



To: Board of Education
From: Dr. Jennifer Pearson
Mr. Brad Swanson
Re: FY22 Special Education FTE Recommendation
Date: April 5, 2021

Recommendation:

We recommend that the Board of Education approve a total 2021-22 Special Education Certified Staffing of **79.3 FTE (-1.0)**.

Background:

To determine staffing we've reviewed the special education course registrations resulting from articulations and the total number of special education students anticipated for the 2021-2022 school year in order to determine staffing requirements and make a recommendation for special education programming next year. In addition, we've met with district office staff, building administrators, and Instructional Supervisors to verify the need in keeping with contract parameters.

Part 1: Special Education Certified Staff FTE

2020-21 District Certified Special Education Staff 80.3 FTE

2021-22 District Certified Special Education Teachers

- GBN 247 Special Education students (-14)
Certified Special Education Teachers - 0.6 FTE
- GBS 317 Special Education students (-8)
Certified Special Education Teachers -0.4 FTE

The decrease is due to three factors: proportional decline in general education enrollment, student exits from the district, or student staffing out of special education.

However, it should be noted that we currently have a few articulation meetings still to occur and a number of pending initial evaluations which may have an impact on student count and course recommendations affecting sectioning. This is higher than typical due to students struggling with mental health needs during the pandemic.

- Number of GBN students currently under initial evaluation 15 pending
- Number of GBS students currently under initial evaluation 12 pending
- There are still pending initial evaluations of 8th grade students 4 pending

Part 2: Related Service FTE (e.g. Psyc, SW, SLP

As a reminder, last year, we changed to a workload model for speech and language pathologists. After reviewing multiple models (caseload, medical model, District 225 psychologist/social work model, and the ASHA model), we determined the most equitable model would be for our speech pathologists FTE to be calculated similarly to our other district related service staff (e.g. psychologists/social workers). I have reviewed related service FTE based on our current workload model given projected minutes on student IEPs. Overall there was no change in minutes from the 2020-2021 school year to the anticipated 2021-2022 school year.

2021-2022 Related Service FTE

No Change

2021-2022 District Special Education Certified Staff as a result of the staffing process and contractual special assignments. Total: 79.3 FTE (-1.0)