



**DUPAGE/WEST COOK BOARD
BOARD BRIEFS
2nd QUARTERLY MEETING FY22
NOVEMBER 11, 2021**

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PARENT REPRESENTATIVES

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COORDINATOR

Dr. Kennedy Strickland-Dixon,
SASED Director

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Return to Learn & Adaptive Pauses/DWC Program Updates – A Return to Learn overview was given. In person learning for all attendance days began on the first day. Updates to the Return to Learn Plan are updated on a bi-weekly basis in conjunction with ISBE and the DuPage County Health Department. All classrooms are equipped with Personal Protective Equipment (PPE) to ensure classrooms are clean and safe. In the case a student is excluded due to COVID symptoms remote instruction will be provided within 24 hours. Homebound instruction is available for students who meet the medical criteria for the delivery of services. Homebound instruction is facilitated by the student's resident district.

The LADSE DHH Program has ESSER III funds that will be allocated towards: Curriculum, furniture creating group work environment that can be spaced out appropriately if needed, and technology to enhance learning. It was reported that the Community Based Program is growing, and Vocational Opportunities are back. There is a fieldtrip to the Museum of Science and Industry planned and the Deaf Drama Play: The Elf on a Shelf Must Go! On December 10, 2021, at 7:00pm will be presented at Hinsdale South High School Auditorium.

The Vision Impairment Program has 10 classrooms. Two of those classrooms are in the new Transition space at the SASED Administrative Center. The students have reemerging independence skills in daily living, orientation, and mobility after a decrease in overall independence due to COVID and remote learning. The Goalball Tournament will be moved to Spring allowing students to have time to practice and have fun!

The Pre-K through 8th grade DHH Program has 7 classrooms this school year. Students from Westmont Jr High and North Elementary will take a fieldtrip to the Deaf Drama Performance at Hinsdale South Auditorium. It was reported that the PreK students are displaying literacy skills at or above the literacy level of their hearing peers. Extra-Curriculars for students in Junior High includes Tech Club, Cross Country, Art Club, Basketball, Sign Language Club, and more.

Although the programs have had some staffing shortages the team has remained positive. The Districts and Programs have worked together to provide transportation.



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Enrollment for Low-Incidence Programs – 3-year comparison chart

Deaf/Hard of Hearing Program

School	Student Total November 1, 2019	Student Total November 4, 2020	Student Total November 1, 2021
North School	26	31	32
Westmont JH	23	24	17
LADSE - HS	44	42	40
Total DHH Enrollment	93	97	89

Visually Impaired Program

School	Student Total November 1, 2019	Student Total November 4, 2020	Student Total November 1, 2021
Salt Creek Elementary	12	13	5
Swartz Elementary	12	6	12
Albright MS	17	19	9
Addison Trail HS	34	34	21
Total VI Enrollment	75	72	47

Transition Program

School	Student Total November 1, 2019	Student Total November 4, 2020	Student Total November 1, 2021
SASED Transition (Vision)	N/A	N/A	18
LADSE Transition Center	19	16	22
Total Transition	19	16	40

SASED/LADSE/DWC Summary of Budgets for Fiscal Agent & Operating Entities

SASED is the fiscal agent for DuPage/West Cook Funds (DWC). This responsibility includes preparing annual budgets for DWC funds, accounting for expenditures & administering assessments.

In addition to serving as the fiscal agent for DWC, SASED serves as the operating entity for the elementary (EC-8th grade) Deaf/Hard of Hearing program, Vision Program (EC-Transition), ESY program & Audiology services. LADSE serves as the operating entity for the Deaf/Hard of Hearing High School Transition Program.



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Some of the responsibilities assumed by SASSED & LADSE as operating entities are:

- Human Resource – hiring, evaluating & supervising program staff; managing worker’s compensation, health insurance & other employee benefits; negotiating contracts with bargaining units.
- Fiscal – program billing, cash collection, payroll & accounts payable; carrying the IMRF reserve for employees hired by the operating entity, but who work in DWC programs; obtaining & maintaining classroom space for programs; budget development & management.
- Programmatic – developing & maintaining the best educational practices for students with low incidence disabilities.

SASSED The budgeted tuition rate increases for the Vision classroom (VI) program for FY22 is 2.0%, ESY program will remain the same as FY21, while the elementary Deaf/Hard of Hearing (DHH) tuition rate has dropped 9.0%. Diagnostic testing has an increase of 2.0% and the One-to-One Staff increased by 1.0% in FY22.

LADSE collaborates with the DHH Program Coordinator who reviews current & projected staffing needs & brings forward recommendations to LADSE administration. Incoming freshman are also considered for staffing changes to meet student IEP needs. LADSE budgeted tuition rate increases FY22 are: DHH/Transition - 3.9%; ESY – -40.5%; One-to-One Staff – -3.9%.

If you have any questions or concerns, please contact Dr. Kennedi Strickland-Dixon, DWC Coordinator at 630-955-8102 or kdixon@sased.org, and/or Dr. Jimmy Gunnell, DWC Board Chairperson at 708-496-3300 or jgunnell@aerosped.org.