



PROVISO AREA FOR EXCEPTIONAL CHILDREN

"QUALITY EDUCATION WITH CARE FOR THE HUMAN SPIRIT".

PAEC CENTER BOARDROOM - 6:00 PM

THURSDAY, JANUARY 22, 2026

AGENDA

1. **ROLL CALL**
2. **SWEAR IN NEW GOVERNING BOARD MEMBERS**
New District 88 PAEC Governing Board Representative.
3. **CLOSED SESSION**
4. **RECONVENE INTO OPEN SESSION**
5. **AUDIENCE PARTICIPATION**
6. **APPROVAL OF GOVERNING BOARD MINUTES**
7. **APPROVAL OF CONSENT AGENDA**
 - A. **APPROVAL OF PAYROLL**
 - B. **APPROVAL OF BILLS**
 - C. **NEW BUSINESS**
 - a. **APPROVAL OF PERSONNEL REPORT**
 - b. **APPROVAL OF CONTRACTUAL AGREEMENT REPORT**
 - c. **BEREAVEMENT POLICY**
 - d. **DISTRICT # 91 STUDENT PLACEMENT**
8. **OLD/UNFINISHED BUSINESS**
 - A. **PRESS PLUS 120 - 2ND AND FINAL READING**

Section 2: GOVERNING BOARD

2:150 Board Committees

2:270 Discrimination & Harassment on the Basis of Race, Color, and National Origin Prohibited

Section 4: OPERATIONAL SERVICES

4:10 Fiscal and Business Management

4:30 Revenue and Investments

4:40 Incurring Debt

4:80 Accounting and Audits

4:140 Waiver of Student Fees

4:190 Targeted School Violence Prevention Program

Section 5: PERSONNEL

5:10 Equal Employment Opportunity and Minority Recruitment

5:90 Abused and Neglected Child Reporting

5:100 Staff Development Program

5:190 Teacher Qualifications

5:200 Terms and Conditions of Employment Dismissal
5:220 Substitute Teachers
5:280 Duties and Qualifications
5:300 Schedules and Employment Year

Section 6: INSTRUCTION

6:20 School Year Calendar and Day
6:220 Bring Your Own Technology (BYOT) Program: Responsible Use and Conduct
6:280 Grading and Promotion
6:620 Complaints About Curriculum, Instructional Materials, and Programs

Section 7: STUDENTS

7:10 Equal Educational Opportunities
7:70 Attendance and Truancy
7:150 Agency and Law Enforcement Requests
7:180 Prevention of and Response to Bullying, Intimidation, and Harassment
7:190 Student Behavior
7:290 Suicide and Depression Awareness and Prevention
7:310 Restrictions on Publications: Elementary School
7:315 Restrictions on Publications: High Schools

Section 8: COMMUNITY RELATIONS

8:30 Visitors to Conduct on School Property

9. EXECUTIVE BOARD REPORT

The Executive Board meeting was held on Thursday, January 8, 2026. Those present included: Dr. Dan Sullivan from District #87, Dr. Victoria Stockton from District #88, Dr. Corina Herrera from District #88, Ms. Roshune Pechacek from District #92, Dr. Antonia Hill from District # 93, Mrs. Vanessa Schmitt from District #209.

Mr. Michael James, Ms. April Cohen, Ms. LaShonda McDaniel, and Mrs. Cecy Mendoza-Jurek from PAEC Administration was also present.

The Executive Board reviewed and recommended approval of all action items on the agenda.

Dr. Victoria Stockton from District #88 will be the Executive Board Representative for the Governing Board Meeting on Thursday, January 22, 2026.

10. EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR'S INFORMATIONAL REPORT

- A. **CURRENT DISTRICT CHILD COUNT 2025-2026**
- B. **CURRENT ENROLLMENT AND CLASSROOM STAFFING PATTERNS 2025-2026**
- C. **TRANSITION REPORTS**
- D. **INITIAL REFERRALS**
- E. **POLICE REPORTS**

There were 2 Police Report for the month of December.

- F. **PAEC ACTIVITY FUND**
- G. **PAEC EVENTS**

H. **RESOLUTIONS**

I. **SELF NURSE TRIAGE**

J. **PAEC ADMINISTRATIVE DEPARTMENT UPDATES**

K. **PAEC PROGRAM UPDATES**

11. **OTHER/ADDITIONAL ITEMS TO BE BROUGHT BEFORE THE GOVERNING BOARD**

A. **FOIA REQUEST**

12. **BOARD CORRESPONDENCE**

*Thank You card from

--Mr. Ralph Dodds (Mrs. Kim Barattas' family)

--Mr. & Mrs. Michael & Tracey James

--Mrs. Penny Patterson-George (Mr. Raleigh Georges' family)

*Holiday Cards from:

--Powerback Pediatrics

--Sunbelt

--Forest Park District 91

--Ms. Kathy Briseno - Concordia University

--Studio GC

13. **MEETING RECAP**

- PAEC introduced providing Resolutions for immediate families from the PAEC family.

- A Bereavement policy was voted on for all PAEC employees.

- PAEC has applied to be a part of a (SELF) Nurse Triage for staff who become injured at work.

- Governing Board meeting date has been changed to Thursday, January 22, 2026.

