

Prepared by Dr. Jeffrey Alstadt

Walk-In Preschool Special Education Service Model

Purpose

This report presents an administrative proposal to establish a walk-in preschool service model designed to ensure operational continuity, strict regulatory compliance, and immediate service delivery for our youngest qualifying students, regardless of physical classroom space availability.

Background Information

Streator ESD 44 continues to see strong growth in parent participation during the LEASE preschool screenings conducted throughout the school year. Consequently, this increased engagement has led to a rising number of preschool aged children identified as eligible for specialized educational programming. Combined with students transitioning out of Early Intervention programs, our current enrollment trajectory demands an adaptable, process driven framework to manage student needs without relying solely on static classroom capacity.

Currently, as enrollment fluctuates, open physical placements within our preschool classrooms are not always immediately available. To prevent any child from experiencing a delay in care due to temporary space constraints, the administration is proposing a walk-in delivery model. This operational bridge allows newly eligible students to immediately begin receiving their mandated developmental support, speech language services, and occupational therapy while they await a permanent classroom opening.

Operational and Legal Considerations Implementing this framework ensures the district remains firmly anchored by strong, smooth running systems that fulfill our strict institutional obligations. Key impacts of this model include:

- This model guarantees the district remains fully compliant with Individualized Education Program timelines and service delivery requirements.
- It prevents eligible children from going without essential early childhood support simply due to building or classroom space limitations.
- It successfully bridges the immediate service gap under the Individuals with Disabilities Education Act while the administration evaluates long term options for sustainably expanding our preschool infrastructure.

Board Action and Next Steps

This report is presented to the Board of Education for initial review, discussion, and informational purposes. The administration will utilize feedback from this session to finalize the operational parameters, with the intent of bringing this item back to the August Board of Education meeting for potential formal action.