

Approval for CCMS Special Education Teacher

We are currently serving 63 students with learning/behavior disabilities with Individual Education Plans at Carroll County Middle School. We have four Learning/Behavior Disabilities(LBD) teachers supporting these students. The breakdown by grade level is the following:

5th grade-17
6th grade-13
7th grade-24
8th grade-10

The Kentucky Department of Education's Special Education Caseload requirements are as follows:

Primary

5th grade-15
6th grade-15

Secondary

7th grade-20
8th grade-20

With the Middle School's configuration of 5th-8th grades, KDE guidelines state the following:

For Middle School Programs, Teachers with ONLY 7th and 8th Grade Students on the Roster Use the Secondary Case Load. However, whenever there is a 6th (or Lower) Grade Student on the Roster, the Primary Case Load is Used.

From a compliance standpoint, we could shift teacher rosters to fit the models recommended. However, from an academic effectiveness viewpoint, our students with special needs require more support to meet the specially designed instruction prescribed in their Individual Education Plan. We have several students who require constant support in our general education classrooms. With the number of students in the middle school, our special education teachers are providing limited support. We are proposing that we use IDEA ARP funds to hire one LBD teacher for additional support for our students with the most needs. This would allow more service times with the potential for more individualized instruction.

The recommendation is one full time Learning/Behavior Disabilities teacher to be hired for the Carroll County Middle School. The estimated cost is \$50,000 and it will be paid out of IDEA ARP funds.