



To: Mr. Atkins, Acting Superintendent
Ms. Malone, Chairperson of the Board
Members of Newport Board of Education

July 22, 2026

Special Education items under New Business:

The Special Education Department has several items listed under New Business for Board review and consideration.

Updates to Special Education Procedures:

The Newport Independent School District Special Education Procedures have been updated to reflect legislative changes that will take effect during the upcoming school year. Changes are highlighted in red within the document for ease of review. These procedures serve as a companion document to Board Policy 08.131. The updates were limited to Chapter 1: Definitions and Chapter 7: Placement, specifically addressing class size and caseload requirements.

Agreement with Counseling and Diagnostic Center:

An agreement with the Counseling and Diagnostic Center is included to provide psychological evaluation services to support special education evaluations. Services will include educational record reviews, teacher interviews, behavioral observations, and standardized assessments of intellectual (cognitive) functioning. This partnership will support timely, comprehensive evaluations and ensure students receive appropriate evaluation services in accordance with special education requirements.

ARC Chairperson Designations:

A list of certified staff positions identified to serve as ARC Chairpersons within each school building is provided for Board review. These designated staff members will support the district's compliance with special education procedures by facilitating Admissions and Release Committee (ARC) meetings and ensuring effective collaboration among team members in developing appropriate educational programs for students with disabilities.

Enrollment Snapshot 2025-2026 School Year:

September 2025: 224 Students
October 2025: 229 Students
November 2025: 229 Students
December 2025: 228 Students

January 2026: 225 Students
February 2026: 214 Students
March 2026: 219 Students
April 2026: 230 Students
May 2026: 220 Students

Special Education Population - May 2026

Autism- 17%
Developmental Delay- 18%
Emotional Behavioral Disability- 9%
Functional Mental Disability- 2%
Hearing Impaired- 1%
Mild Mental Disability- 9%
Multiple Disability- 2%
Orthopedic Impairment- 1%
Other Health Impairment- 14%
Specific Learning Disability- 10%
Speech and Language Impairment- 15%
Visually Impaired- 1%

Alternate Service Locations:

Regional School Programs - <10 Students
Home/Private School Students - 0 Students
Newport School of Innovation- <10 Students
Newport Regional School - <15 Students

Non-Resident Student Population- 9 students

504 Programming Rates – 37 Students