

Special Services Building Report

For: May 10, 2022 Meeting

Submitted by: Maureen Stott,
Director of Special Services

Special Education Activities

- May 10- 11, I will be attending the Annual Children with Disabilities Partnership Meeting and the Special Education Advisory Panel in Helena, MT. The purpose of this meeting is to gather stakeholder partners from across the state to network, collaborate, communicate, and discuss issues and opportunities regarding special education and other critical services for Montana infants, toddlers, and children with disabilities. Partners will share ideas, discuss current priorities and become more familiar with the power of partnerships in Montana. The special Education panel meeting will discuss Special Educations most important issue that we can partner on that will impact children with disabilities, and top current priorities that will need to be addressed to help support Montana School Districts find, recruit and retain quality individuals in the field of Special Education.
- Currently there are 225 students enrolled in Special Education and receiving services. There are 8 brand new referrals completing the identification process, and 21 other students that are currently receiving services that are completing the re-evaluation process.
- This fall we hired an Occupational (Jenifer Gordon) and a Physical (Robin Tacchetti) Therapists in the district. These services had not been offered on site in our district for quite a few years, meaning students had to go elsewhere to receive services. A lot of our students were misidentified as needing Adaptive P.E. in an effort to provide some physical services for students that had related services in these areas. Throughout the year our OT and PT have been assessing students to pinpoint who needs OT, PT APE or a combination. With the help of our current Adaptive P.E. teacher, Calvin Lang, We have been able to exit some kids from APE because they did not fit the criteria, or no longer needed the services, transition 18 of the group into O.T. services, and 15 into P.T. services, and more closely aligning their needs with their services.
- The SpEd office has been developing a library of resources for parents and guardians seeking information on behavioral topics that impact their child. This will be a short verbal presentation of those resources.