



JANUARY 2024 UNITY SPECIAL EDUCATION BOARD REPORT



FAMILY ENGAGEMENT SURVEY

Every five years, the Department of Public Instruction requires districts to survey families of children with disabilities receiving special education services to determine levels of family engagement. The survey measures the percentage of parents with a child receiving special education services who report that schools facilitated parent involvement to improve services and results for children with disabilities.

Survey preparation will occur in January 2024, and the survey will be opened up to Unity families starting early in February 2024. Families will receive a letter or an email with password information to access the survey. The survey is also a tool for planning evidence-based and parent-recommended practices to engage families in their child's education. Administrators and educators are encouraged to use the results to develop beliefs, skills, and systems within their schools to engage families in special education, IEP meetings, and their children's education. DPI will generate reports for Districts by September 2024. Next school year, Unity will develop a district family engagement plan to submit to DPI based on report results.

SPEECH AND LANGUAGE UPDATE



For the remainder of the 2023-24 School year, two Wisconsin-based companies, Teach Speech and Professional Speech Therapists, will virtually provide Speech and Language services to Unity students. The district will work with two highly experienced Speech and Language Pathologists, Lisa Roethel and Carrie Begalke. During sessions, an educational assistant will also support students and Speech and Language pathologists. An evaluator from Teach Speech started working with the District in December, testing students and helping with in-progress evaluations.

EXCEPTIONAL SPECIAL EDUCATION OFFICE SUPPORT

A very special thanks to Special Education Secretary Cindy Collins for her dedication to Unity staff, students, and families in ensuring that everyone feels supported and valued. Cindy works with all to make sure that timelines are met and students are served. Her communication is excellent. Cindy coordinates meetings involving staff, families, and outside providers daily. She takes care of endless reports. All appreciate her calm demeanor, kindness, and welcoming nature.

Cindy Collins

