



THE LAKE AND PENINSULA SCHOOL DISTRICT

101 Jensen Drive
King Salmon, AK 99613
907-246-4280

1617 S Industrial Way #1
Palmer, AK 99645
907-745-7090



To: Board of Education
Lake and Peninsula School District

April 10, 2025

From: Marjorie Waggoner
Contracting Special Education Director

Re: Special Education Report

Special Education Staffing for Next School Year

We will have some special education staffing changes next year. Jean Barbour, who has served LPSD as a the elementary and special education teacher at Perryville will not be returning next year. Kitza Durkop, who has service LPSD in many capacities over the years and has served as itinerant special education teacher for Chignik Bay, Chignik Lake, and Port Heiden this year, is also moving on to new adventures. In addition, James Barthelman, who has served as the special education teacher at Newhalen for nearly a decade, will be spending his time in new endeavors next year. We thank these dedicated teachers for their service to our students who experience disabilities and wish them the best in their futures. Any additional staffing changes are yet to be determined.

In the related service areas, Presence, a teletherapy company that we have worked with for many years, will continue to provide speech/language and occupational therapy services to students who are eligible. These students have been making great progress in these areas. Mary Olson, who joined our team in 2018 will continue to provide on-site therapy and supervision of physical therapy services to our students who require PT. Vincent Henry will return as the school psychologist for LPSD. We look forward to another year of growth for our students in these related service areas.

Special Education Assurances

School districts are required every year to verify that certain assurances are being fulfilled in special education. There are 50 assurances that all school districts agree to complete during the grant application process. The department verifies these assurances on a rotational basis to reduce burden on the school district.



THE LAKE AND PENINSULA SCHOOL DISTRICT

101 Jensen Drive
King Salmon, AK 99613
907-246-4280

1617 S Industrial Way #1
Palmer, AK 99645
907-745-7090



This year assurances 5, 6, and 8 require verification:

- 5. The district will maintain documentation that verifies contact is made to private schools, charter schools, and correspondence schools to identify children with disabilities who need services. 34 CFR 300.131
- 6. The district will maintain documentation that verifies child find activities are coordinated with Part C child find activities. 34 CFR 300.124
- 8. The district will maintain documentation that the child find annual public notice is available in English and each language in which the district has a bilingual program and is posted in several areas throughout the community (TV spots, newspaper announcements and/or other forms of media). 34 CFR 300.111

The explanation of how our district competes assurances each year along with at least one example document that shows compliance is due to the state in May. This year the assurances are focused on Child Find practices. The special education teachers have been trained in the requirements of Child Find and have met these requirements yearly. I will be working with the sped teachers in each of our sites to document their Child Find activities for this report.

Special Education Directors' Training

I attended the Special Education Directors' training at the Embassy Suites in Anchorage on March 15 and 16. These two fun-filled days addressed many topics including:

- A presentation by Special Education Services Agency (SESA) about AKCAM (Alaska Center for Accessible Materials), and the Anne Freitag Lending Library that are available to our teachers to support students who have needs for special and varied materials as well as print options and alternatives. SESA also provides specialist support for students with low-incidence disabilities. LPSD has used this resource many times in past years and continues to use these services regularly.
- A discussion about moving from PowerSchool to a different platform for special education records. This platform, Embrace, will be piloted by several Alaska School Districts in the 25/26 school year. If it is determined to be a better fit for Alaska districts, the state will adopt it for all but the largest districts in the fall of 2026. We were assured that Embrace will "talk" to PowerSchool in districts that use PowerSchool for their regular student information system.



THE LAKE AND PENINSULA SCHOOL DISTRICT

101 Jensen Drive
King Salmon, AK 99613
907-246-4280

1617 S Industrial Way #1
Palmer, AK 99645
907-745-7090



- Training on a change in writing IEPs for students who attend correspondence schools that better reflects the actual services they receive, and a new transition plan template in the IEP forms.

Of course, many other things were discussed and the networking with directors from districts across the state was not only educational and rewarding.

Ah, Spring!

The months of April and May are busy ones. I will be completing the Special Education Supplemental Workbook, a state report to gather data on special education students that isn't gathered in any other state report. The sped teachers, principals, Mr. Cornell, and I will be organizing the Extended School Year services required by our students who experience regression/recoupment challenges, have emerging skills which could be lost over the summer, or who have a crucial need to continue working on a skill or behavior for self-sufficiency and independence. I will be collaborating with the registrar to complete the Special Education section of the Summer Oasis report. The special education teachers and I will be joining forces to complete ESER and IEP meetings with the required documents, and to continue providing sped services through the end of the school year.