

MEMORANDUM

September 4, 2013

TO: Members of the MVSEC Executive Advisory Board

FROM: Carla Cumblad, Executive Director
Sandy Gearhart, ESY Supervisor, Mades-Johnstone and Shelby
Jen Haney, ESY Supervisor, Ferson Creek Elementary, St. Charles

RE: Extended School Year 2013 Summary

It was a cool summer in the ESY Program!!

In 2013, we had three ESY sites: Ferson Creek Elementary (D303), MJC, and Shelby Transition Center. The curriculum theme was All About Me! Students participated in learning experiences regarding health and wellness throughout the summer. The students also participated in two unit culminating activities, in addition to many other positive experiences. Students were placed into small classrooms of approximately 8-10 students and were grouped by functional and academic ability. Teachers used Unique Learning systems (ULS), Reading A-Z, Touch Math/Money/Time, PCI Writing/Basic Grammar, specific student discrete trial books, and the curriculum guides and materials developed by the ESY committee in previous years. With the exception of Early Childhood, all students received Adaptive PE which was a highlight of their days!

This year, the program started on July 8 and ended on August 1. The students attended Mondays through Thursdays for 4 hours a day. On the first day of school, 254 students were registered to attend. Last year, 241 students were enrolled on the first day of school. Enrollment for the last three years is fairly stable. Most parents and staff reported that the condensed sessions in July were preferable to the 6 week sessions. Teachers reported that they had a longer instructional time, which was beneficial for most students. Early childhood teachers thought the 4 hours was a little too long, but we may add APE to their schedule next year to relieve some of their concerns.

This year, in order to refine the referral process, we revised the program descriptions and referral/registration deadlines. Final parent registrations were due to MV (through the district offices) by May 1st. That way, we could start the hiring process earlier, before staff had summer commitments.

As you can see by the Attendance Table (Table One), registered students on May 15 was 241. On June 15, that number grew to 264, requiring hiring many more additional staff. By the time school began, that number dropped to 254. After school began another 5 students dropped and another 14 students attended for less than 50% of the days. Ultimately, we were overstaffed. These number changes make it extremely difficult to staff this program accurately.

Additionally, there was a large increase in individual teaching assistants assigned to students this year based on referral information. There were a total of 28. Last year, there were 22 and the year prior, there were 14. We will continue to problem-solve with the administrative liaisons throughout the year regarding these issues.

We will be presenting final ESY bills and cost trend analysis at the October Board meeting.

Table One presents data from the past four years of ESY. The attendance data are reported in the two sites: Ferson Creek (F) (Academic Skills, Autism, Behavior) and MJC (M) (Functional, Multiple Disabilities, Transition) In addition, Table One presents information about students who either did not attend or attended less than 50%. We are also including information about the number of students who attended 60 hours of programming. These students are eligible for state reimbursement through the claims process.

Table Two provides data from the last four years regarding the number of staff employed for ESY. With the exception of the teaching assistant increases, staffing is fairly stable. It should be noted that the number of substitutes is down considerably due to changes in hiring practices. There are no cost savings with this change (staff are paid for days worked), but continuity of programming is much better.

Table Three provides information from the parent survey. In all parents were very satisfied with the ESY program. As in years past, the comments were very positive, with some constructive comments for improvement. Transportation concerns were reported most by parents. The parents were supportive of the condensed schedule. And, students enjoyed coming to summer school!