

Alsea School District

December 2024 Board Meeting Board Report

Krista Nieraeth, Superintendent and Special Education Director

1. Special Education Percentage – Alsea SD

The State has a weight for special education students that each district receives up to 11% of the ADWr. The state weights students in special education an extra 1.00 weight up to 11% of the total ADMr. In the spring, our ADMr was estimated to be 295, with our IEP number at 42. As of 12/3/24, our ADMr is 235 with a total active IEP number of 43, putting our IEP percentage at 18%. We are getting an extra 1.0 weight for approximately 26 of our IEPs, and no weight for the other 17. One of the proposals for the legislature in the State School Funding is to increase the 11% cap to 15%. If the state funded on 15%, rather than 11%, the extra 1.0 weight would go from 26 to 35. This increased cap is something that could help increase funding to schools and help provide/maintain supports for students in special education.

2. Maintenance of Effort (MOE) conversation with ODE

Mr. Staehely and I met with ODE prior to Thanksgiving break to discuss Alsea's MOE and how to decrease it through exceptions. Right now, our base is higher than it should be due to the increased IEP numbers from a couple of years back. The MOE is decreasing due to the declining numbers of IEPs in our district. Remember, MOE is the amount of money spent on special education from the General Fund. The district cannot spend less than the prior year on special education. Districts can maintain MOE two different ways: 1) Overall Spending or 2) Spending per IEP. The district has been able to decrease the overall spending from the general fund, but still met MOE through spending per IEP. We are continuing to work with ODE to problem solve ways to help find a level of funding that is maintainable for the district.

3. State Report Cards

The state released our report cards. I am happy to report that we were above state average in Regular Attenders at 68%, which is up from 51% from the previous year. Our 9th Grade on Track percentage was also above state average and was up from the previous year as well. We still have lots of work to do in our ELA and Math, and we are still feeling the effects of the online students in our graduation rate. Ms. Nickle and I will be researching with ODE when those online students will no longer count in our graduation rates.

4. Senator Anderson Visit

Risteen Follett and I met with Senator Dick Anderson on Thursday, November 21. We discussed the funding aspect of the State School Fund with the senator, as well as discussed the amount of reporting that each district does each year for accountability purposes, including the opt – out law for state testing (see attached checklist). We also discussed the needs of our district, and other rural districts around the state. Senator Anderson also toured the school grounds and was able to visit different classrooms and with different students.

5. Facilities and Transportation

Mr. Elbers is currently working with local community members and Benton County Road Department to work on gauging road conditions for the upcoming winter season. Mr. Elbers is continuing to look for a bus mechanic who can work on our buses as needed on an hourly basis.

Mr. Elbers is also working with Chris and Nancy Giggy to identify and work with the contractor to fix any issues with the HVAC system so that it can be completely functional. We are also working on getting quotes from local contractors on fixing the field so that we can start planning how to repair the damage to the football field and side field.