

**Pattonville School District**  
**Special Education Program Evaluation**  
**January 6, 2026**

Evaluator: Dee Byrnes, Special Education Director

**Context:** Special School District (SSD) provides special education services to students in Pattonville in various placements governed by the federal Individuals with Disabilities Education Act (IDEA). Services are based entirely on a student's Individualized Education Program (IEP). Placements range from special education teachers providing special education services in the student's school of residence to specialized programs in Pattonville to students attending an SSD school or a separate private agency.

Most students in Pattonville receive their services by attending a school within the Pattonville School District. In addition, for students who have completed four years of high school but require extended programming to develop the skills needed to move toward post-secondary goals and gain successful employment, SSD provides the Vocational Skills Program (VSP). In this program, students are immersed in a business setting, allowing them to build general work behaviors and soft skills needed for entry-level employment.

Due to the unique relationship of delivering special education and career and technical education to students in St. Louis County, the SSD Partnership Agreement was created. There are seven categories for collaboration included. They include: staffing; teaching, learning and accountability; collaboration of responsibilities and resources; student services; data and technology; transportation; and career and technical education. This document provides an opportunity for the partnering district and SSD to assess the working relationship and identify opportunities for continued partnership in each of the seven categories.

SSD also operates two career and technical high schools with 28 programs featuring a wide range of technical areas. Technical course offerings for students in grades 10-12 range from traditional technical fields, such as precision machining and construction, to emerging fields like network administration and health services. Working with high school guidance counselors, students are introduced to the programs available at the SSD technical schools.

SSD's Family and Community Engagement department provides evidence-based strategies and support to partner with families and school personnel. These supports include family engagement events, professional development for staff to increase family engagement, community outreach programs, Parent Advisory Council support, and direct support to families. An area of focus for the department is to help increase family efficacy through the Family Leadership Institute and family/community workshops. The Family Leadership Institute is available to any family member interested in learning more about becoming an effective participant in their student's education, improving the educational climate for all children, positively interacting and collaborating with other families and school personnel, discovering new resources available to families of students with disabilities, and network with other families. Workshops are offered on a variety of topics of interest to families of students with disabilities.

The SSD Parent Advisory Council (PAC) is comprised of families advising and collaborating to improve the education, confidence, and social outcomes of each student served by the Special School District. The PAC consists of five parents or guardians from each of the 22 St. Louis County school districts and each of the five SSD special education schools.

Pattonville also has a local Parent Advisory Committee through SSD. This parent-driven council provides an opportunity for families of children who receive special education services to network and communicate with other parents. It also recognizes the importance of effective communication with families of students with disabilities. Meetings are held monthly during the school year. Information related to special education services, resources available to parents and students, and mini workshops are provided. Meetings are also an opportunity for open communication between administrators and families where they can discuss issues that families of students with disabilities are experiencing.

SSD provides special education services at each school in Pattonville and services 1,052 students in kindergarten through 12<sup>th</sup> grade. Twenty-nine (29) students residing in the Pattonville School District receive special education services in one of SSD's schools. Specialized programs in classrooms at Pattonville include social/emotional, autism, and essential skills programs. These programs are located at Drummond, Parkwood and Rose Acres elementary schools, Holman and Pattonville Heights middle schools and Pattonville High School. Each program includes the necessary special education expertise to ensure students are progressing on their individual goals to meet their needs.

For the 2025-26 school SSD employs a total of 177 staff working in Pattonville. This includes special education administrators, special education teachers, speech/language pathologists, occupational therapists, physical therapists, school psychologists, social workers, behavior analysts, registered behavior therapists, and paraeducators. The table below indicates the number of special education staff, specialized instructional programs, and related service providers in each school.

<b>School</b>	<b>Resource Teacher</b>	<b>Specialized Program Teacher</b>	<b>Paraeducator</b>	<b>Speech/Language Pathologist</b>
Bridgeway	3	0	1	1
Drummond	4	3	7	2.5
Parkwood	2.5	2	5	1.5
Remington	2.5	3	11	1.8
Rose Acres	2.5	6	15	3
Willow Brook	2.5	0	2	1.2
Holman Middle	7	1	6	1
Pattonville Heights Middle	5	3	7	1

Pattonville High School	13	5	5	1
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<b>Related Service Providers</b>	<b>Districtwide</b>
Occupational Therapist	5
School Psychologist	5
Social Worker	6
Adaptive PE	1
Registered Behavior Therapist	12
Physical Therapist	1
Physical Therapy Assistant	0

<b>Special Education Administrator</b>	<b>Districtwide</b>
Director	1
Special Education Coordinator	3
Applied Behavior Analyst	4
Applied Behavior Analyst Coordinator	0
Instructional Coach	1

### **Recommendations:**

1. Collaborate with district and building administrators to ensure all students are educated in their least restrictive environment. (Partnership Agreement, continue)
2. Monitor goals, targets and indicators regularly, evaluate practices related to measurable outcomes, and adjust practices as needed. (Partnership Agreement, continue)
3. Continue to utilize Pattonville's partnership with the Special School District to improve our school-based problem-solving teams, the IEP referral process, and transportation practices. (Partnership Agreement, continue)
4. Implement and monitor Partnership Agreement action steps:
  - a. Continue to utilize the Principal/Special Education Administrator Tool to create strong working relationships with each building principal. (Structures in place to sustain, continue)
  - b. The liaison and director will complete the Principal/Special Education Administrator tool with district level lens. (Continue)
  - c. Annual review of the SSD collective bargaining agreement at the building and district level. (Continue)