

SPED TASK Force

DATE: 3/5/24

Notes:

- RSP Reid: Concerns about cuts in Teacher positions.(Only 6, cutting 3 leaves 3 FTE)
  - OSSS is not eliminating any teaching positions; however, staffing standards provided by the Budget office have resulted in teachers being reassigned to other positions.
- Madison MS Class: Reports low support with BIS wondering what the plan is.
  - Site SPED Admin Laura to answer. (specific student is in process of SCIA)
  - Plan for behavior support team housed at student support services. SPED side and Gen ed side that will work in collaboration.
- Madison feels like they need more behavioral support- \*Help is on the way!
- Madison is wondering what the purpose of the safety plan is. Wondering about training on this. (working on specifics with district legal first, then will be shared with case carriers)
- Emerson loves the district bis. So do others.
- What is the plan? Everyone is worried that services are being dismantled, programs are changing and no one is told anything.\*utilizing a more mental health approach to help with behaviors
- Carver reports no replies from Special Education Administrators
  - The last communication from the Special Education Admin was Tuesday, March 5th. RSP Itinerant was assigned within a reasonable amount of time.
- Carver has an aide that has a disability. The aide has been moved around and there are concerns with the accommodations needed for her. Teachers having to accommodate their students and the aide is more challenging than helpful due to the accommodations needed.
  - Please reach out to Lauren Bouwman if this concerns Instructional Aides or Dennis Sweningson if it concerns Behavior support staff.
- ED Code Violation? Carver RSP teacher received a notice that the teacher has to go over their caseload, 28. Had over 28 students for 20 days before receiving extra assistance. Doesn't want to file a grievance because the teacher is probationary.
  - This has been addressed in person, via email, and via letter sent to school site staff. There is no noted ED Code violation.
- Avalon emailed to request a phone call for help from TOSA for behavioral assistance. Response is to submit data and answer questions through emails. Feels like she has to "write reports" when she'd just like a phone call to work through the challenges.
  - Special Education Administrators are always available for phone calls. The more information that can be provided to the Special Education Department will always ensure the most effective support and assistance that can be provided to staff and students.
- Question: Will the agency aides be allowed to return?
  - Agency aides will be utilized when District IAs are not available.

- Transportation changes? Why are we being told through the grapevine about transportation code changes? Ex: MM classes moving to pick up stations? New “policies” are not being communicated to the case carriers.
  - Transportation is provided on an individual basis and is an IEP team decision.(Erica to insert memo)
- Behavior Concerns: The 6-8 weeks of data is too long for some students. There should be a plan in place for extreme situations. Is there a “fast track” program for students who are injuring others?
  - Reach out to your site Special Education Admin to discuss. Collaboration across departments is always encouraged.
  - Can add safety plan in the interim
- Behavior Health: Concerned with the extra long (one year) waiting list.
  - SBMH: no waitlist
  - ERMHS: 2 months..ish ( definitely not over a year) ; (The Guidance Center/TGC has no waitlist but only a few slots left; Star View is hiring more staff to address the wait)
- COP: What are the criteria for different programs? OSSS website has a presentation about the COP process, but criteria for different programs are not listed/available.
  - There are currently no written criteria. The school Psychologist will determine the most appropriate placement for students in collaboration with the school site team. Various data sources, including assessment data, should be used to drive placements. Working with our legal counsel to create program descriptors for all of our programs.
- Concerns: What is the plan for the programs moving to new schools? Ex: two mod severe classes moving to Carver
  - Programs opening at new sites will be treated as new classes opening. Special Education Administration will work alongside school site administration.
  - Madison was told that new classes were opening due to increasing enrollment in special education classes. No new classes are opening at Madison.
  - Teachers are toileting because of lack of aide support in the classrooms.
    - School sites are currently staffed with IA support according to the District program to aide ratio.