



EASTERN UPPER PENINSULA INTERMEDIATE SCHOOL DISTRICT

SE UPDATES & REMINDERS

June 2021

EUPISD Special Education Superstar Spotlight: Kayla Welker, we recognize your impact!

This month, the EUPISD is recognizing Kayla Welker as the Special Education Superstar Spotlight! Kayla Welker is a motivated professional in her work as a speech and language pathologist. Superintendent Tom McKee states, “Miss Kayla has gone above and beyond for her students and all the students at Whitefish Township Community Schools. This year, after seeing something inclusive that a neighboring ISD put up on their playground, Miss Kayla went out and, on her own time and dime, organized the implementation of a large nonverbal communication board for Whitefish, Three Lakes, and Taquahmenon. She is always looking out for our students and we are so grateful to have her.” Congratulations, Kayla on a job well done!

Family Matters

The Michigan Department of Education MDE has a website dedicated to fact sheets and materials intended to help families stay informed about special education and other services. Parents and educators can [sign up for email updates](#) to get up-to-date news from OSE. A fact sheet parents may be interested in is the [IEP Fact Sheet](#) for the basics about what is in the IEP, when to do the IEP, and other important information.

Progress Reports

IEP progress reports need to be completed and provided to parents following the same schedule as district report cards. The final IEP progress reports for this school year will be due early June. A quality progress report includes both numerical data and narrative information that add details to inform parents regarding their child’s performance. To prepare for progress report time, providers should double check data collection systems to ensure appropriate progress monitoring data is being collected throughout the quarter. Special education supervisors will continue to monitor progress report completion and quality.

Preparing for the Fall

As the school year winds down, please ensure IEP calendars for August and September are in place to prepare for a smooth transition. IEP teams may need to consider holding IEP meetings this spring, if the IEP date falls in the summer months. It is also important to note evaluations that are carrying over into next year, so they can be completed in a timely manner. Team meetings and grade level meetings are also an important item to get on the calendar for the fall. When the new school year begins, there may be updates needed on safety plans, behavior plans, and individualized visual supports and schedules. Making a checklist/calendar now helps to get students and staff ready for a successful start to next year.

Special Education Teacher Tuition Reimbursement Grant Opportunity

In response to the ongoing and intense need to provide appropriately certified and endorsed teachers for students with disabilities, the Michigan Department of Education Office of Special Education (MDE OSE) is offering a Special Education Teacher Tuition Reimbursement Grant opportunity. Districts eligible to apply for the grant must have a 60 percent or higher Free and Reduced-Meals population, based on the fall 2019 data. The funds are intended to incentivize certified Michigan teachers to earn an additional endorsement in special education for employment in a program where they are currently not qualified. Districts must follow the Special Education Personnel Approvals process for employing teachers under initial temporary approval.

Tuition reimbursement is available for all teachers employed under an initial special education teacher temporary approval following the May 12, 2021 implementation date. The grant does not take the place of the Special Education Personnel Approvals process, but rather it enhances it by making Special Education Teacher Tuition Reimbursement Grant funds available.

The grant can be used to cover tuition costs up to \$800.00 per credit hour for a maximum of six credits per year, per teacher for up to three years.

Visit the [Special Education Teacher Tuition Reimbursement Grant page](#) for more information, including access to the application.