

MSAD #53 Special Services  
February 2010  
School Board Report

**Student Counts:**

Special Education: 155 Referrals: 9  
Out of District Placement: 2  
504: K-8: 84 9-12: 6  
ELL: 3  
Alternative Education: HS- 12 MS-3 GED-1 Wait List- 0  
Transfers In: 82  
Transfers Out: 56  
Homeless: K-8: 10 9-12: -  
Drop Outs: 1  
Habitual Truants: K-8: 2 9-12: 1

**Emergency Regulations:** As a cost saving measure the state has revised the Special Education regulations so that the state of Maine regulations no longer exceed what the federal regulations expect of us. Transition planning will start at 16 not 14. They have removed the July, 2010 full implementation date for RTI. Pre-referral will now become general education interventions. We no longer are responsible for medical evaluations for adhd, add. Ed. Tech IIIs can now tutor instead of being required to have certified teachers. The statute of limitations for due process hearings will now be two years instead of four. And the one we are waiting to hear more about is that the maximum payment for contracted services will be limited to the average Medicare rate. We currently have contracts for occupational therapy, physical therapy, behavioral services and drug and alcohol counseling. This would significantly change the hourly rate for these contracted individuals.

**December 1 count-** Our special education count for December 1 was 158 students. That is again a reduction from last year. Our local entitlement funding depends on the number of identified students. While our stats for identification are good with the state, we will lose some state funding again this year. When I first started in this position in January 2006 we had 195

students identified for special education. I think the decrease in identified students is consistent with the decrease in our general education population. The students that we serve however, are becoming more and more complicated in terms of what they need for services so we haven't necessarily seen a reduction in staffing.

*What we see depends mainly on what we are looking for.*

*-John Lubbock*