



Parent Community Outreach Program

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February 2021

School Board Report

BPS Child Care

The BPS Child Care Center is hastily making final preparations for the potential re-opening of our facility. There are many steps that have been taking place in order to safely re-open; many have been completed yet some still remain to be finalized.

Completed highlights:

- Tentative roster established with waitlist
 - Teen parents (#4)
 - Returning staff (#6)
 - New staff (#1)
 - Waitlist (#5 staff)
- Childcare Parent Handbook & Amended Health Policy completed
- Health inspection completed
- Electronic air cleaner installed in both air handlers
- All staff verified to have completed Covid-19 staff training
- PPE for staff secured

Nearly completed highlights:

- Opportunity for all staff to receive both doses of Covid-19 vaccination
- License renewal complete (pending Fire Inspection)
- Isolation room readied (pending arrival of room divider)
- Finalizing CACFP (nearly completed)

- Clear Big Room of remaining food (nearly completed)

Still needing completion:

- Fire Inspection (rescheduled for 2/18/21)
- License renewal (on hold pending the Fire Inspection)
- Safety flooring for section of “big room” (considering wrestling mats)
- Hiring for two new full time positions (currently being advertised)
- Parent Orientation (pending projected re-open date)
- Designated “drop off/pick up” parking spot

The childcare staff have also been very busy completing their required training, including First Aid/CPR. They have completed setting their rooms up in a layout that facilitates social distancing to the best extent possible. With our Covid childcare grant money, Rose has done an amazing job of supplying the childcare with developmentally appropriate toys, manipulatives and craft items with the intent of preventing cross-contamination with materials.

BPS Teen Parent Resource Center

In collaboration with the Blackfeet Pregnant and Parenting Teen Coalition, the BPS Teen Parent Resource Center’s staff has identified 25 teen parents so far in the 2020-2021 academic year. This number includes teen parents currently enrolled in BPS, those who have dropped out, and those seeking their HiSet.

We anticipate that this number will continue to increase due to yet another complication created by the pandemic; lack of access to contraceptives in combination with the essential need to “stay at home.”

BPS Hi-Set & Adult Basic Education

Attendance Update:

February 2021 Total Enrollment: #67 (including #7 referrals not yet “enrolled”)

New Students (self/community referrals)	1
New Students (BHS referrals)	6
Virtual/On-line	40
Paper Packets	20

Actively Participating	12
In-active	48

Successes: We are currently working with BHS to assist in transitioning students from a high school diploma track to a HiSet track. This transition is based on the individual student's personal and academic needs.

Challenges: Currently most HiSET clients are feeling emotional stress due to distance learning, elderly raising their grandchildren and daily life challenges. Most clients are in need of computers or laptops to take the actual HiSET test. There are many rules for testing at home and it is creating test anxiety which is leading our clients to hold off on testing. There is also the issue of paying for the test; most cannot afford it. Currently, our HiSET tutor, Jerelyn, is looking into a voucher program so we can help with all or partial costs.

BPS āiss oōmmoōtsiiyō•

The BPS āiss oōmmoōtsiiyō• program continues to network with various community partners, school staff and families to identify those students in need of our services. It continues to be a challenge, but we are finding new (and bringing back some old) methods for identifying students. In the past, shoes were an indicator for us...since teachers cannot see this need for themselves, we are relying on other indicators in the virtual classroom that may prompt a referral. These indicators include:

- Frequent changes in the background of where the student is working; the student appears to be changing location frequently
- Many different people in the background, beyond just the student's immediate family
- Background in a motel/hotel
- Background in public areas
- Student/parent unreachable for periods of time
- Difficulty participating in scheduled class times/ completing assignments

We would like to provide a more in-depth training to our district staff in recognizing these potential signs of students experiencing homelessness, as well as to remind them of the supportive services available to their students.

School-based Clothing Closets

We have cleared out the clothing from our building and are currently not accepting any new donations due to lack of space. We have a very large donation waiting for us at the

Heart Locker in Kalispell that will still plan to accept if/when we return to a Hybrid/Blended learning model.

The need for clothes remains as we have received many requests from individuals. We forward these requests to the appropriate grade-level school-based clothing closet and offer to make the deliveries ourselves. This process is not ideal, but necessary.

School-based Food Pantry

Our school-based food pantries are now fully stocked thanks to the Montana Food Pantry grant. It is up to the individual schools as to how they choose to distribute this food. We are still setting up the PCOP-based food pantry and will soon have photos!

BPS YHDP

The BPS Youth Homelessness Demonstration Project (YHDP) is excited to welcome Irene Augare as our new YHDP Youth Case Manager! Irene will be working specifically with those youth who are identified as both experiencing homelessness and “not in the physical custody” of a legal guardian.

The YHDP grant allows us to provide a variety of support services, and will also allow us to establish host homes for these youth. We are currently laying the foundation and want to make sure that's stable before we start to “build the framework” for the host homes.