

## Scott Hare receives Special Education Administrator of the Year Award

The Minnesota Administrators for Special Education (MASE) named Scott Hare, Director of Student Support Services of Mankato Area Public Schools, Special Education Administrator of the Year. Hare received this award for his dedication to students with disabilities and their families, and his active involvement in professional and community affairs.



"I have known Scott for over twenty years and during that time I have seen him evolve from a high school principal into one of the most respected veteran special education leaders in Minnesota," said Darren Kermes, Superintendent of the SouthWest Metro Intermediate District. "Scott has mentored numerous aspiring special education directors and it is time to acknowledge all that he has done for the field of special education in our state."

Hare has served as the Director of Student Support Services for the Mankato Area Public Schools since 2017. Prior to serving in Mankato, he was the Director of Special Services and then the Executive Director of Administrative Services for Shakopee Public Schools. Hare has worked in several administrative capacities at the Belle Plaine and Jordan Public Schools, Goodhue County Education District, Melrose Area Public Schools and Robbinsdale Public Schools.

Hare joined the Mankato Area Public Schools team and brought with him multiple levels of teaching and leadership experiences. During his time with Mankato, Hare participated in leading the restructuring of their special education programming to a strengths based case load, completed an intervention audit in partnership with the Director of Teaching and Learning, and continued the district's work on merging their Early Childhood Family Education and Early Childhood Special Education with Community Education and Special Education. Hare is a continuous learner and makes decisions based on student group data and best practices. He excels in building relationships with all employees and understands that diverse perspectives are needed in making decisions.

Hare received his bachelor's degree in Secondary Education from the University of Wisconsin - Eau Claire and he earned a master's degree in Special Education from the University of St. Thomas.

## Special education services helping students be successful

Mankato Area Public Schools serves students with disabilities from birth through age 21. Federal and state laws guide the school district in identifying, evaluating and serving students with disabilities. A team of special educators, general educators and families work together to develop an Individualized Educational Plan (IEP) for students who meet the criteria for services. The team considers the student's present level of performance, identifies educational needs and develops goals to meet those needs in the least restrictive setting.

Mankato Area Public Schools provides a continuum of services for students with disabilities. Special instruction and services are provided in: autism spectrum disorders, blind-visually impaired, deaf-blind, deaf and hard of hearing, developmental cognitive disabilities, developmental delay, emotional or behavioral disorders, other health disabilities, physically impaired, specific learning disabilities, speech or language impairments and traumatic brain injury.

Prior to age six, a child who needs special instruction and services because of a substantial delay or identifiable physical or mental condition that hinders normal development is considered a child with a disability. Most students receive special education in their neighborhood school. The district also has specialized programs for students who need more support.

For more information on identifying, evaluating and providing service to students with disabilities, contact your child's school principal or student support services at 507-387-1818.