

57 Attend SWWC Special Education Bootcamp

The 2017 SWWC Special Education Bootcamp was held in Redwood Falls in August. Fifty-seven teachers attended from many school districts including: Adrian, Cedar Mountain, Eden Valley-Watkins, Ellsworth, Glencoe-Silver Lake, Hendricks, Jackson, KMS, Lake Benton, Luverne, MACCRAY, Marshall, Montevideo, MCC, Ortonville, Pipestone Area, Redwood Area, Sleepy Eye, Springfield, Westbrook-Walnut Grove, Willmar, Windom and Worthington. Teachers from the Belview Learning Center, Blue Mound Learning Center, Cosmos Learning Center, North Central Learning Center and Red Rock Ridge Learning Center also attended (these are SWWC's five Educational Learning Centers).

The two-day workshop is specifically designed for teachers who are practicing on a variance or who have little-to-no special education experience. This high intensity bootcamp helps entry level teachers with the very basics necessary to do their jobs. During training, the group discussed real-life scenarios and had opportunities to practice and interact in a number of scenarios they will face on a day-to-day basis. Topics covered in the training were: IDEA, Legal Documents, Parental Rights, Procedural Safeguards, Calculating Timelines, developing relationships with staff and families, using SpEd Forms, the SPED referral process, evaluation and eligibility, Minnesota's disability categories, and the components of an IEP.

SWWC provides a SpEd Bootcamp each year to assist teachers throughout the region entering this complicated field bound by a number of legal obligations. Our goal is to ensure teachers are equipped with the skills and tools to understand the job ahead. Once teachers have completed the SpEd Bootcamp, they continue as a member of our Newer Special Education Teacher Cohort. The Newer Teacher Cohort provides support and training throughout the remainder of the school year. Our goal is to ensure retention and high quality special education staff by providing relevant and meaningful supports to our members.

For more information on SWWC's SpEd Bootcamp, contact Cassandra Johnson at Cassandra.johnson@swsc.org or visit our website at www.swsc.org.

