

News from Special Education

Programs Being Offered in Special Education

1) Audiology:

- We are contracting with an audiologist out of Duluth.
- Since the services are just beginning this year, districts will only get a final bill, reflecting actual expenses.
- Those who have sign a contract this year signed for estimated expenses for one semester. Those districts will see an estimate for a full year of services on the shared services contract for next year.

2) Coordinated Special Education Program Support:

This is a new service offered to address special education supports not previously provided related to academics. Services being offered are the results for requests from Special Education Directors in our meetings and from the results for the SOARING project needs. Amanda Popovich and Jen Ledin will be providing the majority of these services. These services include:

- Vision and hearing screenings
- Supports for new special education teachers
- Supports for curriculum, including Common Core training for special education teachers, Common Core Essential Element trainings, assessments, aligning special education curriculum with regular education curriculum
- Supports for developing best practices in inclusion, including trainings and assistance for: models of inclusion, teaming strategies, co-teaching models/strategies
- IEP writing and standards based IEPs
- Supports for implementing the new SLD law
- Supports for improving literacy for special education students
- Programming supports for significantly involved students

School Psychology

One of our school psychologists will be retiring. I have posted the position and will be attending a job fair at the Spring School Psychologist Conference. Lessons learned from last year's search were that the salaries for school psychologists have increased dramatically since ACT 10 due to supply and demand. At last years' job fair, I learned that new school psychologists coming out of college at getting \$60,00-70,00 across the state. In investigating salaries in the smaller CESAs, I found that new school psychologists were getting salaries in the mid \$50,000s. We are competing with the whole state for these applicants because of the shortage.