



Hallsville ISD Department of Special Education

Director:
Amy Collins

Update for February School Board meeting:

- 1.) We are well into our Dyslexia Program review and our Special Education Cyclical review. All requested information has been submitted and shared with TEA. We will send a stakeholder survey to educators and parents for feedback (a requirement of the review) later this week
- 2.) Highlights from TCASE convention:
 - a.) expect an increase in Dyslexia litigation due to rising numbers.
 - b.) Texas has gone from 8.6% of students identified for Special Education services in 2018 to almost 15% in 2024. The national average is slightly over 15%
 - c.) The #1 complaint by Special Ed Directors across the state has to do with advocates who come to ARD meetings, and harass and bully school staff as well as the significant rise in TEA complaints. TEA said, “We hear you,” but offered no guidance or relief.
- 3.) New Special Education Operating Procedures update: I provided a link to the new guidelines; however, it is a very long document. To summarize, the only changes we made to our current procedures has to do with Dyslexia changes in the law. We indicated that Dyslexia instruction is now provided through Special Education. Dyslexia evaluations are administered to students in the same way as a Full and Individual Evaluation (FIE) through the Special Education Dept. An ARD committee will meet to discuss the evaluation and determine if any services are warranted. That is the short and succinct version of the changes.
- 4.) We recently added additional resources to the Special Education page on the HISD website. These resources are intended for school staff and parents in our community to answer questions about Dyslexia, transition services, Pathways, an overview of Special Education, as well as parental rights when requesting an evaluation through Special Education.