



There's been lots of impressive work and some significant developments since our last update on Special Education.



Support and Professional Development

All campuses have now completed the two-day “Step-by-Step for Inclusive Schools” training along with the Central Office Special Education team.

Most campuses have also completed an additional technical assistance day this spring and the remaining campuses will complete the work over the summer and early fall.

“The most beneficial part was setting a 1:1 appointment with Dr. Stetson’s team,” says Kiker Principal Cory Matheny. “We spent an entire day going student by student, minute by minute to map out our special education schedule. So, we’d already planned how we’ll meet each student’s needs before we built our master schedule.”

Data

Campuses have been using our new dashboard to more effectively plan for student initial and annual meetings. With the help of improved tracking, we have completed 45% more special education evaluations than we did last school year. We’re on track for an ambitious summer testing schedule to complete approximately 2000 additional evaluations at multiple sites.

Staff Recruitment

We’re starting to see our aggressive recruitment strategies pay off. New and also former employees are coming to support our efforts citing an improved climate and culture and a substantial increase in compensation for 23-24. In the past month we’ve filled 15 positions for Educational Diagnosticians and Licensed Specialists in School Psychology. These new employees will provide relief to our existing valued team members and bring us to 37 of 75 positions filled for next fall.

May 15, 2023

An Update on Special Education

TEA Update

We have been working closely with TEA for more than a year to catch up on our backlog of Special Education evaluations. In late March, TEA issued a report stating its intent to assign a team of conservators to oversee Special Education in Austin ISD. We then submitted and were later granted a request for informal review.

In our request we have asked TEA to reconsider the conservatorship in light of new information about what we've accomplished in the past few months. We have a strong plan in place and want to ensure the best possible alignment between our efforts as a district and the efforts of the state. The introduction of a new team could potentially disrupt our planning and momentum.

Last week Board President Arati Singh and a small team and I met with TEA as part of the informal review process. We had a productive conversation and are awaiting next steps.



Matias Segura
Austin ISD Interim Superintendent

Please join the Austin ISD
Special Education Team
for the final Parent
Power Hour session of
the school year at 6 p.m.,
Wednesday, May 17.

This month we will
discuss summer
Language and Literacy
and Biliteracy resources
for families.

Join via Zoom:
bit.ly/3BkjdVf