

# Special Services Building Report

For: January 11, 2022

## Board Meeting

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Director of Special Services

### Special Education Activities

- The SpEd Department is slowly filling its empty positions! We have completed the interview process and are in the hiring process for another PCA and a Support Tech for the Occupational and Physical Therapists.
- During the Christmas break I was able to sit and catch up on some of my professional reading. There were some topics that caught my eye that are not only impacting day to day business here for the SpEd Department at Browning Public Schools, but nationally. One such topic is the nationwide staff shortage in Special Education. Below are 3 articles that discuss shortages that are impacting Special Education at all levels. One article has a link to the US. Department of Education that allows you to search each states data for each school year. If you scroll down to **2021-22** school year, **Montana, Special Education** as the Subject Matter and **All Exceptionalities** as the Discipline, the data displayed for our current year across the state will indicate that schools across the state report a lack of licensed teachers in Special Education at all grade levels. I am so very grateful for my team! Every bus driver, PCA, TA, SLP, OT, PT and teacher in a time that it is hard to find individuals that have a love and passion to work with students with disabilities!
- <https://nypost.com/2021/08/18/special-education-teacher-shortage-impacting-48-states/>
- <https://www.disabilitycoop.com/2021/11/05/paraprofessionals-short-handed-exhausted/29582/>
- <https://www.disabilitycoop.com/2021/08/30/feds-say-nearly-every-state-short-on-special-educators/29467/>
- For the first part of the year until the Winter Break K-12 for all schools within the Browning Public Schools District the Special Education Department has had 95 IEP's due. I am currently reading through each one that has been turned in and making a list of the ones that are past due so that team members and I can get caught up before the end of the semester.
- I recently completed a course on Bullying Prevention. It was interactive role-play simulation about responding to bullying incidents. It offered practice conversations

and techniques to address biased language in the classroom, how to reach out, & reinforce staff responsibilities in reporting bullying behavior.

- Lillian McGinn from Vocational Rehabilitation Services came to Browning High School on Tuesday, December 14, 2021 to train team members on the PrEts Program. We were able to establish timelines, job responsibilities and paperwork procedures. We are of and running!
- December 15, Extended Wednesday Inservice training occurred for the Browning Middle School Staff on IEP's. We started with questions and the staff had great questions that helped shape the presentation. After the presentation the questions and requests for additional support continued. Overall it was a great opportunity to network and open lines of communication.