14. **ADJOURNMENT**

**PAYROLL AGENDA
December 2025**

	GROSS	FICA	RETIREMENT	BENEFITS	TOTAL	
	<u>12/15/2025</u>	<u>12/15/2025</u>	<u>12/15/2025</u>	<u>12/15/2025</u>	<u>12/15/2025</u>	PAYROLL 12/15/25
Education Fund	\$ 521,049.85	\$ 22,153.75	\$ 15,858.83	\$118,843.31	\$ 677,905.74	
Building Fund	\$ 18,949.19	\$ 1,441.32	\$ 875.46	\$4,100.58	\$ 25,366.55	
TOTALS	\$ 539,999.04	\$ 23,595.07	\$ 16,734.29	\$ 122,943.89	\$ 703,272.29	

	GROSS	FICA	RETIREMENT	BENEFITS	TOTAL	
	<u>12/19/2025</u>	<u>12/19/2025</u>	<u>12/19/2025</u>	<u>12/19/2025</u>	<u>12/19/2025</u>	PAYROLL 12/19/25
Education Fund	\$ 486,943.20	\$ 20,636.36	\$ 14,893.42	\$123,948.70	\$ 646,421.68	
Building Fund	\$ 17,823.98	\$ 1,355.22	\$ 823.46	\$4,350.23	\$ 24,352.89	
TOTALS	\$ 504,767.18	\$ 21,991.58	\$ 15,716.88	\$ 128,298.93	\$ 670,774.57	

ACTION ITEM – PERSONNEL REPORT
January 2026

A. Employment

1. Pamela Bosch School Nurse
Effective Date: January 5, 2026
Bill Rate: \$65,000 (pro-rated to \$33,583.33)
Location: PAEC Center

2. Levi Mull 1:1 Program Assistant
Effective Date: January 5, 2026
Bill Rate: \$26,413 (pro-rated to \$13,646.72)
Location: PAEC Academy -(D93)

3. Giana Buchanan 1:1 Program Assistant
Effective Date: January 12, 2026
Bill Rate: \$22,613 (pro-rated to \$11,055.24)
Location: PAEC Center CCF -(D89)

B. Resignations

1. Bianca Allen Behavior Interventionist
Termination Date: December 19, 2025

2. Ana Bry Program Assistant
Termination Date: January 9, 2025

C. Transfers

1. Jessica Tolbert 1:1 Program Assistant (PAEC EC)-87
Effective Date: January 5, 2026
Transfer from: 1:1 Program Assistant (PAEC EC)-D87 student never enrolled

2. Janette Rosado Program Assistant (PAEC Center CCF)
Effective Date: January 12, 2026
Transfer from: 1:1 Program Assistant (PAEC Center CCF)-D89

D. Terminations

There are no terminations at this time

E. FMLA

1. Donna Kuchera Social Worker (PAEC High School)
Effective Date: December 8, 2025 through February 10, 2026
Will be a Medical Block Leave,
utilizing available sick days.

F. Retirement

1. Cecilia Ryan (Teacher) at PAEC Academy would like to extend her retirement date until June 30, 2030, instead of June 30, 2028, which will be after 25 years of service, and is requesting approval for the teacher retirement incentive.

ACTION ITEM – CONTRACTUAL AGREEMENTS
January 2026

A. Amergis

- | | |
|-----------------|-----------------------------|
| 1. Ava Morgan | Speech Language Pathologist |
| Effective Date: | January 16, 2026 |
| Bill Rate: | \$85 per hour |
| Location: | McKinley-D88 |

B. Contractual Transfers

- | | |
|-----------------|---|
| 1. Naisha Smith | Program Assistant |
| Effective Date: | January 5, 2026 |
| Transfer from: | 1:1 Program Assistant (PAEC Academy)-D93 |
| 2. Kamery Bonds | Program Assistant (PAEC Center CCF) |
| Effective Date: | January 12, 2026 |
| Transfer from: | 1:1 Program Assistant (PAEC Center CCF)-D88 |

C. Contractual Terminations

- | | |
|-------------------|--|
| 1. Kayln Wilson | 1:1 Program Assistant (PAEC Academy)-D87 |
| Termination Date: | January 14, 2026 |

Tivoli Theatre Field Trip - December 3, 2025



Pajama Day - December 12, 2025



Holiday Karaoke - December 15th-19th





Make a Snowman Day - December 18, 2025



December Tigers of the Month



Martinez Family Gift To Academy











PAEC Programs Events -- January 2026

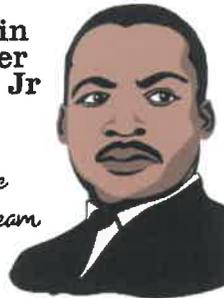
PAEC Programs

1/5 School Resumes

19 - Martin Luther King Jr. Holiday- **NO SCHOOL**

**Martin
Luther
King Jr**

*I Have
a Dream*



PAEC Academy

1/5 - School Resumes

1/6 - Basketball Practice

1/9 - Pep Rally at Lunchtime for Tigers (Spirit Day)

1/11 - Basketball Regionals

1/16 - Lunchtime Karaoke

1/19 - Martin Luther King Jr. Holiday- **NO SCHOOL**

1/23 - 8th Grade Tour to Proviso West / Flannel Friday (Spirit Day)

1-30 - Principal's Tea

PLEASE SAVE THE DATE: March 20th, Talent Show

PAEC Center

1/5 School Resumes

15 - Marrea Winnega

Winter Dance -

Broadview @ 5:30pm

1/19 - Martin Luther King Jr. Holiday - **NO SCHOOL**

1/28 - Winter Wonderfest

1/29 - 100 Days of School



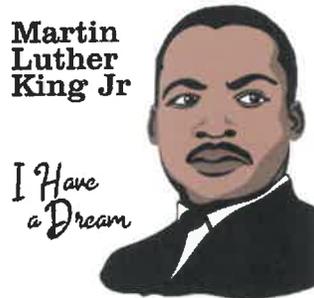
Eventos de PAEC -- Enero 2026

Programas de PAEC

1/5 School Resumes

1/19 – Día Festivo de Martin Luther King Jr. - **NO CLASES**

Martin
Luther
King Jr



Academia de PAEC

1/5 – Clases Resumen

1/6 – Practica de Baloncesto

1/9 – Evento de Porras para los Tigres de PAEC durante almuerzo (Día de Espiritu Escolar)

1/11 – Regionales de Baloncesto

1/16 – Karaoke durante almuerzo

1/19 – Día Festivo de Martin Luther King Jr. - **NO CLASES**

1/23 – Estudiantes de 8 Grado visitan Proviso West / Viernes de Franela (Día de Espiritu Escolar)

1-30 – Te con la Principal

PLEASE SAVE THE DATE: March 20th, Talent Show

Centro de PAEC

1/5 – Clases Resumen

1/15 – Marrea Winnega

Baile de Invierno –

Broadview @ 5:30pm

1/19 – Día Festivo de Martin Luther King Jr. - **NO CLASES**

1/28 – Feria de Invierno

1/29 – 100 Dias de Clases



Ann Coenen



How long have you been at PAEC? I have been at PAEC for 20 years! I started as an SLP in the PAEC Early Childhood program and have also worked in PreK at Hillside Elementary, in addition to supporting the team of 32 SLPs.

