

**Submitted by: Peter Rosenkranz,
Director of Enhanced Learning Opportunities.**

Students:

Elementary Student (Iron Man)

We have a student, Iron Man, who has been bouncing through the foster care system and has not been able to attend one school consistently. The elementary team of Jessica Bodell, Lisa Bires and Aften Pankiewicz-Waldram reinforced my belief in our system that we are here for kids first. Instead of moving off to a new school for the end of this year they stepped up and proposed that we maintain his enrollment at LCES as we have established supports and he is thriving. By supporting this student we were able to keep him connected to his brother which is currently his only contact with family. Today our team put kids first and found a way to support a student not because of a regulation or rule but rather because they truly care about kids and their success. They make me proud to be in the La Center School District.

Enrollment:

For the 2016-2017 school year we are projected to have about 197 students in program. Last year at this same time we were building our programming based on 168 students.

Leap of Faith:

Karla Karukes's class has participated in the Leap of Faith on the Challenge Course. This amazing opportunity will support our transition students in unimaginable ways. Students have a chance to build confidence and self esteem, challenging personal beliefs in their capabilities. In conversation with Karla she shared an experience from a couple of years ago when a student came back to her class after a successful experience on the Challenge Course and exclaimed, "I did it! I did it, I can do anything!" A huge thank you to Brian Zylstra and Karla for making this happen for our kids.

504 Update:

We currently have 45 students supported through a 504 plan within our school district. We have solidified the process with our counselors and coordinated the system so regardless of the school or counselor we have a consistent process to support kids. Additionally Kellie Braaten has set up Skyward so that teachers, in addition to having paper copies, have access to electronic copies. We have met periodically throughout the school year to smooth out the wrinkles and improve the process. After meeting earlier this month we have already put plans in place as to how we are approaching next year in supporting our students with a 504 plan.