



February 10, 2022

Dear Elmbrook SEEN Families,

We wanted to address the recent comments on Elmbrook Special Education Graduation Rates.

The comments that have been made are inferring that there is a deterioration in graduation rates in our district for kids with IEPs. This is not an accurate representation. We want to make sure you understand the data and where we are as a district in terms of Special Education Graduation.

Annually districts report graduation data for students with disabilities on the [District Report Cards](#) and [Special Education District Profiles](#). On the District Report Cards, DPI reports two cohorts, each with the percentage of students starting high school together who graduated. The four-year rate pertains to students who started high school four years earlier, and the seven-year rate pertains to students who started seven years earlier. This quantifies the number of students who are over the typical graduation age of 18 but who continue schooling or special education services for a period of time up to the year of the maximum age of 21. A student with a disability continues to have a right to a free and appropriate public education until graduation with a regular diploma or until the age of 21.

In 2020 there were 614 students in the 4-year cohort in Elmbrook schools (Brookfield Central, Brookfield East, and Fairview South). Included in this cohort are 37 students with disabilities in their 4th year of high school, which is the typical time of completion. Of the 37 students, 73% (27) met high school requirements and exited the system. Of the 10 students with disabilities that did not complete high school requirements in 4 years:

- 2 students went to [Project Search](#) and completed high school at the end of year 5
- 4 students went to [Project Strive](#) and completed high school at the end of year 6
- 4 students went to [Fairview South](#) and/or Project Strive and completed high school at the end of year 7

The Districts' 7-year graduation rate for students with disabilities in 2020 was 98% according to the DPI district report card. Elmbrook is proud of the robust programs they offer for students with disabilities that may need more than 4 years to complete high school requirements due to their special needs primarily due to intellectual disabilities and autism.

We are very proud that in our district we have one of the highest graduation rates for kids with IEPs compared to Benchmark Local Districts with a seven-year graduation rate of 98% for the 20-21 school year. This equates to one-two kids in a class not graduating for a multitude of personal reasons. (The Benchmark Districts we compared ourselves to include Arrowhead, Greendale, Hamilton, Mequon-Theinsville, Middleton Cross Plains, New Berlin, Muskego-Norway, Pewaukee, Waunakee, and Whitefish Bay.)



Our kids have many options in this district from Early Childhood-Age 21. We acknowledge no program is perfect. As SEEN, we look to find ways to bring families and the district together to continue to improve our programs. We aim to be a district where parents are equal partners in the IEP process. We celebrate these graduation rates and the programs that they represent and encourage you to learn more about all the programs our district offers.

Please join us at our upcoming SEEN Meeting via ZOOM on Tuesday Feb. 22 at 6pm to learn and share with other SEEN families and District Administration.

Thank you and please let us know if you have any questions.

Elissa Coyer & Nisha Gupta

Elmbrook SEEN Co-Family-Liaisons

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