Bentonville School District

Private School/Home School Partnership Meeting 3-31-25

Welcome and Introductions - Carrie Cousins (Coordinator for Home School/Private School)

Consultation Purpose - Each Local Education Agency (LEA) must locate, identify, and evaluate all children with disabilities who are enrolled by their parents in private, including religious, elementary schools and secondary schools located in the school district served by the LEA, in accordance with the requirements outlined in Section 3.02 of the IDEA. Child Find Requirements - Private Schools, Child Find DESE

- 7 private schools within the Bentonville School District (BSD) zone
  - Bentonville Seventh Day Adventist School, Bentonville Christian Academy, Walnut Farm Montessori School, Life Way Christian School, Clover Community School,Thaden School, ANH Montessori, New Heights for Kids
- Home School

Each LEA must seek input from representatives of private and homeschool students on the design and development of special education and related services for children with disabilities placed by their parents in private or home schools located in the district.

Provision of Services for Students Served in Private Schools and Homeschools

US Dept Education Questions & Answers on Serving Children with Disabilities Placed by Their Parents In Private Schools (Rev Feb 2022)

Bentonville Schools Procedures for Coordinating/Consulting With Private/Home School

- Private/Homeschool School Procedures for Consultation, Referral and Evaluation - Bentonville

Child Find

The child find process must be designed to ensure the following:

- The equitable participation of parentally placed private school children & homeschooled students
- An accurate count of those children

The child find process must be completed in a time period comparable to that for students attending public schools in the LEA

How, Where, and by Whom Services are Provided

- Which students will receive services?
  - Determined eligibility under IDEA.
- What services will be provided?
  - Speech therapy services have traditionally been provided as more students qualify for speech than any other category of disability.
  - Services will be provided in a Bentonville School building or Virtually
    - The district considered feedback from the April 9th, 2024 consultation meeting with representatives of private schools and homeschool parents in our district. At that time we determined that the district would continue to provide direct speech services because we do not want to discontinue a service students are currently receiving. However, we also decided to add dyslexia/reading support through a multi-sensory reading program with supporting supplemental materials that are currently utilized in Bentonville Schools . Students receiving services would need to be IEP eligible and in need of dyslexia intervention for us to provide direct services so there may be students that private/home schools wish to refer for evaluation. The following options would be available to IDEA eligible private/home school students:
    - Provide direct services to students either virtually or in person via a contract provided. Virtual services may be selected should the district contracted provider not have the capacity to travel to multiple locations.
      - Students would need to be grouped based on their reading level and number of groups the district could serve would depend on the number of students participating from each school
      - The district will not exceed the budget for PSPS
      - The private school might need to prioritize student needs if the district does not have the budget to cover all of the eligible students whose parents request direct services

- How and when decisions regarding services will be made? Decisions about services are made after the initial consultation meeting in April.
- How the services will be apportioned if funds are insufficient to serve all children.
    - Traditionally, the district has served all eligible students referred. If at some point funds are exhausted, families will be notified and additional consultation will occur prior to the decision about discontinuation of services.
- If the district disagrees with the views of the private school officials on the provision of services for the types of services, the district will provide a written explanation of the reasons why the district chose not to adopt those recommendations.

Private School Representative Comments/Discussion with Bentonville Schools Staff

- Review individual student needs
- Review consultation needs and process
    - We considered feedback from the September 26, 2024 consultation meeting with representatives of private schools and homeschool parents in our district. At that time we determined that the district would continue to provide direct speech services because we do not want to discontinue a service students are currently receiving. However, we also decided to add dyslexia/reading support through a multi-sensory reading program with supporting supplemental materials. Students receiving services would need to be IEP eligible and in need of dyslexia intervention for us to provide direct services so there may be students that private/home schools wish to refer for evaluation. The following options would be available to IDEA eligible private/home school students:
        - Provide direct services to students either virtually or in person via a contract provided. Virtual services may be selected should the district contracted provider not have the capacity to travel to multiple locations.
            - Students would need to be grouped based on their reading level and number of groups the district could serve would depend on the number of students participating from each school
            - The district will not exceed the budget for PSPS
            - The private school might need to prioritize student needs if the district does not have the budget to cover all of the eligible students whose parents request direct services
    - **Feedback from 4-9-24 consultation meeting: No additional feedback or recommendations for services was received.**
    - **Feedback from 3-31-25 consultation meeting: on representative indicated that she may see the need for math services in the future**

Current Student Lists 2024-25:

- ANH Montessori - 1
- Bentonville Christian Academy - 1
- Clover Community School - 1
- Home School - 9
- Bentonville Seventh Day Adventist - 0
- Life Way Christian - 0
- Walnut Farm Montessori - 0
- Thaden School - 2

Proportionate Share Funding

- Child Count - 14 currently served
- Requirements - IDEA Part B Funds - 24-25 PSPS Preliminary Budget
- Proportionate Share - Guidance and Resources
- PSPS Funding Chart - based on child count; used for direct services:
- $94,472.37 for 2024-25. Projected carryover from 2024-25 - $132,016.69
- Projected budget for 2024-25 - $94,472.37 (55 students on census)
- Total projected budget for 2024-25 (including carryover- $226,489.06)

State-funded School Voucher and Scholarship Programs

Children with disabilities who use State vouchers and scholarships to attend private schools are considered parentally-placed private school children with disabilities under IDEA and eligible for equitable services.

504 Plans

- Director of Equity & Compliance, Trish Wood pwood@bentonvillek12.org 479-418-7365

Dyslexia

- Dyslexia Specialist/RTI Coordinator K-12 Patricia Hawkinson phawkinson@bentonvillek12.org, 479-254-5070
- DESE Rules Governing Dyslexia
- Dyslexia Resource Guide
- Video

Behavior Services

- Behavior Intervention Specialist, Madison Lewis malewis@bentonvillek12.org 479-418-7362

Resources for Professional Development

- AR Educational Cooperative Behavior Support Specialists
- AIM-Autism Internet Modules Free Online Professional Development
- AFIRM-Autism Focused Interventions
- A Step by Step Guide to Behavior Plans

Contacts for Consultation Process:

- Dr. Marleah Purdy, Executive Director of Special Services mpurdy@bentonvillek12.org
- Carrie Cousins, Coordinator of Homeschool/Private Schools ccousins@bentonvillek12.org

Family Resources

Bentonville Schools Parent and Family Information

Questions and Answers:

1.