

Special Education School Board Report

February 2023

Paperwork Compliance:

At the beginning of the school year I reported that we had two school districts needing corrective action plans (meaning they were found out of compliance on 1 or more items for the last 3 consecutive school years) for developing compliant Eligibility Reports and IEPs for students on an IEP, and another district not only non-compliant on that process but also on the implementation of the IEP. With the support of the school psychologists, who have been diligently working with staff on ensuring that the Eligibility process is done correctly, comprehensively, and to ensure that each IEP is aligned with the eligibility and written in compliance, I am proud to announce that **each district has been found in compliance** on this year's General State File Review (GSFR).

Compensatory Minutes Wilder:

At the beginning of the year we did not have staff or a solid plan in place to support the need to make up compensatory minutes for students who did not receive all of the services last year in the Wilder School District. I am also proud to announce that with the creativity of districts working together (Marsing and Wilder) and the flexibility of a teacher, we now have a teacher coming in to Wilder to develop that plan with the Wilder team to make these service minutes up for these students.

Next School year:

Given this great news it will be critical to continue this positive movement for COSSA special education services for our districts. COSSA used ARPA funds to provide all staff with a \$1000.00 hiring/retention bonus for certified and classified special education staff paid in two installments of \$500.00 each to staff that were hired and stayed during the 2022-2023 school year. In an effort to bring back valuable staff and hire staff I would like to propose a hiring/retention bonus for the 2023-2024 school year. I am projecting to need approximately 10 new certified teachers and many classified staff. Given the competitive nature of finding these teachers and staff in addition to any pay scale increases we may provide I would like to give a \$2000 hiring/retention bonus to certified staff and a \$1000 hiring/retention bonus to classified staff. This cost roughly equates to:

Certified: 2000×30 staff members = 60,000

Classified: 1000×51 staff members = 51,000

Current Special Education Numbers:

Marsing: 107

Homedale 124

Wilder 97 (60 of which are IFRA)

Parma 128

Cossa Academy 51

Notus 59