



# SCHOOL DISTRICT OF PITTSVILLE

*Expecting Excellence and Innovation, Honoring Legacy, and Embracing Partnerships*

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## Special Education and Pupil Services Monthly School Board Report

Matthew Sherwood  
Director of Special Education and Pupil Services  
January 14, 2019

**Our Vision:** Expecting Excellence and Innovation, Honoring Legacy, and Embracing Partnerships.

**Our Mission:** Expecting Excellence and Integrity from all, developing Innovative students, strengthened through Partnerships with parents and the community.

We recently had 24 staff members receive Nonviolent Crisis Intervention training. It is a behavior management system based on the philosophy of providing the best care for our students and safety for our staff. The programs focus is on preventing disruptive behavior by communicating with individuals respectfully. The physical interventions that are taught are to be used only as a last resort when a student presents an imminent danger to themselves or others. All physical interventions are designed to be non-harmful, non-invasive, and to maintain the student's dignity. Follow-up debriefing strategies were also a component of the program.

Bi-weekly progress monitoring through Aimsweb is giving our special education teachers additional data points to evaluate the effectiveness of the interventions that we are implementing to help make informed instructional decisions. I am currently researching available interventions to provide our staff with the tools to help close achievement gaps in reading and math.

ACCESS testing for English Learners will be taking place in January. Federal and state laws require that students identified as English Learners be assessed annually to determine their level of English language proficiency (ELP) and ensure that they are

progressing in achieving full English proficiency. Our fourth-grade students will be participating in the National Assessment of Educational Progress (NAEP) testing in February. All accommodations have been submitted for our English Learners and special education students. ACT testing will also take place for the junior class in February, all accommodations have been submitted for our special education students.

To date, we have had three (3) transition IEP meetings, six (6) reevaluation IEP meetings, four (4) initial IEP meetings, thirteen (13) annual IEP meetings, two (2) birth to three transition meetings and referrals for special education, two (2) initial 504 plan referrals, and three (3) child study team meetings.