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To: Shawn Petri, Superintendent

From: Melisa Akers, Director of Special Education

Date: April 4th, 2024

Subject: Special Education Department Update

A Message from our Director, Melisa Akers

March was not a very eventful month considering Spring Break. However, Brenda, Nicole, and I did spend two days in March conducting B4 Monitoring for both Roscommon and Houghton Lake school districts. These districts were identified by the state as having a disproportionate number of students with disabilities who were either suspended or expelled. We are continuing to work closely with both districts to ensure that there are processes in place to mitigate any future identification. Overall the monitoring was helpful in identifying areas where the districts can improve their discipline processes for students with disabilities.

A Message from Joe Moore, School Principal

We recently wrapped up March is Reading Month. The students had a great time engaging in all sorts of reading activities and were so proud of their reading accomplishments. Ms. Emily's class decorated one of our doors with a montage that included *Pete The Cat* and *Walter The Farting Dog*. They also included a sticker chart that showed how many books they read, which was completely full! I was also able to participate in an interactive reading of *The Three Little Pigs* with Ms. Pat's students. A great time was had by all!!

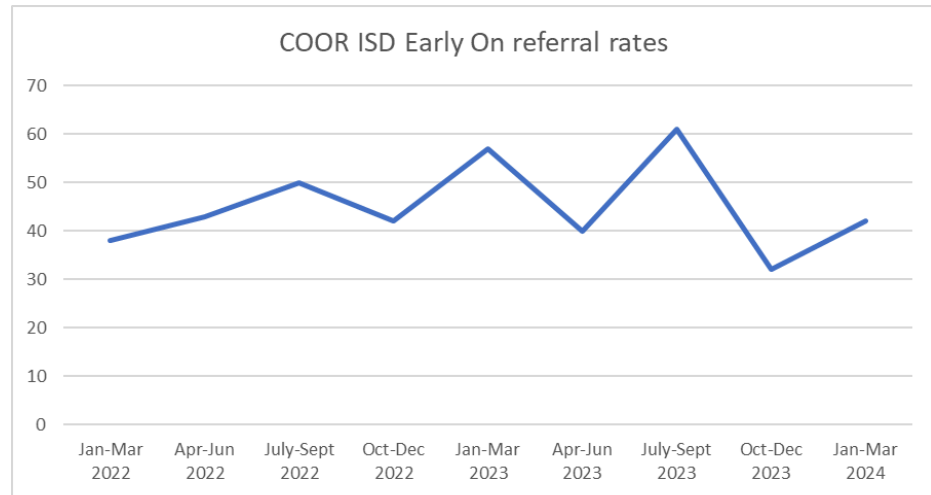




Over Spring Break, key fobs were installed on interior classroom doors, the main office, and the CEC gymnasium. These will help to ensure that all students and staff remain safe. All of the floors at the CEC were also waxed over break. This was desperately needed and they look great!

A Message from Michele Cochrane, Early On Coordinator

As of April 1st, we currently have 56 students enrolled in Early On. In the third quarter of FY 2023-24 (Jan-March) we had 42 new referrals: 13 RAPS, 10 CASD, 10 HLCS, 6 WBRC, 2 Mio-AuSable and 1 Fairview. The referral sources were: 15 from Medical Providers, 14 from DHHS, 11 from Parents, and 1 from Health Departments.



There are 13 pediatric provider offices located within our 4-county area. We are meeting with each office to re-establish connections that were lost or changed during the COVID-19 pandemic. We met with 6 of the provider offices in February and 6 provider offices in March. Just one left for April!