



# SE Parent Partners NOTES

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401 Camp Craft Road

February 23, 2026

**Attendees:** Matt Zemo, Emily Dunlap, Claudia McWhorter, Ashley Buba, Christine Curry, Meghan Shannon, Laura Strunk, Meredith Cataldo, Kerri Baldwin, Michelle DiMaggio, Cynthia Bumba

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## **Instruction & Student Planning**

**Student Advancement Meetings (SAMs)** are underway on each campus. These internal data review meetings between special education administration and campus teams are to ensure we are thoughtfully planning services and supports for students for the **2026–27 school year**.

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## **Parent Learning Opportunities – CAFE Series**

We are continuing our **CAFE (Conversations About Furthering Excellence) Parent Training Series**, designed to support families in understanding special education services and processes. **Location:** 401 Camp Craft Road

- **Tuesday, February 24 at 9:30** – Training focused on **IEP instruction, accommodations, and progress monitoring**
- **Tuesday, April 14th at 10:00** --we will be partnering with **Texas State University** to offer a session focused on **Transition planning**.

Thank you to our instructional coaches and family partners for helping make this series impactful and accessible.

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## Community Spotlight: Unified Swimming

We are thrilled to invite families to participate in **Unified Swimming**, an inclusive program open to **all Eanes ISD students—kindergarten through adult transition**.

### Program Details:

- 📍 **Westlake Aquatics Center**
- 📅 **Tuesdays | March 24 – May 5**
- 🕒 **4:15–5:15 PM**
- ❤️ **Free of charge and open to students with and without disabilities**

### Why Unified Swimming?

- Promotes social inclusion and friendships across campuses
- Builds confidence and swimming skills in a safe, non-competitive environment
- Supported by trained Eanes ISD staff

Sign Up 🙌 <https://eisd.info/inclusion>

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## Early Childhood (ECSE) Highlights

We'd like to celebrate our ECSE team for their incredible work facilitating **peer model screener assessments**. Thanks to their efforts, we have already identified strong peer models for the upcoming school year, with additional screenings planned later this spring.

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## Special Education Funding

Each year, Eanes ISD participates in the **TEA High Cost Fund**, which helps offset the cost of specialized services for students with intensive needs.



- This process **does not affect services, eligibility, or placement**
- Only costs directly tied to IEP services are included
- Accurate documentation ensures continued high-quality support

Families are not required to provide information for this grant.

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## Extended School Year (ESY)

Planning for **Extended School Year (ESY)** services is underway based on ARD committee recommendations.

-  **Westlake High School**
-  **June 2–18 & July 7–23**
- Led once again by **Mr. Jon Callaway**

More information will be shared directly with families of eligible students.

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## Building Community Beyond the School Day

We are excited about two new engagement initiatives currently in development:

- **Bats Beyond** – an alumni network for current and former Adult Transition Services (ATS) students, focused on connection, friendship, and continued community beyond school years. More information has been shared with current and former ATS families.
  - **SEE Fund Ambassadors** – a parent-led group helping raise awareness and support for the Special Education Endowment Fund, which directly benefits students and programs across the department.
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## Save the Dates & Check out the Summer Camp Guide

- **Best Buddies Friendship Walk** – April 18
  - **Special Olympics / Unified Champions Banquet** –
    -  Westlake High School Chap Court
    -  May 7 at 5:00 PM
  - **[The Destination Life Transition Conference](#)** - March 7th 9:00-1:30
  - **[2026 Recreation & Camps Guide - Adaptive and Inclusive Programs for All Abilities](#)**
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## Parent Partner Initiatives

- Kerri Baldwin and other Parent Partners recently hosted a Vision Board Connections Party for special education parents at Trianon Coffee. The event was well attended, and meaningful connections and conversations took place among families.
- Claudia McWhorter attended today's meeting to support the Parent Partners' vision for a spring project: the creation of a video highlighting the benefits of special education for all students — both general education and special education. The goal is to share this video with families who are new to special education, as well as with campus communities districtwide, to showcase what makes Eanes SPED special. Ideas were discussed, and planning will continue over the coming months as the group works toward developing the video and related content.
- With the upcoming board election, Parent Partners — independent from district staff or district association — may also be planning a candidate panel for special education families.