What do you enjoy about your job/position? Everyday is a little different and I like that! I really enjoy collaborating and learning from my coworkers and feel extremely fortunate to work with a team of very talented SLPs.

What advice would you give to others in your position to help them excel? Be curious and keep learning! To me, choosing a career in education means committing to being a life long learner. Remember that all students are different and try to meet them where they are and help them achieve the next steps!

Tell me something interesting or funny about yourself.

I have a twin sister who is an SLP, as well! I started my career in Hawaii for a few years and lived in Waikiki and the North Shore.

When I'm not at work, I love to travel, find good coffee, read, and am a huge sports fan, particularly volleyball, soccer, and basketball.

Catrina Clark



How long have you been at PAEC?

This is my 27th year working for PAEC

What do you enjoy about your job/position?

I enjoy working with my classroom and seeing the students smile and show excitement to see me.

What advice would you give to others in your position to help them excel?

My advice is to be patient, flexible and positive. They watch our every move.

Tell me something interesting or funny about yourself

I have two pet house rabbits that are my world.

I am a Bluey fanatic, I LOVE all things Bluey (yes, i'm a big kid) LOL

Tracy Cooper



How long have you been at PAEC?

I have been at PAEC for 12 years. Prior to working at PAEC I worked with Adults at an Inpatient Rehab Unit for a Chicago hospital for several years.

What do you enjoy about your job/position?

The population I work with, the Early Childhood and Elementary age students.

I love seeing their growth and development.

What advice would you give to others in your position to help them excel?

Stay positive and always find the good in your day.

We are privileged to be a part of our students' lives.

You are always learning and don't be afraid to ask for help.

Tell me something interesting or funny about yourself.

I grew up in Ohio and went to Ohio State University. I met my husband there and we are big Buckeye football fans. I enjoy going to sporting events, concerts, traveling, and hiking.

Nancy Costello



How long have you been at PAEC?

I have been at PAEC 9 years,

What do you enjoy about your job/position?

I enjoy working with kids (prior PT experience was hospital and adult outpatient) and the school work time schedule. Lots of Holidays and summer off! The biggest challenge is managing lots of details and constantly changing needs and schedules.

What advice would you give to others in your position to help them excel?

The greatest advice would be to embrace flexibility.

Tell me something interesting or funny about yourself.

I have traveled extensively, including backpacking through the Sierras, canoe camping through the Minnesota boundary waters and the Florida everglades. NC

Erin Connolly



How long have you been at PAEC?

This will be my second year working with PAEC.
I currently work at the Early Childhood Center Lincoln Primary.

What do you enjoy about your job/position?

I enjoy using play-based therapy techniques to implement treatment and working closely with parents and teachers to encourage practices outside of speech therapy time that will grow speech/language skills.

What advice would you give to others in your position to help them excel?

Since I am still fresh out of graduate school, I feel like I have more to learn than knowledge to impart. That being said, I would encourage people to not be afraid to ask questions and seek out information from those with more experience!

Tell me something interesting or funny about yourself.

I love to treat myself by staying at home and reading a good romance/fantasy book.

Nainee Hodgson



How long have you been at PAEC?

I have been working at PAEC Center for the past 5 years, since the 2021-2022 school year.

What do you enjoy about your job/position?

I love being a speech-language pathologist because there is no better feeling than improving the lives of the children and families I work with, through better communication. I enjoy teaching children about the ability to connect, learn, play, and participate fully in life!

What advice would you give to others in your position to help them excel?

Always presume competence! Every person, even those with diverse needs, has the capacity to learn, think, comprehend, and communicate, even if they cannot show it in typical ways. Presuming competence only empowers others to believe in themselves and strive for more.

And who doesn't want that?!

Tell me something interesting or funny about yourself.

I love to sing! I have been singing since I was 4 years old, when my parents enrolled me in classical Indian voice lessons. Since then I have gone on to be in many choirs and was in an all-girls a capella group at Purdue University called the Purduettes.

If anyone wants to go karaoke, count me in!

Alejandra Vanegas



How long have you been at PAEC?

Since March 2025.

What do you enjoy about your job/position?

I enjoy seeing our students grow and thrive.

What advice would you give to others
in your position to help them excel?

Always be a team player, communication is key and when a team is led by everyone with this mindset, anything is possible.

Tell me something interesting or funny about yourself.
I know how to move my ears! It amazes my kids every time!
According to Google, only 20% of people hold this trait!

Catlin Dewan



How long have you been at PAEC? 7 years

What do you enjoy about your job/position? I enjoy being able to collaborate with teachers, staff and parents while working with students from all over the cooperative. Through implementation of assistive technology tools, we give our students a voice and opportunities to engage meaningfully in their educational environment.

What advice would you give to others in your position to help them excel?

My advice is to always work and support our students and AAC users as a team. This includes students' families. AAC is most beneficial to our students when communication device support is given at school, home and in the community by all of their communication partners!

Tell me something interesting or funny about yourself.

I just returned from maternity leave with my first daughter, Nora. She's 5 months old and so much fun!

AuBrey Glasper



How long have you been at PAEC?
I have worked for paec for over 20+ years now.

What do you enjoy about your job/position?
I enjoy interacting with the children.

What advice would you give to others in your position
to help them excel?
Enjoy it and laugh a lot

Tell me something interesting or funny about yourself.
I am the second to last of 42 children and
I am always trying to be funny..

