



Brookings School District

Empowering all learners to embrace and be inspired to realize their potential

Heather Asmussen, Director of Special Services
2130 8th Street South • Brookings, SD 57006 • Phone 605-696-4700 • Fax 605-696-4704

To: Board of Education

From: Heather Asmussen, Director of Special Services

Re: Administrative Report for December 2024

Date: December 3, 2024

1. A Great Place to Learn

This year, our high school special education classroom and Transition Program participated in Schoolsgiving celebrations. Students explored the meaning of Thanksgiving, traditions, meal planning, and preparation, all within a supportive and enriching environment. Additionally, our Transition Program students collaborated with Advance's Young Adult Transition (YAT) program to enhance their learning experience and celebration.



2. A Great Place to Work and Collaborate

Staff training continues across the district, with a primary focus on de-escalation strategies at the start of the year. Sessions are being offered in all buildings and will be completed by the end of the first semester. District behavior specialists and school psychologists will collaborate with staff to identify training topics and tailor second-semester sessions to address the specific needs of each building or department.

Our behavior interventionists have also taken the lead in organizing a mentorship program for Teaching Assistants and Behavior Technicians. They will meet with new staff to provide initial training, conduct building tours, and assign mentors within their buildings to support them throughout their first year in the district. Regular meetings will also be held with mentors to address questions and provide ongoing support. We are excited to offer this additional layer of training and guidance to our new employees.

3. A Responsible District

Special education funding is determined by our Child Count numbers as of December 1 each year. By January, we submit our final count to the state, detailing each student’s disability category and services. Currently, our December 1 count is approximately 700 students. Given the holiday break coinciding with this date, we are actively reviewing data to ensure all students served under an IEP are accurately included.

The table below outlines the funding levels for each disability category.

Disability Funding Levels

Funding Levels
Level 1 = mild disability (speech/language, other health impaired, specific learning disability, development delay) 10.62% of ADM
Level 2 = cognitive disability, emotional behavior disability
Level 3 = hearing loss, deafness, vision loss, deaf-blind, orthopedic impairment, traumatic brain injury
Level 4 = autism
Level 5 = multiple disability (2 or more disabilities from levels 2, 3, 4 not including deaf-blind)
Level 6 = prolonged assistance

History of Disability Funding Allocations

Special Education Aid Allocations	FY2021 (adj)	FY2022	FY2023 (adj)	FY2024	FY2025 (adj)
Level 1 Disability (% of ADM)	10% of \$6,152	\$6,299.65	10.72% of \$6,532	\$6,989.24	10.62% of \$7,556
Level 2 Disability (child count)	\$14,655	\$15,006.72	\$15,411	\$16,489.77	\$16,553
Level 3 Disability (child count)	\$19,194	\$19,654.66	\$19,682	\$21,059.74	\$22,854
Level 4 Disability (child count)	\$15,405	\$15,774.72	\$15,981	\$17,099.67	\$17,831
Level 5 Disability (child count)	\$32,348	\$33,124.35	\$34,293	\$36,693.51	\$36,582
Level 6 Disability (child count)	\$8,261	\$8,459.26	\$9,066	\$9,700.62	\$11,692