

Intradistrict Communication

DATE: March 5, 2025

TO: Principals
Elementary and Middle School Resource Team Leaders
High School Special Education Team Leaders

FROM: Lisa Robinson, Administrator of Schools
Kim Lloyd, Director of Special Education

SUBJECT: Special Education Resource Instructional Assistants for 2025-26
Special Education Support Class Instructional Assistants for 2025-26

This memo is designed to explain how special education instructional assistants can be requested and will be allocated to each school's special education program(s) for the 2025-26 school year. If you have any questions, please contact your assigned teacher specialist or program administrator. We want to make sure everyone has the support staff necessary to meet students' individual IEP needs.

Purpose of instructional support staff: The purposes of allocating support staff to special education resource programs is to assist special education teachers in carrying out the services and supports outlined in the individual students' IEPs. This includes access to core aligned specially designed instruction, support for general education accommodations, and file compliance to ensure documentation of a free and appropriate public education (FAPE).

Critical Needs requests for additional instructional assistants for 2025-26:

1. After taking into consideration your current staffing (this is your current staff minus your current critical needs staff), you may need to request additional instructional assistants based on the critical needs of individual students. This is done by completing the ***Critical Needs Aide Request***.
2. Below are directions for completing these forms for those students whose unique needs require additional time and support. You only need to complete ***Critical Needs Aide Request*** for students whose needs exceed the baseline of your teaching staff and instructional assistant support. (Note: You do not need to submit a separate letter requesting support and you should NOT submit all students on your caseload.)

Directions for new Critical Needs Aide Request Form

Step 1: Complete the *Critical Needs Aide Request*, for an identified student. This checklist is intended to prompt you to consider a variety of supports and resources that may help meet the student's unique needs. If there are supports that you have not yet put in place, those might be things that you would initiate to provide the student with support but maintain higher levels of independence.

Step 2: Complete the *Critical Needs Aide Request* to determine the level of support and independent functioning that the student demonstrates. Remember, our goal in special education would be to provide needed supports while continuing to increase the independence level of students. This form can be used as data to determine where the student currently functions and what the next step for independent functioning would be.

Step 3: *Critical Needs Aide Request* forms will be submitted for those students whose needs suggest a high level of support is needed to address their IEP services.

Step 4: *Projected Resource Staffing Needs Survey* Form – You will receive an email including the *Projected Resource Staffing Needs Survey* form that is specific to your school or program. This form will include your current staffing allocations (this is your current staff minus your current critical needs staff). Your current staffing allocation baseline in general is:

- **Resource Setting**
 - Elementary & Secondary – 1 : 25 hour paraprofessional per school
- **Self-Contained Setting (FA, AC, SEB & ASD)**
 - Elementary & Secondary – 2 : 25 hour paraprofessionals per class
- **Anyone who has paraprofessionals at 35 hours from previous years will maintain and count as one 25 hour position**

Please use this form to summarize the additional instructional assistants needed to meet the collective needs of the students you submitted on the *Critical Needs Aide Request*. This request should be agreed upon by all team members and your building principal or assigned administrator should sign the request.

Please submit all forms to your assigned teacher specialist by **Friday, March 28, 2025**. You will receive a preliminary critical needs instructional assistant allocation by Friday, May 9, 2025. Additional Critical Needs may be requested after school starts or if the students in your class or program change significantly.

All forms will be sent via email. Please email your copies to each of your teacher specialists.

If you have questions, or would like assistance in completing the request forms, please contact your assigned teacher specialist or Brian King – Elementary Schools – (801) 567-8200, or Mike Trimmell – Secondary Schools – (801) 567-8904.

Jenifer Birrell	(801) 567-8905	Ashley Calhoun	(801) 567-8208
Liz Miller	(801) 567-8373	Mikaylee Krebs	Tori(801) 567-8356
Heike Klenk	(801) 567-8329	Gustafson	(801) 567-8024
Carollee Tautkus	(801) 567-8068	Rebecca Belliston	(801) 567-8254
		Brenda Cruz	(801) 567-8145

THANK YOU FOR WORKING SO HARD FOR EVERY CHILD, EVERY DAY!

Critical Needs Requests due to your teacher specialist by Friday, March 28, 2025