



August 2026 ~ Board Report

Special Education and Preschool

1. **Preschool screenings are scheduled for August 25th and August 26th. The screenings include speech & language screening, cognitive screening, social emotional screening, and motor skills screening.**



- **Students who turn 4-years old by August 1st automatically qualify to attend preschool at Southgate**
- **Students who are 3-years old must present with a potential delay in one or more areas to qualify to attend preschool at Southgate**

Key Purposes of Preschool Screenings

Early Identification of Developmental Delays

- Screenings provide a snapshot of a child's progress in domains like language, motor skills, cognition, and social-emotional development
- They help identify children who may be at risk for developmental delays or disabilities—critical because early intervention is proven to greatly improve outcomes

Facilitating Timely Intervention

- Early intervention supports include speech-language therapy, occupational therapy (OT), and other specialized services. These interventions capitalize on the brain's high plasticity in the early years, boosting developmental progress

Referral for In-Depth Evaluation

- While screenings are brief and not diagnostic, they indicate if a child should be referred for a comprehensive evaluation by specialists like speech-language pathologists, occupational therapists, developmental pediatricians, or psychologists

Promoting School Readiness

- Skills assessed—such as communication, motor coordination, self-regulation, and cognitive understanding—are foundational for success in preschool and kindergarten environments
- Screenings support smoother transitions into school, helping educators tailor support early

Supporting and Informing Families

- They empower parents by highlighting their child's strengths and any areas that might benefit from practice or support

If all the 3-year-olds who are signed up for a screening qualify, we will begin the school year with 20 preschool students. I will provide an update on numbers at the September board meeting.

- 2. We have had several new out of state students enroll with IEPs. I will be working with teachers and parents to get consent to evaluate each of these students to determine if they are eligible for special education services in Kentucky.**

The Transfer Process:

- **Immediate services:** The new school must give support right away that matches the old plan as closely as possible. There is no gap in service allowed during the transfer.
- **Every state** sets its own precise rules and criteria for disability categories. A child who qualifies in one state may need a new local evaluation to see if they meet the specific criteria of the new state.

Determining New Eligibility:

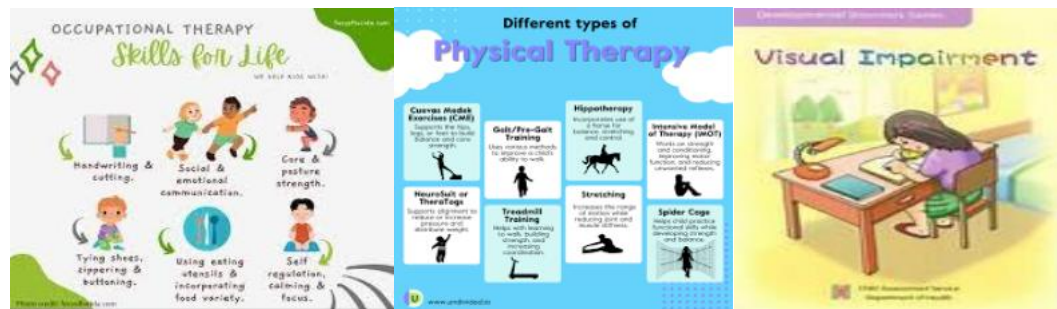
- **New evaluation:** The school district can request fresh testing to confirm eligibility under local state guidelines.
- **The team meeting:** A group of professionals and the parents meet to go over the new data.
- **New plan creation:** If the student qualifies under the new state rules, the team writes a new local IEP. If local criteria are not met, the school must provide formal notice before changing or ending services.

- Students with special needs require related services for occupational therapy, physical therapy, vision support, and psychological evaluations. I am requesting approval for the following related service contracts for the 2026-2027 school year:

Fast Forward Psychological Associates

Pediatric Therapy Specialists DBA Power House

Cindy Goetz, VI Consultant



- I am requesting to submit the Application for Medicaid Certification for the 2026-2027 school year.

The Medicaid SBHS program is designed specifically to allow school districts to act as health care providers and be reimbursed under Medicaid. School districts may be reimbursed by approximately 70 percent of the state and local funds they spend on some related services in the individualized education programs (IEP) of children with disabilities who are eligible under both IDEA and Medicaid.

Pursuing Academic Excellence and Developing Strong Character for **Every Student.....Every Day!**

