

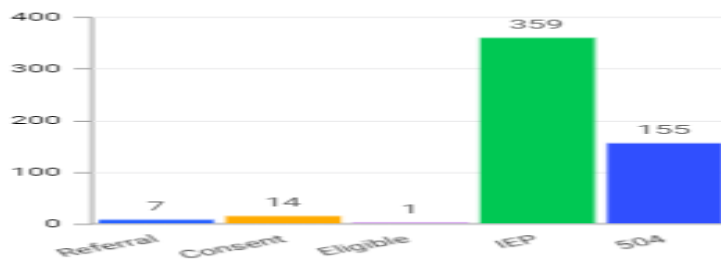


**Special Education Monthly Board Report
Emmett School District
October, 2024**

Special Education Demographics:

- Eight weeks into the school year, as of Oct. 8, 2024, the home page of our IEP platform (Edplan) shows 359 (up from 344) students receiving Special Education with an additional 7 Referrals, and 14 Consents for Evaluation.

Students by Status



Staff Openings:

- One full time Special Education Teacher K-5 at Carberry Elementary
- The following position is still in consideration: Special Education Teacher with Behavior Focus and Expertise -- Carberry

Department Projects:

- On September 13th, we held a successful SpEd Professional Development session with our Special Education Teachers, focusing on developing meaningful IEPs. We explored strategies for interactive, efficient IEP meetings, including student-led IEPs and meaningful parent involvement.
- Our School Psychologists attended the Idaho Association of School Psychologists conference on October 3rd and 4th, gaining valuable insights to support our students further.
- On October 22nd, our new Special Education teachers will participate in the "Essential Components of an IEP" SESTA training, which will focus on building strong foundational IEPs.

Upcoming PD with Special Education Focus

- **October 28, 2024: Secondary Staff Only:**
 - **General Supervision File Review Audit** – Focused on ensuring compliance and accuracy in student records for secondary schools.
- **November 8, 2024:** All SpEd Teachers Training focused on:
 - **Progress Monitoring**
 - **Teaming with General Education Partners**
 - **Roles of Team Members**
 - **Practical Strategies** for effective collaboration

Staff Highlights:



Sondra Koontz, Special Education Teacher at Shadow Butte Elementary

- **How long have you been with ESD?**
This is my fourth year with ESD.
- **Tell us about your Job (Who, What, Where, How)?**
I am currently a second year special education teacher at Shadow Butte Elementary. I started my journey as a teacher right out of high school. However, I took multiple years off to raise my children. I went back to school a little later than planned, but I finished my degree in August of 2023 just in time to start teaching with ESD.
- **Why did you pursue the career you have today?**
I pursued education because I personally have had pretty amazing teachers growing up. I had the best elementary teachers anyone could have ever asked for and I was able to learn and grow from my High School teachers.
- **What is your favorite part of your job?**
I love unlocking students' full potential. I find it so gratifying knowing I have made an impact just as some of my teachers did on myself. I know you have all heard it a million times, but "I am here for the kids." I have a servant's heart and by being empathic, passionate, kind, and caring, I will continue to strive towards being one of the best teachers.
- **Tell us about your family.**
My better half, Willy and I have three children: Brooklee, Madison, and William. All three are in the ESD and have been since kindergarten. We don't plan to leave. You could say we are Emmett lifers! GO HUSKIES! We are outdoor enthusiasts. We love the great outdoors and everything it has to offer. Hiking to Hunting and everything in between.
- **Describe an interesting hobby or pastime that you have.**
This is going to sound odd but I don't have any hobbies unless you count, being a mom. I run our three children around Emmett and beyond for practices and games.
- **What's something surprising that not many people know about you?**

I do not have any hobbies... ha!

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

I knew I wanted to become a teacher ever since I was a little girl. I used to come home from school and make my siblings play school. I know they didn't like it but they were usually good sports.

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

Photography. I think it would be pretty amazing to travel the world and capture breathtaking photographs of landscapes and wildlife just as Ansel Adams, Eliot Porter, or Thomas D. Mangelsen. Maybe it will happen someday!