

Board Report, October 2025

Lori Avart, Special Education Coordinator

What's New:

We have had a lot of new exciting things happening this year in the Special Education department. We have a classroom at the grade school level dedicated to meeting the needs of our students who have significant educational impact due to their disability. Much of the need is due to communication difficulties. Becky Willis is the teacher in that classroom and currently has students ranging from k through 5th in her room at different times through the day. She is working with 7 different paraprofessionals under her supervision at different times as well as working with 2 Speech and Language Pathologists and an Occupational Therapist. This past week we added 2 new students who are multimodal communicators into her classroom from out of the district. I want the board to know how helpful and willing to do whatever they could to make this school work for these kiddos the entire staff has been. Paraprofessionals who don't even work in that room offered help and support. Mrs. Carey was supportive and discussed the idea of going into Ms. Willis's classroom to provide instruction and work on activities directly with one of these students. The specialist teachers all agreed to that, and are taking turns working with this student on Art, Music, STEAM and PE with his paraprofessional. The building has accepted this challenge as an opportunity and everyone has opened their arms to help out.

At our high school, one of our new special education teachers is working with a group of students with the help of a couple of aides to provide some real life work experience planning a coffee shop. This shop will run out of the new HS Concession space and will be initially open within the next week to district staff. The class has planned the name, menu, advertisements, and order forms. They have also researched materials needed, costs, submitted POs and have been ordering items to get ready for the launch of their coffee shop. The student will collect daily orders, fill and deliver those orders to the staff in the building. The hope is that this is very successful and the students may expand their fund raising efforts to some incentive days later in the school year that may be open to student orders.

Vision and Hearing Screenings:

School Sight and Sound, a company that contracts with schools to provide their mandated vision and hearing screenings, will be here in January and February to complete the screenings for our district. Tonya Harris, our school nurse, has the training

and ability to screen individual students as needed during the year for concerns that arise, but having this company conduct all of the large group mandated screenings has been a huge benefit. The screening dates are below:

Elem – HS: **Initial Screen:** Wednesday, January 7th

Re-screen: Tuesday, January 20th

PK: **Initial Screen:** Thursday, February 2nd

Re-screen: Tuesday, February 17th

Special Education Office News:

The Illinois State Board of Education has completed its annual Local Educational Agency (LEA) Determination review of Illinois School districts. The Individuals with Disabilities Education Act (IDEA), Section 616, requires all states to make determinations about the performance of their local districts regarding the provision of special education and related services to students with disabilities. Based on this annual review, ISBE determined that our district meets requirements based on multiple data points, with no findings of noncompliance. The report from ISBE is attached.

[LEA Determinations](#)