

# **Evergreen Special Services Preschool Program Interlocal Agreement**

## **Between Evergreen School District #50 and Bigfork School District #38**

### **I. PARTIES TO THIS AGREEMENT**

This Agreement is made between Evergreen School District #50 Special Services, located at 18 W. Evergreen, Kalispell, MT 59901, (406) 751-1111, AND Bigfork School District #38 located at 1600 Commerce St., Bigfork, MT 59911, (406) 837-7400.

### **II. PURPOSE AND PHILOSOPHY**

The Special Education Preschool Program is a joint center-based program housed at East Evergreen Elementary School within Evergreen School District #50. The fiscal host for the program is Evergreen School District #50. The program provides preschool services to children ages 3 through 5 who are residents of the participating school districts and who meet eligibility criteria under the Individuals with Disabilities Education Act (IDEA) and demonstrate a need for services in a center-based preschool.

The Evergreen Special Services Preschool provides a comprehensive developmental approach to meeting the needs of children with disabilities. The center-based preschool program is but one component of a full range of continuum options available to eligible students including services in the home, local school district or in collaboration with other agencies through the Co-op. The center-based preschool program offers inclusive learning opportunities with children who are not disabled, in addition to specially designated instruction.

### **III. PROGRAM AND RESPONSIBILITIES**

1. Child Find (Screening)

Child Find is the responsibility of the resident district. At least 1 joint Child Find activity will be scheduled throughout the school year.

2. Referral to the Center-Based Preschool Program

In order for a child to be considered for placement in the center-based preschool program in the Evergreen School District, the child must first be between the age of 3 and 5 years old and be eligible as a child with a disability under the Individuals with Disabilities Education Act (IDEA). Children needing only speech/language or motor therapy services will receive their program at the resident school district. If the child is eligible for special education services, the resident district will initiate a referral to the center-based preschool program.

Outside agencies will make referrals through the Director of Special Services for the Bigfork School District #38 and to the Administrative Assistant for Evergreen Special Services. Each Director will notify resident districts of any referral.

3. Evaluation

The resident district/appropriate Bigfork School District #38 staff and preschool staff will contribute to the comprehensive evaluation initiated to determine if the child is eligible for services under the criteria established in IDEA.

4. Placement in the Program

The preschool staff will review the evaluation report, IDEA criteria and recommendations for services. The preschool teacher will function as a case manager and be responsible for scheduling the IEP meeting including representatives from the resident district and child's parents who are invited to attend along with the other required personnel. An IEP will be proposed that considers the least restrictive environment to meet the child's needs in compliance with IDEA.

5. Implementation of Services

The implementation of the IEP will be the responsibility of the center-based preschool program staff. The Preschool teacher will coordinate the delivery of services and any IEP meetings necessary to implement a free appropriate public education. A representative of the resident district will be required to participate in any meeting in which services will be significantly changed.

6. Related Services

Related services are the responsibility of the resident district with the exception of the speech language therapist who will be provided by the Evergreen School District. Related services to be provided by the resident district include but are not limited to:

- \*transportation
- \*occupational therapy
- \*individual aide, as determined by the IEP team
- \*assistive technology
- \*physical therapy

**IV. FISCAL RESPONSIBILITIES**

1. The Evergreen School District #50 agrees to staff the preschool program and share costs on a proportionate basis for the personnel required to meet student needs.
2. The Evergreen School District #50 agrees to provide facilities for the preschool classroom at no additional cost to the Bigfork School District #38. Specialized equipment for specific student use is the responsibility of the resident district.
3. Each participating school district will pay the host district an annual placement fee of \$200 per child. The Bigfork School District #38 will pay the placement fee for any child who is a resident of their district. This fee will be used to purchase supplies and equipment for the preschool program along with other costs incurred to meet the needs of the students receiving services through the preschool program. Should a child move to another district participating in the preschool program, no additional placement fee for that school year will be charged.

4. Should a child identified to participate in the host program through an evaluation and IEP, fail to initiate services, or miss more than 10 consecutive days of attendance without family report of illness or other planned absence, the child will be dropped from the host district enrollment. The resident district shall be the site of initial re-enrollment and then refer to the host district if the resident district determines that services in a center based preschool placement are necessary to address FAPE.
5. In exchange for services provided as listed above, the Bigfork School District #38 agrees to pay Evergreen School District #50 the allocated amount of IDEA Part B Preschool funds for the 2022-2023 school year.
6. In the event that the preschool services provided to the Bigfork School District #38 exceed the allocated amount of IDEA Part B Preschool funds for the 2022-2023 school year, special education tuition will be charged to the Bigfork School District in placing a child in the program in compliance with 20-5-320 and 20-5-323 MCA. Under 20-9-701, 20-9-702, 20-9-703 (2) MCA, all monies collected from this interlocal cooperative preschool agreement will be placed in an interlocal cooperative preschool agreement fund.

#### **V. TERMS of AGREEMENT**

This Interlocal Agreement for Evergreen Special Services Preschool Program is effective July 1, 2022, through June 30, 2023. Any changes to this Interlocal Agreement must be made in writing and agreed to by both parties. Signatures for this Agreement shall be executed via DocuSign for the purpose of internal tracking.

Make checks payable to the Evergreen School District #50, and mail to the attention of the District Clerk, 18 W. Evergreen, Kalispell MT 59901. Placement fees are due within 30 business days of the date of enrollment in the preschool program.

This joint Evergreen Special Services preschool program is agreed to by the following parties:

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Board Chairperson, Bigfork School District #38 Date

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Dr. Laurie Barron, Superintendent, Evergreen School District #50 Date

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Tamara Williams, Board Chairperson, Evergreen School District #50 Date

Roger Vanlandingham, Food Service Director  
Bigfork School District #38  
600 Commerce St  
Bigfork, Mt 59911

August 17, 2022

Mr. Tom Stack, Superintendent  
Bigfork School District #38  
600 Commerce St  
Bigfork, Mt 59911

Dear Mr. Stack,

I would like to recommend Brenda Koch to work in the Food Service department in a  $\frac{3}{4}$  time position. She has already passed the backround check. The offer will be contingent upon her successful completion of the physical exam and acceptance by the School Board.

Sincerely,



Roger Vanlandingham