

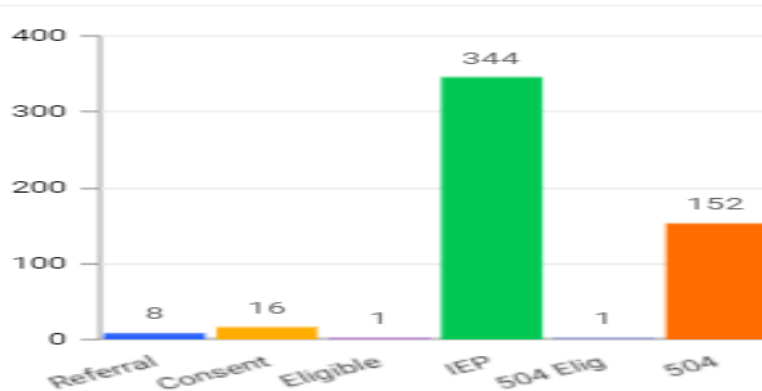


**Special Education Monthly Board Report  
Emmett School District  
September, 2024**

**Special Education Demographics:**

- Three weeks into the school year, as of Sept. 6, 2024 the home page of our IEP platform (Edplan) shows 344 students receiving Special Education with an additional 8 Referrals, and 16 Consents for Evaluation.

**Students by Status**



**Staff Openings:**

- The following position is still in consideration: Special Education Teacher with Behavior Focus and Expertise -- Carberry
- We continue to evaluate our current Paraprofessional assignments and projected needs.

**Department Projects:**

- SLD Training: Heather Hynes, Alec Smith, and Vanessa Ghiglione the Emmett School District School Psychologists, along with Nicole Thomas, Special Education Director attended the Idaho State Department's training on the updates to the Specific Learning Disability eligibility determination process. This training occurred Sept. 5, 2024 in Nampa. This information will be shared with each building team during MDT meetings and implemented as eligibility determinations are conducted. These changes were well communicated by the state early last spring, upcoming changes were reviewed, and our teams have already started to implement these new considerations.
- The State Department of Education has also updated the Idaho Special Education Manual from the 2017 version. The 2024 version has been posted on the Special Education site: <https://www.sde.idaho.gov/sped/sped-manual/> ESD has replaced the 2017 version as our guide with the 2024 version.

**Upcoming PD with Special Education Focus**

- September 13, 2024 9:00--11:00: Writing & Implementing a meaningful IEP / Running an Effective IEP meeting / Student Led IEPs

## Staff Highlights:



**Olivia Eager**

### **How long have you been with ESD?**

I am happy to be spending my 4th year now with the district!

### **Tell us about your Job (Who, What, Where, How)?**

I serve as the Tier 3+/Extended Resource Room special education teacher for our EMS program, alongside my four lovely paras. We work together to provide individualized support for students who need more intensive interventions.

### **Why did you pursue the career you have today?**

I have a younger sister with Autism who I absolutely adore. Caring for her has been the most rewarding experience, and over time, I realized that she has taught me more about life than I could ever teach her. The thing I care most about in my life is that she is loved and supported across all environments. This deepened my passion for helping others and inspired me to become a special educator so that I can do the same for other people's children. Additionally, I have a younger cousin with Autism, and my lifelong involvement in activities like the Special Olympics further solidified my love for working with individuals with disabilities. I initially pursued a bachelor's degree in Speech-Language Pathology, but while working as a paraprofessional in another district, I realized my true calling was in Special Education, which led me to pursue my master's in this field.

### **What is your favorite part of your job?**

My favorite part of my job is addressing the emotional and behavioral difficulties of children. This is something incredibly close to my heart, and I find that when we take the time to focus on these areas, the students progress much further in their academics. Working in the extended resource room allows me to work with a smaller group of students, giving me more opportunities to build close relationships with them and their families.

### **Tell us about your family.**

I am blessed to live close to my parents and my three sisters, whom I spend time with frequently. My younger sister, who has Autism, holds a very special place in my heart, and caring for her has shaped much of my life.

### **Describe an interesting hobby or pastime that you have.**

Some of my favorite hobbies are playing the piano and traveling, especially to Disney parks!

### **What's something surprising that not many people know about you?**

A potentially surprising detail about me is that I'm an extreme music enthusiast. I have a ridiculously wide range of musical tastes, and you might be a bit scared if you gave me Bluetooth access in the car!

### **When did you first know that you wanted to pursue a career in this field?**

I first knew I wanted to pursue a career in education when I was in elementary school. In addition to my sister with Autism, I also have a younger cousin with Autism. Being involved with them and participating in activities for individuals with disabilities from an early age led me to develop a deep passion for this population. It's something I've envisioned myself doing for most of my life.

### **What's something that you've always wanted to try or learn?**

I've always wanted to learn an additional language, specifically Spanish, to better communicate with the families of my students and broaden my ability to support them.

