

Reedsport School District

Special Education Newsletter

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Dear Parents and Families,

**Special Education Report Card**

The Reedsport District Special Education Report Card for 2014-2015 was just released last month. Our district still holds a number of opportunities for improvement in Special Education achievement. Like a number of small rural districts around this region, Reedsport has struggled to meet State Benchmarks or State Averages for SpEd achievement. With that acknowledgment, it is critical and encouraging to remember where our district has been, and where we are currently headed with regard to leadership, staffing, and instructional practices. A number of interventions have been put in place this year to address curriculum, vertical alignment, graduation, drop-out rate, and post-secondary engagement of our Special Education students. We hope to see resulting growth in achievement reflected in our next several SpEd Report Cards.

*A copy of the entire Special Education Report Card can be viewed on the district website.*

**Youth Transition Program (YTP) Grant**

One intervention which should greatly help our students aged 16+ is the Youth Transition Program Grant which we were recently awarded. Monies from this grant will allow us to hire a half-time Transition Specialist to facilitate the program which, in collaboration with Vocational Rehab, will provide individualized guidance and support for students seeking education, training, and meaningful work experiences within our community. One exciting activity supported by this grant is a “Student-Run Business” at RCCS which will generate money to put back into their venture. Students will vote on the business they wish to launch; choices will include a raised-bed garden with cooking/canning experiences, a pottery business, or a creative metalwork business.

**Local Campus Life Skills Program & ESY (Summer School)**

This year Reedsport district has purchased the materials, equipment, curriculum, and staffing for Life Skills students to attend their neighborhood school with peers instead of being bussed to the ESD in Coos Bay. The Elementary Life Skills classroom even has a brand-new little kitchen for students to experience the functional skill of cooking and preparing food. Qualified students will also be offered ESY on our own campus across July at Highland Elementary School.

**Special Education Secretary**

Your child’s SpEd teacher will now have more time to spend creating engaging lessons and collaborating with other professionals, because next year the Special Education department will have its own full-time secretary. This staffing investment will relieve teachers from many

clerical duties (processing IEPs, filing, mailing, scheduling) which now require a tremendous amount of time and energy outside of the teaching day. Thank you Mr. Forbess!

**RESOURCES FOR PARENTS AND STUDENTS**

Have a question about Special Education?

[](http://factoregon.org/)

Contact FACT at [support@factoregon.org](mailto:support@factoregon.org) or by phone at 1-888-988-3228. You can also [submit a Help Line Request online.](https://www3.thedatabank.com/dpg/394/personalopt2.asp?formid=IEPSupportReque) <http://factoregon.org/>

**Associations, Councils, Centers, and Societies**

[Autism Society](http://www.autism-society.org/): www.autism-society.org

[National Down Syndrome Society](http://www.ndss.org/): www.ndss.org

[Federation for Children with Special Needs](http://fcsn.org/): www.fcsn.org

[Family Resource Center on Disabilities](http://frcd.org/): http://frcd.org



**Douglas County / Roseburg Special Olympics**

* **Winter Sports**: Basketball, cross country skiing, snow shoeing, alpine skiing
* **Spring/Summer Sports**: Athletics (Track & Field), Softball, Golf, Bocce
* **Fall Sports**: Aquatics, Bowling, Soccer

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Everyone have a safe and relaxing summer with your children,

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