PAEC PROGRAM UPDATES FROM DECEMBER 2025

PAEC Academy at Divine Infant

Program updates

Academy is gearing up for the upcoming assessment season, with Fastbridge, ACCESS, IAR, and DLM right on the horizon. Our team is meticulously reviewing and implementing appropriate assessment accommodations to ensure every student's needs are met, and thoughtful discussions of assessment data are taking place at every IEP meeting to support intentional planning for Extended School Year services.

December has been a wonderfully busy and heartwarming month at Academy. The halls have been filled with festive spirit, laughter, and an overwhelming sense of community, thanks to the enthusiastic participation of our students, families, and dedicated staff. We also celebrated a particularly meaningful milestone, the successful transition of one of our students back to their home district, an achievement that brought pride and joy to our entire school community.

Martinez Family Gift To Academy (Dec 16)

The Martinez Family was so generous to donate not only two new sound systems to Academy in support of the Talent Show, they went above and beyond to be sure every child had a gift this holiday. Thanks to the generosity of the Martinez family, every Tiger at the Academy received a warm, cozy blanket. Each child left smiling and proud to take home their new blanket.

Holiday Lunchtime Karaoke (Dec 15-19)

Everyday at lunch, students were able to sing and dance their hearts out to holiday tunes. Thanks to the generosity of the Martinez Family from Bellwood 88, two new speakers support our Tigers as they belted out their favorite holiday songs. Staff joined students when they were too nervous and it helped bring holiday cheer to the Academy.

Make A Snowman Day (Dec 18)

The entire school joined together to make a snowman as a holiday collaborative experience. Together, students designed their snowman and decorated it with the joy and spirit of the holiday season. Every tiger was able to take their own snowman home to give to their families.

Holiday Pizza & Dance Party (Dec 19)

Every classroom got a pizza party as well as an all school dance party to celebrate the start of winter break. Together they danced and grooved after having a delicious meal of their preferred Little Caesar's Pizza.

Current Enrollment

Enrollment is at 68 students total.

Upcoming Events

- 1/5 - School Resumes
- 1/6 - Basketball Practice
- 1/9 - Pep Rally at Lunchtime for Tigers (Spirit Day)
- 1/11 - Basketball Regionals
- 1/16 - Lunchtime Karaoke
- 1/19 - Martin Luther King Jr. Holiday- No School
- 1/23 - 8th Grade Tour to Proviso West / Flannel Friday (Spirit Day)
- 1-30 - Principal's Tea
- 3/20 - Talent Show

PAEC Early Childhood

December was very cold outside but inside the Early Childhood Program we stayed warm and busy. The program grew by two students this month. We are projecting that 3 more students will start in January.

This month we took pictures with Santa on December 10th but we had technical difficulties and none of the pictures came out so we had to do retakes on 12/16/25. I am deeply grateful to Kim Baratta for the invitation to take pictures at the Center and for allowing us to borrow Santa's clothing so that his helper could do retakes in the EC. We want to thank our very own speech pathologist, Stefan Hampel, for proving to be a patient and kind Santa for our students. Some of the students had no problem posing with Santa but most encouraged in order to pose for a photo with Santa. They are precious memories for our families. I want to add that Mr. Hampel has been a blessed addition to the EC team. He provides so much technical support and facilitated our purchase and implementation of the four Touchchat apps that were put in our repurposed iPads after we bought 4 new iPads.

The last week of school we had our Holiday Spirit week. We wore holiday themed clothes and accessories. The majority of our students participated and had a great time. This month the students studied Holiday themes and Winter Vocabulary (i.e. Snow, Snowmen, Gingerbread characters, Cold Weather words). Some of the learning targets are now studied for two weeks in a row in order to make sure our students are able to learn and maintain the new concepts. Therefore there is still a letter of the week but now the colors, shapes and numbers are studied for two weeks.

The December academic targets for the first two weeks were:

LETTERS: S and W

COLORS: Brown

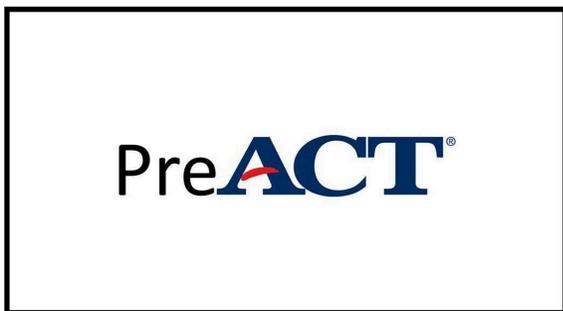
SHAPES: Star

NUMBERS: #6

The third week all the concepts were reviewed

PAEC Therapeutic Day Elementary School

TESTING! TESTING!



8th Grade Assessments

Our 8th grade students are taking steps toward graduation and were administered the PreACT and Naglieri exams in December. The PreACT provides early college readiness feedback in core subjects, while the Naglieri assesses problem-solving and reasoning skills. For high school, these assessments will help guide course planning and identify students who may benefit from advanced programming or additional support. Test scores are pending.



Candor Health Education (December 1-4)

Students in grades 4-8 participated in age-appropriate health education sessions with Candor Health:

- 4th Grade: Puberty I (Co-Ed)
- 5th & 6th Grade: Puberty II - Navigating Changes; SUP Foundations
- 7th Grade: Teen Sexual Health I; SUP Influencers
- 8th Grade: Teen Sexual Health II; SUP Decisions

These programs support students' physical, emotional, and social development during critical growth years.





Holiday Spirit Week (December 15-19)

Celebrating the holidays together fosters a stronger sense of school community. PAEC Elementary celebrated Holiday Spirit Week to embrace the season!

- Monday 12/15: Merry Music Monday - Students wore red or green
- Tuesday 12/16: Holiday Head Gear - Students wore festive hats or headbands
- Wednesday 12/17: Holiday Sock Day - Students showed off festive socks
- Thursday 12/18: Holiday Apparel - Students wore holiday sweaters or shirts
- Friday 12/19: Schoolwide Christmas SEL Breakfast. Students received Christmas gifts sponsored by Family of Faith Ministries, 1212 S. Madison, Maywood IL and Barbara Kimber.

