



Mid-Valley Special Education Cooperative

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MEMORANDUM

TO: Mid-Valley Special Education Cooperative Executive Advisory Board

FROM: Marianne Fidishin, PhD, Executive Director

DATE: March 6, 2019

RE: Special Education Trends and Issues

Below are a list of current trends and issues in special education. The information was derived from national conferences and conversations with not only those in higher education (college and university scholars) but also directors of special education from public school districts large and small as well as rural, suburban and urban; and special education cooperatives/intermediate units. While the list is not based upon prioritizations, which can change depending on the institution's location, the one overarching concern continues to be staff acquisition (availability) and retention.

- Using innovative technology strategies in new ways (i.e. robots to “face time” live classroom instruction to students on homebound)
- Equitable access to core instruction, including online services
- Increased efforts of school-to-work transition in more realistic and relevant opportunities
- Culturally responsive pedagogy overall and as impacting discipline and special education referrals
- Juxtaposition of school safety, mental health, and special education