CHELSEA
SCHOOL DISTRICT

SPECIAL EDUCATION
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To: Board of Education

From: Lisa Nickel

Re: March Board Report

Date: 3/2/26

- Our district did receive a few kudos from the state during the Least Restrictive Environment audit that took place the week of February 9th. They were impressed by our use of personal curriculums as a pathway to graduation for our students with disabilities as well as our blended preschool class that is team taught by our ECSE teacher, Kim Goonis and Jamie Baxter, one of our general education preschool teachers. Overall as a county, there is a corrective action plan being put in place for a disproportionality of students suspended with an IEP vs those without an IEP. In our district, this is not an issue but the corrective action could potentially impact us should the districts who are out of compliance not rectify the issue by the end of the school year.
- We received positive feedback from our paraprofessional teams regarding the February PD that was offered. Each building team was led through their PD by their paraprofessional leader along with key building staff. This allowed for the PD to be tailored for the needs of each building. The next professional development opportunity will be in April and will provide all virtual offerings.
- Testing season is quickly approaching and the testing materials for our students with the most significant needs will arrive the week prior to Spring Break. This month, we will build the test sessions which can be a bit time consuming but need to be completed prior to taking the assessments.
- Meetings have begun as we prepare for our summer learning opportunities for our students who may need some additional learning time to continue to make academic gains. For our students with more significant disabilities, Alex Soule will again assist in leading the planning for this summer.

Respectfully,

Lisa Nickel, Director of Special Education
Chelsea School District