

Special Education Board Report

November 2023 Board Report

Submitted by Elizabeth Jorgensen, Director of Special Education

Post School Outcomes for Unity Graduates with Individualized Education Plans (IEPS)

Unity School District focuses on preparing ALL students to be college and career-ready, including students with disabilities.

Unity School District participated in a Special Education Transition Incentive Grant in the summer and fall of 2023. Participating districts were required to contact and survey past graduates who received special education services to gauge their success with securing competitive employment or pursuing post-secondary education one year after graduation from Unity High School. The survey group was comprised of students graduating in May 2022.

Middle School teacher Kari Nelson contacted all 14 students who graduated with IEPs. 100% of the possible survey participants agreed to share what they were doing with Mrs. Nelson. The district received valuable information regarding post-secondary outcomes. In addition, the district received funding of \$898 for each student who showed success in higher education or a competitive workplace. Of the 14 students, 11 met the criteria to receive funding for their post-school outcomes one year after graduation. The plan is to continue to collect data in future years and look to find ways to strengthen transition programming for students with disabilities.

Special Education Meetings

"Disability should never disqualify anyone from accessing every aspect of life." - Emma Thompson

Every student receiving special education services has an annual review of their Individualized Education Program (IEP). Every three years, the district re-evaluates to determine if the student continues to qualify for a disability. The family, student, and school staff can request to reconvene the IEP team more frequently. The IEP team requires the presence of a Special Education Teacher, a Regular Education teacher, and a Local Education Agency (LEA) Representative. The LEA representative is normally an administrator or school counselor. Other professionals may also attend the meetings. Parents/legal guardians are invited, and students 14 and over are encouraged to participate actively in their educational planning. Sometimes, younger students also attend IEPs. Families may bring others to support them. It is not uncommon to have meetings with over ten individuals. Technology has allowed individuals to participate in a blended fashion, in person, virtually, or over the phone. Visit the Special Education Office to see the awesome new in-person and virtual setup.



The Special Education Office can comfortably seat 12 people and have more attend remotely..