

Special Education March 2023 Board Report

Special Education Numbers:

| | |
|-----------------|------------|
| Wilder | |
| IFRA | 56 |
| Elem | 19 |
| Secondary | 17 |
| SLP Only | 9 |
| Total | 101 |
| | |
| Academy | |
| TLC | 16 |
| ERR | 16 |
| Total | 32 |
| | |
| Parma | |
| Elem RR | 27 |
| Elem ERR | 10 |
| MS RR | 23 |
| MS ERR | 33 |
| HS RR | 26 |
| SLP Only | 20 |
| Total | 139 |
| | |
| Homedale | |
| Elem RR | 31 |
| Elem ERR | 19 |
| Elem SDC | 5 |
| MS RR | 32 |
| HS RR | 50 |

| | |
|----------------|------------|
| SLP Only | 12 |
| Total | 149 |
| | |
| Notus | |
| K-12 RR | 44 |
| PK | 13 |
| SLP Only | 13 |
| Total | 70 |
| | |
| Marsing | |
| Elem RR | 15 |
| MS RR | 16 |
| MS ERR | 12 |
| MS TLC | 3 |
| HS RR | 15 |
| SLP Only | 27 |
| Total | 88 |

Posting a Mentor Teacher position:

As we are getting ready to do budgets as we look at adding 3 addition certified teachers, (Notus, Wilder and Homedale) and 2 additional classified positions, (Marsing and Parma) to support large caseloads and needs across the districts I felt seeing our current numbers to be helpful. Our total number of 579 is reflective of some larger districts with at least one consulting teacher if not two. Vallivue recently posted a consulting teacher position with a pay scale of 70-90k a year. If we want to continue to improve the quality of services for our students and support our teachers that are often within their first 3 years of teaching due to high turnover rates in special education, it will be critical to reinstate this position for the 23-24 school year. Although our School Psychologists have done a phenomenal job of supporting our teachers in getting accurate paperwork we still need to be looking at classroom management, teaching strategies, and curriculum in order to move our students to continued improved student outcomes.

Curriculum:

As I look into next school year and the needs across the districts I see where some districts have curriculums in which the special education teacher can move from such as Read 180, Connecting Math Concepts, Wonders, Horizons that are all research based intervention curriculums. While other districts are working with the general education curriculum to try to modify/accommodate that curriculum to support their students on IEPs. I would like to suggest that the board look at curriculum on a 5 year cycle to ensure that each district has research based intervention curriculums for their special education staff to use as they are working with our

most needy students. Given this, I would like to start with Parma to look at what is aligned with their general education curriculum to support teachers in providing the best research based interventions to our students.

Software:

Sara and I have met with EdPlan to begin the transition. We were notified by Go Solutions, the company we currently work with for ITracks, they they are retiring that software as of 10/1/23. Therefore, a transition for next school year is inevitable. By moving to EdPlan we will be able to electronically share IEP data with other districts also using this software, making it easier for our teachers to update and amend IEPs as needed and get accommodations to teachers more efficiently.

This has been a year of transition for the special education staff in welcoming a new director and working with limited staffing, but also a successful year. I am excited for what next year will bring for our students across the consortium as our teachers become more skilled in their craft and with the legislative support for higher classified salaries, the prospects of having adequate staffing to meet our students' needs.