



# Brookings School District

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

Heather Asmussen, Director of Special Services

2130 8<sup>th</sup> 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 October 2024

Date: October 7, 2024

## 1. A Great Place to Learn

Our September child count by grade and disability category is below. We have increased by 11 students from the end of May, 2024. With the increase in students and needs, we are focused on building relationships with new families and maintaining our relationships with our current families. Creating strong learning environments allows us to challenge our students to grow and learn.

Grades	EC	JK	kg	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	12+	PS	
Total of all schools	51	11	48	46	60	59	73	55	52	47	35	50	26	37	29	7	7	693
	500	505	510	515	525	530	535	540	545	550	555	560	565	570				
Total	0	54	38	2	217	23	3	0	0	87	106	106	0	57				693
500 DEAF-BLINDNESS					530 MULTIPLE DISABILITIES						555 OTHER HEALTH IMPAIRMENT							
505 EMOTIONAL DISTURBANCE					535 ORTHOPEDIC IMPAIRMENT						560 AUTISM SPECTRUM DISORDER							
510 COGNITIVE DISABILITY					540 VISION LOSS						565 TRAUMATIC BRAIN INJURY							
515 HEARING LOSS					545 DEAFNESS						570 DEVELOPMENTAL DELAY							
525 SPECIFIC LEARNING DISABILITY					550 SPEECH OR LANGUAGE IMPAIRMENT													

## 2. A Great Place to Work

In May 2023, our district joined with USD to create a PDC cohort to assist uncertified and certified staff earn a masters degree in special education in roughly 18 months. I'm excited to announce that we had two teachers finish their degrees in August! We will have 7 additional teachers finish their degrees and be fully certified in special education by winter break. This has been a very hectic time for all staff to support, teach, and coach these individuals through this process, but they have learned so much and are better prepared to serve our students.

### **3. A Great Place to Collaborate**

Our RDA coaches from the state spent a full day with our team consisting of general education teachers, special education teachers, and administrators. We analyzed data and focused on ways to improve our systems and processes to meet our goals to increase the percent of students in the general education classroom (LRE - least restrictive environment) and improve our math and reading proficiency scores in special education and general education. Each building created an action plan to continue working on these goals.

It was determined that we did not get a strong representation of staff in the survey conducted at the beginning of the school year. We will send this survey out again to gain more accurate data to help identify professional learning opportunities.

### **4. A Responsible District**

Our department continues to work together and within buildings to find ways to be more efficient with schedules and resources. Our RDA coaches are assisting with professional learning opportunity development to assist with our needs to increase capacity and effectiveness throughout our staff.