



Long Prairie-Grey Eagle Business Office – September 2026

Our office is getting back into the routine of having staff and students in the building. Back to school means new contracts need to be updated, new benefit allowances are calculated and everyone receives the steps and lanes they are entitled to. We welcomed many new staff members this year. For the new paras, this means spending a day and a half completing Minnesota Department of Education mandatory training. The following is a list of the para training and the time it takes to complete each module:

1. PCA Training – 1-1/2 hours
2. SPED Training on Infinetec – 4 hours online and 2 hours to review IEP Goals/Objectives with SPED teachers
3. Infinetec Paraprofessional training modules – 4 hours (only done if you start in the middle of the school year)
4. Wizer training – 1 hour
5. Para Pro – needs to be completed within 60 days after being hired (this is waived if the person has a 2 year degree or higher)

The training modules that the folks have to complete consist of:

1. Categorical Disabilities for Special Education 101
2. Bullying
3. Mandated Reporting
4. Student Behavior: The Basics
5. FERPA – Understanding Student Confidentiality
6. Supporting Positive Behavior: Tips for Support Staff Working with Students with Special Needs
7. The Paraprofessional and Student Success: Four Corners to Super Para Status

Wizer New Employee Training modules:

1. Naloxone
2. Bloodborne Pathogens
3. Employee Right to Know
4. Seizures
5. Cyber Security

Another area of focus at back to school is the Application for Educational Benefits, or the free and reduced forms, as some people call them. I talked to Bonnie for some of our statistics for 2026-2027. This year's Direct Certification numbers haven't been populated yet, but last year at this time the elementary had 211 students and the secondary had 191 students. Additionally for 26-27, we have had 381 families fill out the application for educational benefit forms. Kudos to our families that are willing to fill them out even though All students get 1 breakfast and 1 lunch for free (Free School Meals for kids program).

Here's a little fact from the MDE on the Free Meals Program....

“On the first day of the 2026-27 school year, Governor Tim Walz today announced a major milestone for Minnesota's nation-leading School Meals Program: more than 150 million free meals served to students in the program's third year, bringing the total to nearly 450 million meals served since launch.”

Sherri Evenson