

Dewitt-Lavaca Special Education Cooperative

Transition Update

As a result of Cuero ISD deciding to become a single member district special education program and leave the Dewitt-Lavaca Special Education Cooperative, the administrative offices and multi-district programs will be moving from Cuero ISD to Yoakum ISD for the 2014-15 school year. The Dewitt-Lavaca Special Education Cooperative will consist of Yoakum, Ezzell, Hallettsville, Meyersville, Moulton, Nordheim, Nursery, Shiner, Sweet Home, Vysehrad, Westhoff and Yorktown as member districts. Yoakum ISD will serve as the new fiscal agent for the cooperative.

Mr. Tom Kelley, Superintendent of Schools for Yoakum ISD and Mr. Brian Billstein, Director of Special Education for the Dewitt-Lavaca Special Education Cooperative have been working on the transition of moving offices and programs to Yoakum ISD for the start of the 2014-15 school year. The activities for moving the offices and special education programs to Yoakum ISD include:

1. The purchase of 5 portable buildings by Yoakum ISD that will serve as classrooms for the multidistrict programs. The portables are equipped to meet the instructional needs of the students. The portable classrooms will house the multidistrict programs up until the time that renovations on the existing Yoakum ISD campuses included in a recent bond election are complete. The Preschool Program for Children with Disabilities (PPCD) and the Elementary programs will be located at the YISD Intermediate campus. The Middle and High School programs will be located at the YISD High School campus.
2. The lease of a building for the multidistrict GOALS program which serves students with behavioral issues. The District is in discussion with the owner of a building that will potentially serve as the location for the GOALS program.
3. The district is currently negotiating a contract for the purchase of Dewitt-Lavaca Special Education Cooperative administration office space.
4. DeWitt-Lavaca Special Education Cooperative is in the process of interviewing and hiring for administration office staff, teachers, instructional aides and support staff for the 2014-15 school year.

The Dewitt-Lavaca Special Education Extended Year Services (EYS) will be located at the YISD Intermediate Campus this summer.

Yoakum ISD and the Dewitt-Lavaca Special Education Cooperative are working to ensure the transition of the special education program is smooth and that students served by the program will continue to receive quality services. For questions about the move of the special education program to Yoakum ISD individuals may call Mr. Brian Billstein, Director of Special Education at 361-275-6766 or email at aharryman@dlsec.org