Pastor and Mrs. James Glass, Principal Payne and Mrs. Kural



-Upcoming events

Transitions	0
Police/Ambulance Calls	1
Incident Reports	1
Isolation Room	5
Restorative Meeting	1

PAEC Therapeutic Day High School

Academics

This month was a challenging time for the entire PAEC Family following the loss of Mr. George, who served as our English teacher for several years. Mr. George made a lasting impact on both students and staff. During this time, staff and students wrote letters of condolence to the family, and three students attended the service and delivered a heartfelt tribute in his honor. On behalf of the PAEC Family, we extend our sincere gratitude to all who offered support, compassion, and encouragement throughout this difficult period.

Final examinations for the first semester were administered on December 17, 18, and 19. We honored and celebrated two senior students who were eligible for graduation. We proudly recognized forty-eight students for achieving honor roll status, perfect attendance, and/or earning a 90% or higher performance level for the second quarter or the entire semester.

As we look ahead, we are setting ambitious goals for the second semester. Instructors have finalized their master schedules, and students' individualized schedules are fully prepared for our return on January 5, 2026.

We will be taking our Winter MAP Assessments the third week of January.

Happenings

Students demonstrated strong accountability by meeting academic and behavioral expectations required to participate in the final volleyball tournament and a pizza party celebration. Thank you, Coach Piagnarelli, for preparing and training the students for the season on and off the volleyball court.

Transitioning Students

We had six students return to their homeschools for the first semester. One student successfully returned to PMSA full-time starting on January 5, 2026. Three of the half-day students may be ready for full-time at the end of the third quarter, and four more students will be prepared for a half-day schedule.

Physical Management	0
Police Calls	1
Ambulance	1
Restorative Meeting	8

25-26 Current Enrollment: 78 Students

Vocational Program Update

The month of December has been a busy and productive period, highlighted by several graduation meetings and the preparation of two December graduates for successful transitions into employment and postsecondary education. One graduate will be relocating to Southern Illinois to enroll in a community college, with plans to pursue a career in Information Technology, specifically coding. The second graduate will be entering the workforce at a local daycare center. We are extremely proud of both students and their accomplishments.

Mr. Tafoya has been actively overseeing the work program, coordinating student transportation to worksites during the school day, and managing job coach schedules to ensure timely and consistent support. In addition, he has assisted several students with applications for part-time employment and worked closely with students to develop professional resumes.

Several graduation meetings were held throughout the month, and Ms. Holsten has been focused on ensuring students are well-prepared with the necessary information and documentation to support their postsecondary plans. She has also continued to facilitate the APEX credit recovery program, encouraging students to complete outstanding coursework before the conclusion of the fall semester.

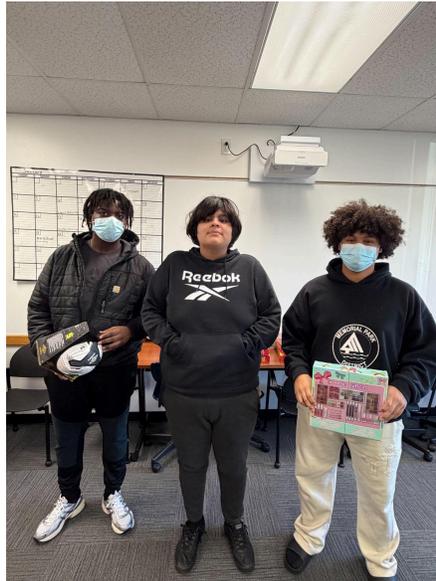
Mr. Tafoya and Ms. Holsten also toured LADSE's Project SEARCH program located at LaGrange Hospital. This postsecondary internship program prepares students for employment in a hospital setting across three primary areas: maintenance, food service, and medical supply stocking. We are excited about the opportunity to make future student recommendations to this program, which is open to special education students throughout the region.

Additionally, paperwork has been submitted for Mr. Tafoya to become an issuing officer with the State of Illinois. Once approved, this will allow him to issue work permits to 14- and 15-year-old students, further expanding access to part-time employment opportunities.

We wish the Board a happy holiday season and look forward to continued collaboration in the New Year.

The Level Up program, which was launched this year, provided grant funding for student gifts. Through this opportunity, we received 75 gifts to distribute to our high school students, which was an unexpected and exciting experience for them. We are grateful to be part of this program and have already planned adjustments for the upcoming semester to support student success and transition planning further.





Submitted by Lindsey Holsten, Vocational Counselor

PAEC Center School

The month of December was busy!

The Oak Leyden Choir performed for the entire school on December 3rd! It is always a big hit! A couple of the members of the choir are PAEC alumni and they are always enthusiastic about being at PAEC!

A warm weather giving tree has been set up in the front hallway for those students in need of a warm winter hat, socks or gloves!

Santa came on December 10th and each student was able to visit with him and tell him what they wanted for Christmas. He was in the gym that was decorated with classroom projects depicting the holidays of the season that are celebrated during December!

Volunteer sites went off without a hitch. This is a great opportunity for the students to learn about responsibility and the importance of working hard!

Classroom lessons are in full swing with minimal interruption in spite of the holidays.

Toys for Tots came on December 12, 2025 with each student getting to meet Santa and Mrs. Claus as well as receive a gift from them.

The SANDI window has reopened for Winter/Spring scores.

IEPs continue on a daily basis.

The last week of school is always tough for student engagement, so field trips are being taken to watch the latest Wicked movie. Classroom lessons for those classes have centered around Wicked and the students were excited to see the movie!

The staff enjoyed a staff holiday breakfast on the late start Friday to commiserate with one another in a less formal setting. The staff participated in an Ugly Sweater contest on the last day of school! The students were treated to a Holiday movie as well as the Lemonade/Hot Chocolate/Popcorn vocational task by one of the classrooms!

