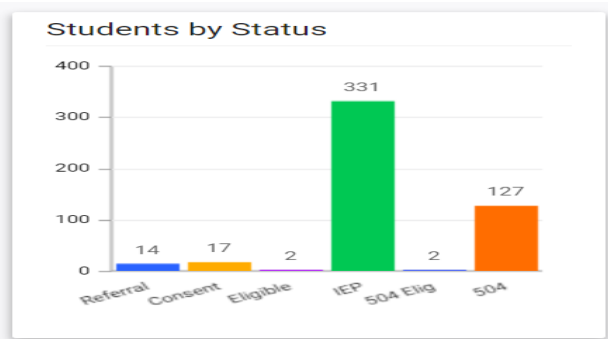




**Monthly Board Report**  
**Emmett School District**  
**October, 2023**

**Special Education Demographics:**

- According to our IEP platform (Edplan), 331 Students are receiving Special Education as of Oct. 2, 2023



**Staff Openings:**

- 1 Certified Position
  - Carberry Special Education Teacher/Behavior Specialist Focus
- 1 Paraprofessional positions to fill as of 10/02/23
  - EHS
    - We are currently considering any additional Para support needs and may hire additional supports as we fill original needs.

**Department Projects:**

- The State Department of Education Special Education Office offered a Mini grant to provide funding to support the *training needs* of each LEA to begin implementation in adherence to HB281. We submitted our application for this Mini grant on Friday September 29th. Awards will be determined by Thursday, October 12th (if not sooner), and LEAs will be notified with grant award notifications and letters October 13th.
- The State Department General Education File Review is coming in the next few months. We have started initial conversations with building SpEd teams to begin our internal review.

**Staff Highlights:**

**We have incredible staff working in our special education programs and classrooms. Each month we would like to highlight a few of them.**



- **Hazel Gorino, Special Education Paraprofessional**  
We asked Hazel a few questions and here is what she shared:

*"I started subbing at the High school in 2012. Mrs. Nix had a para that took ill, so I finished out the school year. Then the following year I was hired.*

*I have been here with Mrs. Nix, Mrs. LeBreton and now Mr. Simpson. I worked at different levels with each teacher in the English department. I was responsible for the vocabulary and the Kahoots that went along with them, grading papers for all the study skills labs, and I worked with all students in all subjects except Math. I helped the teachers with whatever made their job a little easier. I've stayed in the same room 204 at High School since I started.*

*I really didn't pursue this as a career, I worked for the Radiation Oncology Doctors at Misti, and tried to retire. Found myself at loose ends, so my niece Kristy Nutall talked me into subbing. My favorite part is working with and building a relationship with the students. It's exciting when they see that they can do so much more than they believe they can.*

*Both my parents are deceased, I am one of four children with one brother that lives in Virginia, a retired officer with Nuclear Subs. One sister is still alive and lives in Arkansas. I am a mother of two sons and 1 daughter. I am a grandmother to six grandchildren, 5 grandsons and 1 granddaughter, and a Nana to eight great grandchildren, four boys, and four girls, and one on the way.*

*My hobbies are kayaking, camping, and I love painting. I use all mediums. I also enjoy Bingo. Spending time with my family is my favorite, I had a cake business for 37 years that started out as a hobby...*

*I believe most people don't know I started out working as a Dental Assistant and receptionist. It was an office with just myself and the dentist in McCall.*

*I didn't really pursue this as a career, I have worked several different types of jobs in my lifetime, I did work for Title I at Butteview when my children were small, I've worked at a saw mill, the Courthouse in Clerk and Treasures Office, painting signs for stores, and ran my cake business as well. Then with The Radiation Doctors at Misti.*

*I really can't think of any big thing I would like to learn. I feel I learn new things everyday working with the students."*



### **Stephanie Pirc, Special Education Teacher**

- *How long have you been with ESD? This is my 2nd year. I have taught special education for 21 years in Idaho.*
- *Tell us about your Job (Who, What, Where, How)? I am a special education teacher at Shadow Butte Elementary school. I support academics and behaviors to aid each student in finding their success in school.*
- *Why did you pursue the career you have today? I truly feel it was my calling in life. I decided to follow my heart and go to college at the age of 37. I have my degree and I also earned two graduate degrees and my National Boards.*
- *What is your favorite part of your job? The kids*

- Tell us about your family. *I have been married for 40 years this June to my best friend. I have two sons, a wonderful daughter-in-love and two grandsons.*
- Describe an interesting hobby or pastime that you have. *I love to hike with my dog and paddle board. I am an outdoors girl. It is tough to get me inside. I also like working outside and building our home.*
- What's something surprising that not many people know about you? *I used to ride dirt bikes and sail on Catamarans on the ocean. I love to work out.*
- When did you first know that you wanted to pursue a career in this field? *Since I was a little girl. My grandmother taught in an underprivileged area with gang activity when I was younger. I enjoyed helping her in the classroom. I loved how you can make a difference in the lives of our youth.*
- What's something that you've always wanted to try or learn? *Surfing*



Naala Figueras , Speech Language Pathologist

- How long have you been with ESD? *This is my 6th year with the district.*
- Tell us about your Job (Who, What, Where, How)? *I cover multiple schools. I provide services for the developmental and typical preschools, Butte View, Sweet, and Ola elementary schools, Emmett Middle School, Black Canyon, and the Patriot Center. I am fortunate to have a great para, Claire Shelden, that shares in the responsibility of providing services. Our primary areas of service are language therapy and speech therapy. In the area of language, we work with children to help them increase their ability to communicate their thoughts and ideas effectively, understand the communication of others, and engage in appropriate social communication. In the area of speech, we teach children how to produce sounds correctly so they can be understood. We also work with kids who stutter to help them speak more fluently.*
- Why did you pursue the career you have today? *My first career was as a data analyst. While I enjoyed the work, I realized I needed a job with more social interaction. A friend who is a teacher happened to mention the need for more speech-language pathologists in schools. I did some research and, for the first time, knew I had found my future career. I would be able to utilize my knowledge of research methods and analysis as well as help children or adults improve their ability to communicate.*
- What is your favorite part of your job? *The children. They bring a positive energy to my life every day. It is incredibly rewarding to watch them improve and grow.*
- Tell us about your family. *I am married with a 17-year-old son. We have a dog and two cats.*
- Describe an interesting hobby or pastime that you have. *I don't think my pastimes are all that interesting, but I enjoy gardening, camping, rafting, live music, and spending time with my friends and family.*
- What's something surprising that not many people know about you? *No idea.*
- What's something that you've always wanted to try or learn? *I've always wanted to operate a backhoe.*