

**2014-2015 Department of Special Education Update
Prepared for Board of Trustees Meeting
February 17, 2014**

Purpose of Report

To provide the Board with a general update of special education.

Board Goal

II. Teaching & Learning. . . In pursuit of excellence, the district will advocate and practice true accountability based on measurement of individual student progress over time, regardless of external mandates.

History

The Texas Education Agency provides the District with a variety of reports regarding the status of the Department of Special Education compliance areas. Additionally, the Department receives annual PEIMS reports which capture student count in various instructional settings and served in various programs provided by the District. The Executive Director of Special Education has provided the Board with various reports (Determination Status, District Profile, and District Compliance Status throughout the year.

Objective:

- Meet and maintain federal requirement of 100 % in all compliance areas.
- Maintain a performance level below 1 for Performance Based Monitoring.
- Provide quality services to students with disabilities in the Least Restrictive Environment by certified, highly-qualified staff.
- Program for services based on data.

Status

Currently the status on compliance driven data sets are noted below.

Area of Compliance 2014-2015	Compliance Status
Disproportionality	None noted
SE Compliance Report (State Performance Plan)	SPP 11 – 98.7 % SPP 12 – 100 % SPP 13 – 100 %
Determination	Meets Requirements
Performance Based Monitoring 22 Indicators (plus 14 sub-indicators for indicators state assessment)	Not Staged
Residential Facilities Monitoring	Stage 3

Based on the daily Instructional Count, Denton ISD special education student population has increased by 286 students since the beginning of the 2014-2015 school-year. Students are provided services in the Least Restrictive Environment at each campus (including Davis, Fred Moore, JD Sparks and the ATC) within the district boundaries. Program options for students include general special education support in the general education setting with support from

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certified teachers and para-professionals to provide specially designed instruction. Methods of support and service delivery include in-class, push-in, co-teach, and pull-out services. Additional program options, as part of the continuum of services, include: life skills, adapted life skills, communication classes, social adjustment classes, preschool services for students with disabilities and 18-21 services. To service the 2,777 students with disabilities, the District employs certified teachers, para-professionals, personal care attendants, special education clerks, records clerks, secretaries and support staff to support students with disabilities. The support staff consists of: 30 educational diagnosticians (2 bilingual), 39 speech therapists (5 bilingual), 21 licensed specialists in school psychology (1 bilingual), 5 occupational therapists (1 Spanish speaker), 1.5 physical therapists, 3 adapted physical education teachers, 3 teachers of the visually impaired, 1 brailist, 1 orientation and mobility specialist, 1 teacher of the deaf, 2 music therapists, 3 post-secondary facilitators, and 2 records clerks. As the fiscal agent for the Regional Day School for the Deaf (RDSPD), the District also employs certified teachers of the deaf, interpreters (certified and non-certified), personal care attendants and para-professionals to provide services to the students from the 3 counties sending students to the RDSPD program at Ann Windle, Gonzales, McNair, McMath, and Denton High.

The District special education population continues to grow rapidly as does the District as a whole. Additionally, the demographics of the special education populations changes with the change in district population. There is a need for Spanish speaking staff to provide services in the district.

The Department, including campus staff, has dedicated highly trained, quality staff to provide specially designed instruction for student with disabilities in Denton ISD.