PAEC Behavior Intervention Team

The PAEC Behavior Intervention Team continues to provide behavioral support and interventions to reduce undesired behaviors within the Proviso Township school districts.

The Elementary Behavior Coaches are required to implement the 8-Week Step Interventions & Support Curriculum developed based on evidenced-based data and documenting.

Total number of PAEC Behavior Intervention Team: 13

Active: 13

Projected total number for 2025/2026 Academic Year is (16)

Coordinator has begun interviewing for the open positions at Proviso East and Proviso West.

Coordinator will post a position for elementary level.

Proviso East: 4 (current number is 3)

Proviso West: 4 (current number is 3)

District 87: 2

Floating Coaches (District 88, District 93, District 92, District 87): 6 (currently 5)

There were a total of 1 individual student referrals in December.

There were a total of 0 classroom referrals submitted in December.

District 87 - Jefferson Primary | Sunnyside Intermediate | Whittier Primary | Riley Intermediate | Northlake Middle School | MacArthur Middle School

Whittier Primary:

First Grade Referral: The Interventionist has successfully concluded providing support to the student and class.

First Grade Referral: The student exhibits extreme tantrums within the class setting during instructional learning. Coordinator has been working with student and school personnel to provide a behavior plan based upon planned ignoring, visual aids, token economy, transitional prompting and sensory breaks to increase appropriate behavior. *Update:* Due to extremely aggressive behavior, the student was sent home and the parent has refused to bring him back. Students may be transferring to another school, however support will be provided until the transition occurs.

Early Childhood Referral: (On-going) An Interventionist has been assigned to the student to provide behavior management strategies such as daily sensory walks, intentional transitions and a token economy to encourage positive behavior. *Update:* Upon our return from winter break, the Interventionist will fade interventions and a plan of support will be provided.

Jefferson Primary:

Kindergarten Referral: (On-going support) Student has been assigned to an Interventionist due to excessive and extreme attention seeking behaviors. The student is currently receptive to the Lilo & Stitch behavioral chart designed to reduce behaviors such as screaming and blurting out. The Interventionist will be transitioning out of the classroom upon the return of Thanksgiving break. *Update:* Upon the return of winter break, the Interventionist will be gradually transitioning out of the class and a behavior plan of support will be provided to continue implementations of effective strategies.

First Grade Classroom Referral: (On-going support) An Interventionist has been assigned to collaborate with the teacher on strategies to reduce highly disruptive behaviors such as excessive talking aloud, off-task, wandering the class among all students. *Update:* Upon the return of winter break, the Interventionist will be gradually transitioning out of the class and a behavior plan of support will be provided to continue implementations of effective strategies.

Second Grade Referral: (On-going support) Student has been assigned an Interventionist due to playful and attention seeking behavior. Interventionists will work directly with the teacher to identify appropriate ways for the student to gain appropriate attention.

Coordinator will provide updates for 2 referrals submitted in November once observations are completed during January.

District 92 - Lindop School

The Special Ed Director requested additional support for a previous referral regarding a 1st grade student. An Interventionist will be assigned to continue implementing interventions that have been effective in the past.

District 88 - Lincoln Primary | Grant Primary | Grant Elementary | Lincoln Elementary | McKinley Elementary | Thurgood Marshall Elementary | Roosevelt Middle School

McKinley Elementary:

Kindergarten Class Referral: An Interventionist was assigned to coach the teacher on structuring the classroom with a schedule, class expectations, task/time management, transition methods, and token economy systems. *Update:* Upon the return of winter break, the Interventionist will be gradually transitioning out of the class and a behavior plan of support will be provided to continue implementations of effective strategies.

First Grade Class Referral: A Student has been assigned an Interventionist due to displaying inappropriate behaviors with peers. The Interventionist will be working with the teacher to implement/demonstrate appropriate peer dynamics through social stories and role-playing.

Fourth Grade Class Referral: (On-going support) An Interventionist was assigned to collaborate with both teachers within the room to establish/introduce expectations, a token economy, line-up procedures and effective transitional methods. Interventionists will be transitioning out of the classroom after Thanksgiving break. *Update:* Interventionist has successfully completed class interventions; a behavior support plan was established and provided to teachers to continue effective interventions.

Previous new referral submission will be paused until a specific Interventionist is available to work with this student based on the level of rapport established.

Lincoln Elementary:

Kindergarten Student Referral: (On-going) The student has been observed exhibiting problem behaviors outside of the classroom. An Interventionist has been assigned to provide additional support with the student during special activities such as gym, art and recess.

Fourth Grade Referral: Student was referred due to impulsive and aggressive behavior. An Interventionist was assigned to address behavior regulation and coping skills.

1 new referral; Coordinator will provide updates once an Initial Observation is completed in January..

Grant Primary:

Early Childhood Student Referral: (On-going) An Interventionist has been assigned to the student and is currently in collaboration with the special education program to support with implementing a behavior/safety and crisis plan. The Interventionist also has incorporated a behavior plan based upon a token economy and small consequences for extremely disruptive and physically violent behavior. *Update:* Upon the return of winter break, the Interventionist will be gradually transitioning out of the class and a behavior plan of support will be provided to continue implementations of effective strategies.

Coordinator will provide updates regarding 2 classroom referrals once observations are completed in January.

District 93 - Hillside Elementary

District 209 - Proviso East High School | Proviso West High School | Proviso Mathematics and Science Academy

There are currently a total of 6 Behavior Interventionists assigned to 209; 3 are assigned to East and 3 are assigned to West.

Interventionists are now assigned to Grade Level Principals. The 209 district is in the process of implementing a new MTSS Framework within the Panorama system to ensure equitable and responsive circles of support for students. All BI's will follow this framework under the leadership of Deans and their assigned GLP's. The Coordinator is in the process of hiring 1 Interventionist for East and West.

PAEC OT/PT Department

Staff adjustments: Working on caseload updates.

