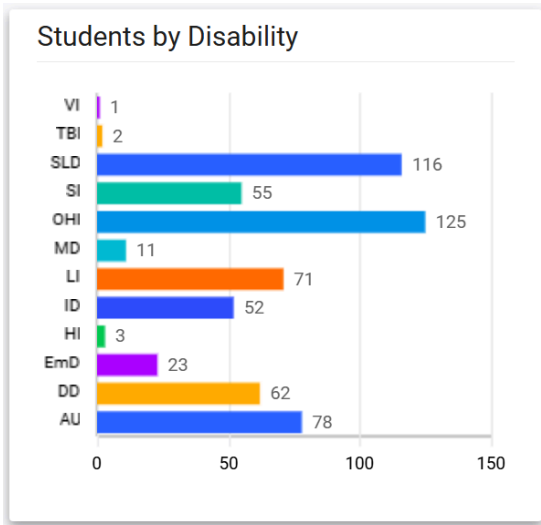
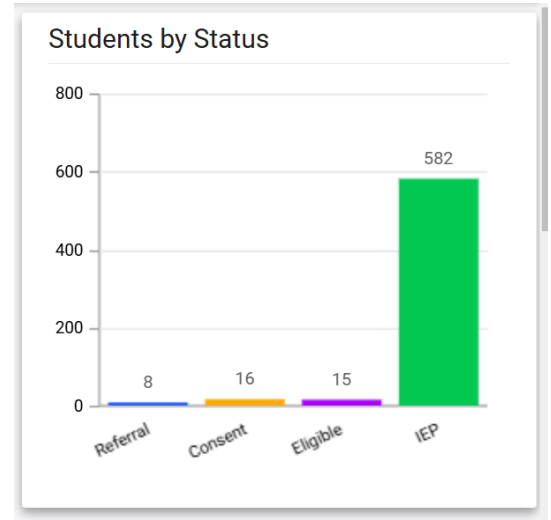


February 2025 Special Education Board Report



The last month has been busy for our special education teachers as the number of student referrals has quickly increased, with I'm sure more on the way especially at the elementary age level. As we continue to look forward to the needs of COSSA for the remainder of this school year and moving into the 2025-2026 school year we need to consider training and staffing across the consortium.



General State File Review:

The process for the General State File Review (GSFR) significantly changed this school year. In previous years the district was able to select 2-3 files to submit to the state, allowing the director and teacher to look over IEPs and choose good files to submit. This school year, although only one file had to be submitted, the files were chosen at the state level. Every district within the consortium received a non-compliance report. Some of these were files we inherited from other districts, these were the ones that had the most errors, but some were our files as well. Most districts within the consortium only had a couple small issues that need to be fixed. However overall this is across the state as only 19 districts across the state were found to be in compliance.

GSFR Results



- Reviewed 1 IEP for every LEA with a Child Count in the state
- Focus was Secondary
- 189 LEAs Reviewed (159 secondary, 30 no secondary students)
- 170 LEAs with Compliance Concerns which will likely result in noncompliance.

Training for Staff and Administration:

As we look at PD needs for the staff which will be driven by staff input from survey results as well as results from the GSFR, we need to also keep Administration up to date with state training. The Blue Jeans Conference, put on by the Idaho Association of Special Education Administrators (IASEA) is being held March 10-12 2025. The cost of this conference for non-members is \$250.00 dollars. This conference will cover a variety of topics and would be highly beneficial for the Special Education Director and Mentor Teacher to attend as we support teachers and develop PD to improve student outcomes, proper student referrals and identification, recent case laws that affect special education and IEP compliance.

The Special Education Director and Mentor Teacher should become members of IASEA as this organization meets to discuss relevant issues around special education and part of the IASA umbrella. In addition, IASA has a special education strand at the August conference in which having staff in attendance will keep the

consortium up to date with upcoming developments affecting staff and students with special needs. It would be recommended to include membership and conference costs for these in the 2025-2026 budget.

In addition, we will need to update the Director’s Crisis Prevention Intervention Certification that is expiring on 4/18/2025. This certification is specific to COSSA as once certified, trainers are only allowed to train staff within the consortium and it cannot be transferred to other districts. It also keeps us in compliance with the Restraint and Seclusion law requirements. The cost of this renewal will be 3049.00. If we wait and the certification lapses the cost will go up to 4500.00 and will require 5 days out of the districts for training instead of 3 days for a renewal.

Currently in the 2025-2026 calendar we have 1 day set aside for new teacher orientation to address all things specific to new teachers within the consortium, and 3 days set aside for PD for teachers and paraprofessionals in special education. I know that the special education teachers really felt they benefited from the 3 additional PD days offered this school year, but with tight budgets we cannot continue the stipend that was provided. I would like to suggest we excuse Special Education Staff for the district PDs for September, November, and February and replace that with a COSSA PD day for those months to ensure we continue to provide that ongoing support. This would also include paraprofessionals, as feedback has indicated that they would like additional training throughout the school year.

Caseload and Staffing Outlook for 2025-2026 School Year

Here is where our current caseloads are and the projections so far for the 2025-2026 school year. Again these numbers will be fluid based upon additional referrals and student movement in and out of the consortium.

District	School	Current Caseload	Students Transitioning Out	Students Transitioning IN	Estimated 25-26 Caseload	Number of Teachers	Number of Paras	1:1 Staffing
Homedale	Elementary ERR	20	0	1	21	1	2	1
	Elementary RR	24	10	4 Referrals	18	1	1	1
	Elementary SDC	10	0	5	15	1	2	3
	Middle School	47	9	10	48	1.5	2	
	High School	32	13	9	28	1	1.5	
Marsing	PK	10	5	11 Referrals	16	1	1	
	Elementary RR	21	6	5 + 11 Referrals	31	1	1	
	Middle RR	11	2	6 + 3 Referrals	18	1	1	
	Middle ERR	11	0	2	9	1	1	
	High School	23	3	2	22	1	1	1
Notus	PK	22	7	? + 5 Referrals	20	1	1	0.2
	Elementary	19	6	4 Referrals	17	1	1	1

	RR							
	Jr/Sr. High RR	19	3	6	22	1	1	1
Wilder	Elementary RR	19	5	1 +3 Referrals	23	1	1	
	Elementary TLC	5	0	2 Potential Parma	7	1	2	
	Jr/Sr High	28	0	5 +5 Referrals	38	1	1	
	WAVE	63	14	2 Referrals	51	4		1
	SDC	17	0	0	17	2	1	2
Parma	Elementary ERR	9	3	1	7	1	1	
	Elementary RR	36	9	1 +3 Referrals	31	1	2	1
	Middle RR	27	5	9 + 2 Referrals	33	1	1	
	Middle ERR	24	2	3	25	1	3	
	High School	25	1	5 + 2 Referrals	31	1	1	
COSSA	TLC	12	1	0	11	1	1	1
	ERR	14	3	2	13	1	1	
Total DOES NOT Include Speech ONLY Students					570			
Speech ONLY Students +56					626			
Total Staffing Not Including Contracted SLP, OT, PT Services						29.5	31.5	13.2
Additional Staffing					School Psychs	4		
					Consulting Teachers	1.5		
					Medicaid Clerk			1
					Director	1		
					Total	36	32.5	13.2
					Total Certified	36	Total Classified	45.7