

From: Special Education Advisory Committee (SEAC), Poudre School District

To: Brett Parsons, Poudre School District Budget Director
Dave Montoya, Executive Director of Finance
Sarah Belleau, Director of Integrated Services

January 21, 2021

On Thursday January 14, 2021 Dave Montoya, Executive Director of Finance for Poudre School District and Brett Parsons, Poudre School District Budget Director spoke with our Special Education Advisory Council (SEAC) about the current planning and direction Poudre School District is taking this year in identifying budget needs. Following the presentation, the Poudre School District Special Education Advisory Committee (PSD SEAC) discuss budget priorities for the District to consider for students with disabilities.

The following reflects the thoughts and input from the PSD SEAC for consideration by the District as the budget planning continues for the 2021 - 2022 school year. The input is from our PSD SEAC, which includes parents of students with disabilities, PSD staff, and Fort Collins community members.

- 1) Consider developing a budget plan to assist students' return to school after COVID. Some additional needs may include mental health supports, equipment and physical space to meet distancing needs, additional academic supports, compensatory services, and transition services such as transportation into the community to prepare students for life after high school.
- 2) Consider raising paraeducator salaries. They often are essential workers with student support around mental health needs and behavior. Higher salaries will promote retention, continuity for students who rely on their support, and widen the applicant pool.
- 3) Consider an increase in spending for professional development opportunities to educate general education teachers and all support staff about student needs with mental health and behavior.
- 3) Consider a floating staff model across the district. This will ensure that support is available to students when they need it.
- 4) Support all schools and all teachers in taking a larger role in the support of students with the highest needs. Consider how general education dollars can be used to support students with disabilities in addition to allocations from Integrated Services.
- 5) Ensure that the budget allows for flexibility to prioritize support for all students and their complex needs.

Thank you for the opportunity to provide feedback on this very important aspect of school for students with disabilities.

Sincerely,
The Special Education Advisory Council
Poudre School District

CC:
Dr Todd Lambert, Interim Superintendent
Dr. Scott Nielsen, Assistant Superintendent of Secondary Schools
Dr Traci Gile, Interim Assistant Superintendent of Elementary Schools
PSD SEAC Members