getting ready for Child Count. All IEP's that were due prior to October 1<sup>st</sup> had to be completed and locked on Infinite Campus. All student transfers had to be processed in order for students to be counted. There has been a large number of transfers in and out this past month. Colleen works very hard to ensure that student transfers are processed quickly so that the receiving district can start services based on the student's IEP. Our department is often not given notice when students transfer out or transfer in. We need a better system for the buildings to communicate with us so that students don't get missed.

Our first Special Olympics trip will be in November. Our team keeps growing and we may need an additional bus for trips this year. I will include pictures on my next report.