



Hallsville ISD Department of Special Education

Director:  
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## Update for September School Board meeting:

- 1.) As we enjoy the first “feels” of fall weather, I can not believe we are already almost halfway through September! Time flies when you are having fun!

We have had **58** students register at HISD already identified as being eligible for special education services. So, about 60 new students right out of the gate!

We have **67 NEW** referrals to Special Education-some of these were started in April/May of last school year and were not counted in last year’s total special education numbers.

I am not very good at math, but I can add  $67+58=125$  and see how quickly the numbers can grow!

- 2.) In an effort to address increasing referrals we enacted the SIT procedure 2 years ago as an extra check and balance for any potential new referrals for special education testing. This year I am going to pilot a new idea to focus on referrals for the 3 and 4 y/o population. Many of these referrals come from ECI (Early Childhood Intervention); the rest are parent referrals. It is difficult to confidently test and diagnose a child that young. This is the age group where we have seen the biggest increase in numbers.

Another factor to consider is that once a student is identified as needing special education services, it tends to follow them throughout their school career. If we can tailor the discussion of eligibility for this group, we are more likely to ensure that the students who are identified are truly in need of Special Education supports. This should impact our numbers in the long term.

- 3.) I am working with TVAH to address areas of noncompliance with Child Find (SPPI 11). We are participating in the clarification period with TEA. We will submit our explanation/clarification for the noncompliance and see if TEA will require any additional steps.
- 4.) New commissioner’s rules were adopted July 30, 2024 (we found out about the adoptions on July 29-in true TEA form). I have reviewed these changes with campus administrators and our special education staff.
- 5.) We are in the early stages of our Cyclical Review and Dyslexia Program review. TEA is currently reviewing our policies and procedures. I worked with Region 7 to ensure that we were up to date with current TEA policy requirements and linking policies to the Legal Framework. Region 7 gave us a thumbs up.....maybe TEA will, too.

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