

Questions Submitted by Trustee Connie Prado

January 23, 2019

Regular Called Board Meeting

Presentation/Report #4

As you know, the Texas Education Agency was cited by the U.S. Department of Education on the low percent of special needs students being identified and receiving Special Education services. The TAPR for 2016-2017 indicated that South San was servicing 8.1% of identified special needs students. While the 2017-2018 TAPR, indicates we are now servicing 9.1%, I am still concerned we are not servicing the number of students requiring special need services. Neighboring school districts with similar demographics have higher rates of service e.g., Harlandale-9.3%; Southwest-11.6%; Edgewood-10.0%.

1. Are we conducting ARD's in a timely manner?
Yes, we have stayed in compliance with all current ARD's and IEP's. We monitor ARD dates for monthly to ensure we do not go out of compliance.
2. Are diagnosticians administering assessments requested by parents and regular education teachers in a timely manner?
Yes, we have 15 days to respond to a request for special education testing. We will either test or provide prior written notice to the parent with the reason why we will not be testing at this time. Once we notify the parent, we schedule a time to get consent to test. Once consent is obtained, we have 45 days to test and 30 days to go to ARD. We have increased our special education numbers from 776 students (2017 TAPR) to 836 students (2018 TAPR). As of our October 2018 Snapshot, it reflects 927 students.
3. Is there a time lag between the time a student is ARD (Admission) and actually receiving services?
No, once the admission ARD takes place, services begin immediately. There is no time lag between ARD and services.
4. Do we have teacher vacancies in any Special Education classes? If so, how many and in what areas?
At this time, there are no special education teacher vacancies.