

SPECIAL EDUCATION BOARD REPORT

Holly Day, Director

February 13, 2023

- Staffing shortages (ed techs) continue at crisis level.
- Current openings for 23-24 school year:
 - Speech and Language Therapist, ESS
 - Special Education teacher, Social Emotional Learning Program, elementary level (trying again to find the right teacher to get this program running)
- We were given the opportunity to have six ed techs attend a five week institute on positive behavior interventions and supports, de-escalation and inclusion practices. The feedback is that they are really enjoying the classes and learning a lot. With lots of homework!
- During the January workshop day, a group of staff, including several high school staff, had initial training in Safety Care Training. This month we will be completing a re-certification class for staff previously trained.
- In case you aren't familiar with Unified Basketball, this is a basketball program at the high school level that partners students with developmental disabilities (Unified Student Athlete) with students without developmental disabilities (Unified Student Partners) to train, compete and represent their school.
- Unified Game Schedule—come watch a game—best way to spend an hour!
 - Feb 2 at Edward Little, 3:30
 - February 9th home v. Lewiston, 3:30
 - February 13th home, 3:30
 - February 16th home v. Oxford Hills, 3:30
 - February 26 at Oxford Hills, 3:30
 - March 2nd at Leavitt, 3:30
 - March 7 at Lewiston, 3:30
- Legislative Updates to Watch
 - Special Education/Special Education Related Bills (to date):

LD 79: An Act to Ensure a High-quality Education for Students with Disabilities by Clarifying the Definition of "State Agency Client" and Who Provides Special Education Programs and Services

- Clarifies SAC
- Public Comment on Feb. 9 @ 1:00pm

LD 98: An Act to Update the Special Education Law

- Increase age to 22 in statute
- Language changes: PET to IEP; Hearing impairment, including deafness to Deafness, including Hearing Loss; and Deaf and Blindness to Deaf-Blindness; at hearing, it was reported that there was an amendment to bill to also change Emotional Disturbance to Emotional Disability
- Added language: part-time or full-time for educational programming, transitional programming, and reference to students enrolled in special education right to participate in CTE
- Public Comment held Jan. 31; work session TBA

LD 154: An Act Regarding Special Education Funding for So-called Minimum Receiver SAU

- Increase state share to 55% for special education, beginning 22-23 SY
- Requires DOE to examine methodologies to determine so-called minimum receivers; examine trends of how many SAUs are min receivers & determine factors of increase, why and how to resolve
- Public Comment TBA

LD 343: An Act to Invest in an Ed Tech Training Program to Address Shortages in Public Schools

- Ongoing funds to support the Learning Facilitator Credential Program at EMCC beginning in fiscal year 2023-24
- Public Comment TBA

LD 393: Resolve, Regarding Legislative Review of Portions of Chapter 33: Rules Governing Physical Restraint

and Seclusion, a Major Substantive Rule of the Department of Education

- Brings forth proposed Chapter 33 rules by MDOE (public comment held on this last year)
- Public Comment TBA

