



CHELSEA
SCHOOL DISTRICT

SPECIAL EDUCATION

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To: Board of Education

From: Lisa Nickel

Re: June Board Report

Date: 6/2/26

Special Education:

- So, while I am no longer overseeing our Early Childhood programs, I did extensive work last spring on our Great Start to Quality self assessment as well as applied for us to be evaluated for the highest level that can be given to an Early Childhood program. Sarah Barth and I worked in partnership and it paid off! The Pierce Lake Early Childhood Center was evaluated by the state in late April and we just learned that our program was awarded the highest level which is [Demonstrating Quality](#). We are so proud of our staff as this process does involve validators going into the classroom and assessing the instruction along with other key elements. Way to go preschool team!
- Summer learning is all set to start with over 70 students with IEP's from preschool through high school participating in some learning over the summer. Focus areas will be reading, math and community life skills. A huge thank you to the staff who commit their time to this added learning opportunity for students.
- A special thank you to my special education certified staff who are retiring - Judy Hermosillo, Kristin Krarup-Joyce, Tara Thorburn and Art Finger. They leave behind a lifetime impact on students with disabilities and their legacy will live on in the students they have worked with over their impressive careers.
- I was able to assist the WISD in their hiring process for their open Executive Director of Special Education. This position became available due to a retirement and as this position works with all of the districts in the county, it is an important hire for the WISD. We are excited as local directors to be involved in the process and look forward to the new opportunities that can be explored with someone new at the helm.

Respectfully,

Lisa Nickel, Director of Special Education