Activities of the department:

1. The AT Team continues to conduct SETT meetings to come up with appropriate assistive technology to address the educational needs of their struggling students.
2. The AT Team attended a staff meeting on 12-03-25 from 8:30 AM - 9:00 AM at PAEC Center and via Google Meet.
3. On 12-09-25, the Lead OT/PT and PAEC Center Principal met with Marrea Winnega, Autism Consultant, to discuss ways to effectively work and collaborate with classroom teams to meet the needs of students.
4. The Lead OT/PT/AT, PAEC High School Teacher, PAEC IT, assigned OT to PAEC High School, and the Jotit Representative and Team attended a training session in the PAEC Center Board Room to begin the Jotit program pilot starting in January 2026. Jotit is a software app. It is designed for use on 2-in-1 Chromebooks, Android Tablets, and Apple iPads (November 2025 release). Jotit consolidates all a student's Google Classroom and Canvas assignments, messages, and resources into a single workspace. Students can annotate their PDFs, handwrite/type responses, and submit their work back to Google Classroom and Canvas all through the app.
5. On 12-15-25, the PAEC OT/PT Lead met with the OT & PT Leads from LADSE to work on fall speakers for the Fall 2026 OT/PT Consortium Conference.
6. The OT/PT Department attended a staff meeting in-person and remotely on 12-19-25 at PAEC Center from 11:30 am - 3:00 pm.
7. Kaelen Bradford, OT student from Elmhurst University, will be starting his clinical affiliation with us on 1-20-26. Currently, getting information out to the staff in the districts that he will be attending and setting up IT-related items in order for him to start.
8. Our OTs and PTs helped the PAEC Center classrooms decorate a table and the Santa scene for students to sit with Santa and take their pictures as part of the December festivities.
9. Some equipment that came in during December that was ordered was protocols for testing. No new pictures. Video of talent show at Riley School in D87 of related services, including OT & PT: [Swim Fantastic for a.k.a. synchronized swimmers](#)

PAEC Psychology Department

Ms. Annamaria Iarrapino, School Psychologist at Riley Intermediate and Northlake Middle School, is participating in the Riley Winter Talent Show on Friday December 19th (pictures and videos to come in January 😊). Ms. Iarrapino has worked with the Riley MTSS team to hold data review meetings on student progress. She is providing consultative support to assist the problem solving team.

Ms. Dayle Ashley-Harding, PAEC Early Childhood Psychologist, is providing support to District 87's Early Childhood team via consult and meeting attendance. She also has conducted ADOS assessments in District 93.

Ms. Gloria Washington attended the ISPA Fall Conference on November 12th and 13th. She attended sessions on the Woodcock Johnson assessment, neuropsychological assessment, and universal mental health screening. She plans to attend the state Winter Convention in January and the NASP conference in February.

Dr. Michael Cermak attended the ISPA Fall Conference on November 12th and 13th. He attended sessions on suicide/depression risk assessments, universal mental health screening, and cyberbullying. Dr. Cermak will attend the ISPA Job Placement and Winter Convention January 14th-16th. Dr. Cermak is also invited to participate in the NASP leadership summit in Chicago prior to the national psych conference in February.

This will give Dr. Cermak the opportunity to network with other state leaders and talk about all of the things our co-op is doing to assist students and families in special education. Dr. Cermak continues to provide support to Districts 87 and 209 in terms of evaluations and direct support and consultation.

Have a great holiday break!!
Michael

PAEC Social Work Department

Monthly Board Update of PAEC SW Dept. Activities/Initiatives/Information

1. Ms. Donna Kuchera, M.S.W., Ms. Tanaijah Fields, M.S.W. , Ms. Ali Kagan, M.S.W., and Ms. Lisa Pirrello, L.C.S.W. (PAEC School Social Workers & PAEC Lead School Social Worker-PAEC High School Therapeutic Day School) and Mr. Elijah Arons (social work intern) continue to provide support to students in crisis to minimize escalations and to provide individual/small group social work sessions covering the following topics: Substance Abuse; Decision Making Skills; Communication Skills; Anger Management and Coping with Feelings/Emotions during the Holiday Season. Additionally, Ms. Pirrello, Ms. Kuchera, Ms. Field and Ms. Kagan participated in the Family Adoption/Gift Program for the PAEC Therapeutic High School Program, whereby the most neediest families were able to benefit from receiving gifts.
2. Ms. Nyanne Serrano, M.S.W., and Mr. Patrick Rossi, L.C.S.W. (PAEC School Social Workers-PAEC Elementary School) have been planning, coordinating and disseminating various gifts from the family adoption/gift program to the PAEC Elementary chosen families. Additionally, the PAEC Elementary School Social Workers continue to provide social work services to students and families they serve, assisting students to emotionally regulate during the Holiday Season.
3. Ms. Monette Carlos, L.C.S.W., R.P.T. (PAEC School Social Worker – PAEC Early Childhood Program), continues to provide social work groups for each of the E.C. classrooms covering the topics of following directions, self-control, how to say our names when someone asks, and how to say how we feel when asked. In individual sessions, Ms. Carlos has been focusing on the following: joint attention, playing functionally, playing with others cooperatively, sharing/turn taking/waiting, self-regulation and transitions. Additionally, Ms. Carlos has assisted E.C. parents in finding what kind of Medicaid/Insurance coverage they have, what dental clinic takes their insurance and the benefits of considering noise cancelling headphones for their child. Ms. Carlos, as the co-chair, has been working alongside Ms. Pirrello and the In-Service committee in the planning and coordinating of social work training for the upcoming 2026-27 school year and sent out surveys to all the social workers to identify presentation topics to consider.
4. Ms. Nicole Peña, M.S.W. (PAEC School Social Worker-PAEC Academy) continues to provide individual/small group social work sessions to the students at PAEC Academy, covering topics such as self-advocacy, coping strategies, and regulation of emotions. Ms. Peña continues to collaborate with other therapists (SLP, OT, & PT) for weekly whole classroom groups. Ms. Peña coordinated and attended a parent/student tour at Proviso East High school with 8th grade families. Additionally, Ms. Peña will be delivering/coordinating Christmas present pick-ups for the Neediest Family Gift Giving Program.
5. Ms. Jill Collins, M.S.W., Ms. Anna Landmeier, L.C.S.W., C.A.D.C, and Tanaijah Fields, M.S.W., (PAEC School Social Workers-PAEC Center School) continues to meet with the students on their caseload individually and/or in classroom groups. Social/Emotional topics covered this month

