



Autism Grant Team Report, October 2022

Danielle Howard, Autism Grant Director, Brownwood ISD

We acquired a 2 year grant for a total amount of \$799,500 to support our students with autism, 38 out of 78 applications were awarded, and we are so grateful to receive this support!! This grant is useable for all students with autism, whether or not identified under the sped umbrella.

Autism Team Members:

Danielle Howard – Grant Director, in charge of implementing grant as written, leading the team.

Leah Parker – Grant Co-Director, assisting in documentation, planning, processes, and monitoring implementation on secondary level.

Brittany Kelley, LMSW (working on completing LCSW) – Skills Trainer for students with autism. – Works on short term skill building for students with autism. She came to us from Center for Life

Resources, and already has a lot of great experience teaching students new skills. This is our only additional completely full time position.

Sheila Senkirik– Family Support Specialist (part time)– working towards building support group for our families including training, collaboration, babysitting, fun, and community support connections and awareness. (Former School Counselor at Brownwood High)

Kim Horton – TA/Teacher Trainer (part time) – working on training our Teachers Assistants 54 hours of training – They have already completed 22, and LOVED it!! And our teacher 14 hours of training in working with students with autism. (Former School Counselor for Early Middle School)

Sharon Watson and Kerri Jacobson – Splitting the role of School Counselor Support – Assisting our school counselors in incorporating students with autism into their general education settings as much as possible. (Sharon was the Mental Health Coordinator at Early, and Kerri was our own school counselor at Coggin 6th.)

Additionally, technology including iPads, Snap-Core, Boardmaker, and several professional screeners will be utilized to assist with communication and track progress through the grant.

Teacher assistant's will receive training outside of school hours and will be paid time and a half for their time in doing so. They are thrilled!! Additionally, we will keep them fed, having fun, and full of appreciation!!

We have already had our first meeting with parents with 26 participants, and they were so excited!

We have also provided 80 Teachers Assistants with over 22 hours of training before the beginning of school, and they loved it. We received raving reviews. *we have been intentional about making it fun!*

To acquire services, students do not have to be identified through Special Education. They need only to contact any one of our members, come to a parent meeting, or talk to their school administration or counselor about how to connect with us.

As of 9/22/22, we have 30 referrals and over 22 consents signed to start to receive support for their students. We are working closely with special education staff, and learning the ins and outs of how to support our students, and we are grateful for the feedback of the Special Education Director, Rebecca Faulkner.

Thank you, Brownwood ISD School Board and Superintendents for your support of students with autism!!