

Special Education and Related Services

Every child has the right to a free, appropriate, public education.

Special Education

The Planning and Placement Team (PPT) at each school ensures that students meet the eligibility requirements of the 2004 Individuals with Disabilities Education Improvement Act (IDEA) and state regulations. The PPT process also ensures that all students with disabilities age, 3 through 22, who require special education and related services and who have not graduated with a regular high school diploma, receive a free and appropriate public education. From the PPT process, the district develops an Individualized Education Program (IEP) which is implemented after parental consent is obtained.

The district ensures that, to the maximum extent appropriate, students with disabilities are educated with students who are nondisabled. However, the district provides a continuum of programming options for students to the extent necessary in order to implement the IEP. Each student requiring special education and related services is educated in the school that he or she would attend if he or she did not require special education and related services, unless the IEP requires another placement. Students are provided an appropriate individualized program in the least restrictive environment (LRE).

Parents are valuable partners in planning, evaluating and implementing their child's program, as well as throughout their child's educational career. We encourage you to ask questions and take part in all aspects of their child's education.

Related Services

Speech and language services: Speech and language pathologists provide services to students who exhibit speech-language impairments that adversely affect educational performance in accordance with the IEP. With parental consent they conduct individual assessments to provide information that is helpful in determining a child's eligibility for speech and language services as special education or a related service.

School Psychological Services: School psychologists work collaboratively with teachers and administrators to help create a safe and supportive school environments. With parental consent they use individual assessments to gather information that is helpful in determining a student's eligibility for special education and related services and in the development of individual academic and behavioral programs that maximize the student's achievement and educational success.

School Social Work Services: A District-wide social worker provides consultation to schools and direct services to students and families as recommended by the student's IEP.

Physical and Occupational Therapy Services are contracted services provided in accordance with the student's IEP and address delays in areas such as fine motor, gross motor, and sensory integration.

Services for Visually Impaired or Hearing Impaired students are provided in accordance with the student's IEP, and may involve collaboration with outside agencies.

Special education transportation is provided as a related service in accordance with the student's IEP.

Homebound instruction is provided for students who receive special education and related services when recommended by the PPT in accordance with the student's IEP. Homebound instruction is also provided for any student for whom a physician has certified, in writing, that the student's medical condition will cause an absence of at least three weeks' duration. Instruction typically begins no later than two weeks from the first day of absence.