include: Mindfulness; Coping Strategies; Problem-Solving Skills; Gratitude; Identifying Your Emotions; Personal Space and Boundaries; Using Appropriate Voice Volume; Saying Please and Thank You; Good vs. Bad Friendships; and Listening to Directions.]. Additionally, the social workers have been providing support to the PAEC Center Staff in and out of the classroom settings, providing crisis intervention, furnishing various resources for parents (i.e., Food Pantry Information, outside counseling services, etc.) and participated in the Giving Tree/Holiday Family Support programs.

6. Ms. Cecilia Feliciano, M.S.W., and Ms. Temika Peace, M.S.W., (PAEC School Social Workers –Proviso East High School) continue to provide individual/small group social work sessions to students on their caseload at Proviso East High School, as well as attending annual review and re-evaluation meetings. Topics covered include dealing with feelings/emotions and implementing successful coping strategies. Ms. Feliciano and Ms. Peace are, also, part of the student success teams whereby they meet weekly to discuss interventions for students with attendance and academic issues/concerns.
7. Ms. Elivette Agosto, M.S.W. and Ms. Haviland Byrd, M.S.W., (PAEC School Social Workers – Proviso West High School) have been providing individual & small group school social work services to the students with special education needs, as well as attending annual review and re-evaluation meetings. Topics covered in social work sessions include: Decreasing Absenteeism; Emotional Regulation during the holiday season and implementing Coping strategies. Ms. Agosto has been working with students on how to effectively utilize and academic task organizer to assist them with make-up class and completing their assignments on-time.
8. Ms. Kenya Dockens, L.C.S.W. (PAEC School Social Worker-Hillside School) and Mr. Elijah Arons (Social Work Intern) continue to facilitate the 4th Grade MTSS group and covered the topic of Classroom Routines. In the 6th Grade MTSS group they initiated Recognition/Incentives using the mantra, “Keep the Peace”, a visual chart displayed in the Hallway, a respect acronym poster outlining respectful behavior and Peace Circles, as needed. On November 18, 2025, the School Initiative organized/facilitated by Ms. Dockens and Mr. Arons includes the partnership with Elyssa’s Mission covering the Signs of Suicide Prevention program. Additionally, Ms. Dockens and Mr. Arons partnered with Warm Coats for Cool Kids to provide winter coats for students in need and the Women’s Group of Holy Apostles Greek Orthodox Church to provide food items for families during the holiday break and care closet throughout the 2025-26 school year.
9. Ms. Lisa Pirrello, L.C.S.W., (PAEC Lead School Social Worker) completed the PAEC School Social Worker Observations, occurring during Semester I, as well as the Written Post-Observation Review Forms for those PAEC School Social Workers who were identified to be evaluated during the 2025-26 School Year. Also, Ms. Pirrello sent out Administrator Input Forms to be filled out for contractual agency social workers who are providing school social work services to various PAEC and District buildings. Ms. Pirrello met Mr. Elijah Arons’s (Social Work Intern) Loyola University Supervisor, Ms. Danielle Jones, to discuss Mr. Arons’s progress and internship field learning objectives for semester 2. Ms. Pirrello has been working with the PAEC Social Work Department In-Service committee in choosing topics and securing speakers for next year’s (2026-27) department training. Additionally, Ms. Pirrello has been providing case consultation to the PAEC Academy Program at the request of Principal, Ms. Kline.
10. The next PAEC School Social Work Department Meeting and In-Service Training is:
Date: Friday, January 16, 2026
Time: 10am-1pm

Topic: Understanding Speech and Language Skills for a Wide Variety of Students

Speaker: Ms. Danielle Lemon of POP Pediatric Therapy

Time: 2pm-3pm

Topic: PAEC SW Department Meeting

PAEC Speech/Language Department

- The Lead SLP attended the Policy Committee meeting on December 8th at 1 pm in the boardroom. The committee reviewed policy updates from Press Plus and also discussed additional meetings to discuss creation of policy around Artificial Intelligence tools that are safe and compliant for educational settings.
- Emily Gallant, contracted SLP from the Stepping Stones group has submitted her resignation with her final day being Friday, December 19th.
- CF-SLP, Erin Mullins, contracted from Therapy Care will be oriented and starting in her role in D88 at Roosevelt Middle School on January 5th, 2026.
- The Lead SLP has been interviewing SLP candidates for the opening in D88/McKinley Elementary School, vacated by Emily Gallant. Ambergris SLP, Ava Morgan, has accepted the role with a tentative January 12th, 2026 start date.
- The Lead SLP continues to meet with district Special Ed Directors to collaborate to meet the needs of students and programs.

PAEC Special Olympics

The Months of November and the beginning of December have been great. Both of our Teams will compete in this year's Special Olympic Tournament in January. We have four Teams that will enter this year's Tournament that will be Held at Unity Junior High in Cicero, IL. for the Region C Olympics Tournament (2 games) on Sunday January 18th 2026.

Special Olympics 2025 Region B. Skills Basketball Competition was held on Sunday December 7th at Niles West High School in Skokie, IL, we had two students participate in the Special Skills Division for athletes with lower ability levels. This was their first time competing and they did very well. As a reminder, athletes must be at least eight years old to be eligible. If possible , come next year I would like to involve more elementary students in the 2026 Competition.

Family Leadership and Support initiative gives Families a leadership role and the opportunity to mentorship, information, and emotional support to those who are new to the Special Olympic program.

Coaches: Have noticed that family members and friends are often the most important influences for their Son/Daughter.

HAPPY HOLIDAY AND A HAPPY NEW YEAR 2026!