



**Special Education Director's
Report to the EUPISD Board of Education
February 2023**

Regional Technical Assistance & Support:

During the past month, the regional Special Education Supervisors group completed a data review process regarding the last several years of eligibility for Specific Learning Disabilities (SLD) in the EUPISD with a particular emphasis on reading. Data review is an on-going process and drives the professional learning offered by the Special Education Department annually. For example, previous data reviews have indicated that there is a need for increased emphasis on phonological awareness. The Heggerty training that we now offer is in response to that need.

- SLD Data - [LINK](#)
- [SE Department Professional Learning Overview](#)

Statewide Involvement:

Two of our staff members have been selected to present at the 2023 Michigan Suicide Prevention Community Technical Assistance Conference (CTAC) May 3-5, 2023, Gaylord, MI. We are proud of the suicide prevention process that we have built here at the EUPISD and excited that our colleagues have been selected to share it statewide. Session information below:

Session C2. Emergency Student Assistance Team Process

Presenters: Tammy Hazley, Assistant Director EUPISD & Stacey Miller, Behavior Specialist EUPISD

Session Description: The presence of imminent risk for harm to self or others, requires an immediate and comprehensive response. The Eastern Upper Peninsula Intermediate School District has developed an Emergency Student Assistance Team (E-SAT) process to gather preliminary data regarding a student's past and current level of functioning as well as the nature/severity of risk. When completed, the E-SAT will culminate in a decision as to whether or not a formal school-based risk assessment is necessary. A risk assessment provides detailed insight into student behavior, motivation, and thinking. A comprehensive risk assessment examines developmental and academic histories through record reviews, interviews, a mental status exam and observation of the student, current risk factors, and coordination with outside agencies, if applicable. Conducting a risk assessment within the school setting is uniquely beneficial because school staff have access to the school setting and information that outside evaluators would not typically have. Students in most cases, are assessed within the familiar setting of their school. Completion of the risk assessment culminates with recommended interventions and supports for the student, his/her family, and the school. Through this process, students are placed on a path of social/emotional and academic repair.

By the end of the session, participants will be able to:

1. Discern the rationale for school-based risk assessment.
2. Gain an understanding of the EUPISD Emergency Student Assistance Team Process.
3. Learn the key components of a comprehensive school-based risk assessment.

[CTAC Program](#)

[CTAC Session Descriptions](#)

National Involvement:

Tammy Hazley, Assistant Special Education Director, EUPISD has been selected in a competitive process to serve on the National Center on Intensive Intervention Professional Development Provider Community of Practice (CoP). Tammy currently leads the coordination of the professional development efforts of the Special Education Department. We know that Tammy will have much to offer as a participant in the CoP and that the EUPISD will benefit from the connections Tammy will make with other educators involved. Here is a further description of the work of the CoP and a link to their website:

Purpose: This community of practice (CoP) hosted by the National Center on Intensive Intervention (NCII) is for individuals who work in schools, districts, or state agencies who conduct, design, or supervise professional development (PD) activities for educators on topics related to intensive intervention.

Goal: Professional development providers will embed data-based individualization (DBI) content into the design and delivery of professional development activities for in service educators.

[NCII Website](#)

Staff Updates

- Interviews for a Special Education Supervisor for Sault Area Public Schools will be held later this month with participation from the SAPS administrative team. We are hopeful that a candidate will be selected from this round of interviews.
- 1 full time and 3 part time speech position are unfilled within the region. We currently have the unfilled positions covered with virtual providers and support staff and have positions posted. MyMichigan is working through the credentialing process with one new staff member that would fill our part-time opening and is actively recruiting for our full-time needs. The EUPISD also has a posting for the open positions.
- We have 3 full-time Occupational Therapy positions that are unfilled. We have interviewed one high quality applicant and made an offer. We hope to have an acceptance soon. As an interim solution, we have secured virtual therapists for all openings and will continue to recruit directly as well as work with MyMichigan to secure face to face therapists. Additionally, we have posted 2 Certified Occupational Therapy Assistants (COTAs) to assist with the need to have face to face providers working with students.
- We have filled 1.5 of the 2 instructional aide postings open for staff needed to support our virtual positions.