



THE LAKE AND PENINSULA SCHOOL DISTRICT

101 Jensen Drive
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To: Board of Education
Lake and Peninsula School District

May 6, 2026

From: Marjorie Waggoner
Contracting Special Education Director

Re: Special Education Report

Special Education Assurances

School districts are required every year to verify that certain assurances are being fulfilled in special education. There are 50 assurances that all school districts agree to complete during the grant application process. The department verifies these assurances on a rotational basis to reduce burden on the school district. This year districts were required to document that they are in compliance with the three assurances below. We are grateful to Becca Stenson for her work during the school year overseeing our Child Find activities and making sure each child ages 3-5 who is eligible for special education early intervention is found and served.

Administrative Assurance # 5 The district will maintain documentation that verifies contact is made to private schools, charter schools, and correspondence schools to identify children with disabilities who need services.

LPSD does not have any private schools or charter schools within its boundaries. The district has a home school program, Lake View Home School, as one of the district school choices. The district employs a home school coordinator to meet with parents and students on a regular basis. A special education teacher is assigned to provide services to students in the home school program. Students suspected of having a disability are referred for evaluation.

In the instance that a private school, charter school, or correspondence school were to be established within the jurisdiction of the district, the district would implement a systematic process to ensure timely and documented outreach for the purpose of identifying children with disabilities who may require special education services. In this instance, the Special Education Director/designee would review outreach documentation annually to ensure all required entities have been contacted and documentation is complete.

Administrative Assurance #6 The district will maintain documentation that verifies child find activities are coordinated with Part C child find activities. 34 CFR 300.124.



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The Lake and Peninsula School District collaborates with Part C Early Intervention providers, Bristol Bay Area Health Corporation Infant Learning Program based in Dillingham, and Parents, Infants, and Children Early Learn Program based in Anchorage depending on which village is home to the student. This ensures a smooth transition and continuity of Child Find efforts for children transitioning from early intervention to preschool special education services.

The district ensures participation in transition conferences and maintains documentation verifying coordination efforts for all eligible children referred from Part C.

***Administrative Assurance #8** The district will maintain documentation that the child find annual public notice is available in English and each language in which the district has a bilingual program and is posted in several areas throughout the community (TV spots, newspaper announcements and/r other forms of media.) 34 CFR 300.111*

Lake and Peninsula School District conducts annual Child Find public awareness activities to inform the community of available special education services and procedures for referral.

The district maintains a yearly checklist verifying that public notice requirements are met, and are distributed across the community. LPSD does not have a bilingual program; however, the district works to ensure that all parents understand the Child Find process.

Disproportionality Report

We have not received the Disproportionality Report required by IDEA in which DEED conducts its annual analysis to identify disproportionality in identification of special education students and LRE. I have contacted DEED and learned that the reports have not been completed yet this year. LPSD has been identified in past years as having disproportionality in the area of Speech/Language eligibility for Alaska Native and American Indian students. We have worked each year to reduce our risk ratio through training, pre-referral interventions, and study of District practices. Although this has been a recurring problem for LPSD, last spring our ratio had improved significantly. We are hoping we maintained that progress through this school year.

Special Education Staffing for Next School Year

We will have some special education staffing changes next year. Tracey Thomas, who has served LPSD as the special education teacher at Nondalton for several years is moving on to new adventures. Rick Rohman who was an itinerant special education teacher for Chignik Lagoon, Chignik Lake, Chignik Bay and Perryville is retiring to spend more time with his family. We thank these dedicated teachers for their service to our students who experience disabilities and wish them the best in their futures. Any additional staffing changes are yet to be determined.

In the related service areas, Presence, a teletherapy company that we have worked with for many years, will continue to provide part of the speech/language and occupational therapy services to students who are eligible. They will share the speech/language load with Clover Therapy, a company that did a



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wonderful job for us a few years ago. We are working with the two related service companies in order to provide services to our students at times and frequencies that will maximize their progress. Mary Olson, who joined our team in 2018, will continue to provide on-site therapy and supervision of physical therapy services to our students who require PT. We are happy that Vincent Henry will return as the school psychologist for LPSD. We look forward to another year of growth for our students in these related service areas.

Transition to Embrace

As I'm sure you are aware, LPSD has been using the PowerSchool Platform to create and store special education documents. The State Department of Special Education has been paying for this platform since 2016. The State will no longer pay for PowerSchool special programs and is requiring that districts across the state replace PowerSchool special programs with the Embrace platform. Our sped teachers have received training on the new platform and will continue to receive training and hands on learning throughout the 26/27 school year. Embrace will "talk" with PowerSchool SIS so we are hoping the glitches will be few and that we will find Embrace to be intuitive. Many thanks to Sam Rigby and Nathan McArthur for their hours of work moving our files from PowerSchool to Embrace. We couldn't have done it without their expertise.

School Year Closure

Once again, the special education teachers have been busy completing re-evaluations and new referral evaluations, ESER and IEP meetings, and of course, along with the paraeducators, providing special education services to their students up to the last minute! They were also tasked with doublechecking all the special education student information in PowerSchool and providing information to me for the end of year reports. I am hopeful that the Embrace platform will generate accurate state reports when required.

This school year has been busy and productive in special education. LPSD continues to include sped students in sports, academic contests, robotics, cultural enrichment curriculum, and other appropriate extra-curricular activities. LPSD truly is an example of inclusion at its best. Teachers and support staff help our students stay focused on the goal of graduation and provide the instruction and services needed for our students to be prepared for their adult lives.