

Special Education January 2025

Professional Development

Ms. Guetzke held a CPI (Crisis Prevention Intervention) training on January 6th for new hires. This training is both proactive and responsive regarding students' behavioral and emotional needs and provides staff with tools for effective de-escalation of unsafe behaviors.

On January 17th, a group of administrators and case managers will be attending an ARD Training event at ESC 20. This training will feature Elvin Houston from Walsh-Gallegos as the keynote speaker; he will address best practices for navigating high-stakes ARDs and handling conflict. Other topics include MDRs, BIPs, ARDC membership, IEP development, PEIMS errors, STAAR, documentation best practice and a Q&A with a panel of ARD experts.

Ms. Voigt will be holding elementary and secondary sessions on January 21st to review the first semester with special education case managers and paraprofessionals, as well as to provide training on SDI (Specially Designed Instruction). Staff will learn more about targeting the impact of disability and building independence in students, as well as crafting a high-quality service plan and documenting it correctly in the IEP (Individualized Education Program).

Supporting Students with Behavioral Needs

To provide some information on how the special education department helps to support students with increased needs in the areas of social-emotional and behavioral management, myself (Ms. Voigt) and my behavioral specialists meet with campus administrators and case managers to create plans that support whole-child development. We can provide services and/or training on the following:

- Re-evaluation
- Functional Behavior Assessments
- Behavior Intervention Plans
- Threat Assessments and Support Plans
- Bullying Investigations (and how outcomes relate to special education)
- Stay Away Agreements
- Counseling Evaluations
- Building a Support System (trusted adults, parent training and resources, community assistance)
- A number of supports and services including but not limited to CICO (check-in/check-out system), social skills, peer or staff modeling, role play, visuals, break cards, and safe places within the building



Transition Corrective Action Plan Update

The special education department has met all requirements for our corrective action plan in transition! Our secondary case managers have participated in training throughout the fall semester and done an excellent job of asking for feedback on their transition supplements. We have a self-monitoring system in place to ensure that all students have a transition plan in place by their 14th birthdays. This plan outlines their post-secondary goals and areas of strengths and weaknesses in preparation for post-secondary living, as well as specific skills and courses that are needed to help students prepare for life after high school and increase independence.