

THE LAKE AND PENINSULA SCHOOL DISTRICT

101 Jensen Drive
King Salmon, AK 99613
907-246-4280

1617 S Industrial Way #1
Palmer, AK 99645
907-745-7090



To: Board of Education
Lake and Peninsula School District

March 13, 2026

From: Marjorie Waggoner
Special Education Director (Contractor)

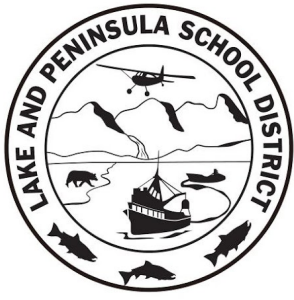
Re: Special Education Report

Special Education Professional Development

Thanks to Moon McCarley for providing training for the special education teachers regarding the upcoming state-wide assessments, AK Star and the Alaska Science Assessment. Her focus was on the special education teacher's role in planning and administering the assessments as well as a general overview of how special education accommodations are administered. Each student's IEP includes a section that lists any accommodations a student requires when taking the state assessments. Accommodations are practices and procedures that provide equitable access during instruction and assessments to students with disabilities and English learners. The accommodations that are allowed are outlined in the "Participation Guidelines for Inclusion of Alaska Students in State Assessments", and include such things as additional time, clarification of test directions, flexible scheduling, frequent breaks, small group administration, and Text-to-Speech to name a few of the most common ones. I appreciate the work Moon does to make certain the testing is done appropriately and to help teachers understand the accommodations that can be provided for students according to their IEPs.

Special Education Directors' Training

I will be attending the Special Education Directors' training March 21 and 22. These two days are spent refreshing skills and keeping abreast of current trends, challenges, and legislation in the special education world. Sessions include: Dyslexia, Child Find, Assessments DLM/Star, Accommodations, ESER-initial vs ReEval, New Supervision Regs, Disproportionality, the 50 Assurances, and School Choice, to name a few. SESA will present an overview of the supports they can provide special education teachers and students. The State will discuss the State



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Systemic Improvement Plan and State-Identified Measurable Results in early literacy. I look forward to the time spent with Directors from across the state and the instruction of our State Special Education Team and guest speakers.

Related Services

We plan to have Presence provide speech and OT services next school year. We are looking at another speech teletherapy provider (Clover Therapy) that can provide additional speech therapists to make scheduling more efficient for our student schedules. We have worked with Clover in the past and they provided excellent services. Vincent Henry will continue as our school psychologist, Mary Olson will again provide physical therapy services. I am happy for the continuation of services and the quality of the services these talented professionals provide.

Spring Activities

It's hard to believe that we are already in March! Our special education teachers are busy finishing up student evaluations, ESERs and IEPs and working to make sure the instruction for our special education students is meeting their needs and that students are progressing toward their goals. They are also determining which of their students require extended school year services (ESY) and planning instruction for the goals and objectives that will be reinforced during the summer. During the next several weeks, I will be supporting the teachers in their endeavors and working on the projects that need doing every spring such as the Special Education Assurances, the Disproportionality Report, the Supplemental Workbook, and the Summer Oasis, along with other end-of-year requirements and activities. A bigtime commitment this year is the transfer of records from PowerSchool to Embrace. A big thanks to our tech team and the intricate work they have done with data behind the scenes to make this transition possible. Thank you to Paulene Manning for her work on this transition, and a special shout out to Nate McArthur for his help in downloading all the recent and historical sped files from PowerSchool to a server where we can access them in case of future need. This was a huge task!

I appreciate the consistent support of the Board and their leadership for our District.