



## Shawnee Mission North Special Education Policy



“Special education and related services are provided to eligible students with disabilities ages 3 to 21 and to students who qualify for gifted services Kindergarten through grade 12. Infants and toddlers with developmental delays or disabilities are served through Infant Toddler Services of Johnson County.

“Special education in Shawnee Mission is specially designed instruction that enables students to make continuous progress in school. Special education services are present within each school and are an integral part of Shawnee Mission's comprehensive school system.

### **Individuals with Disabilities Education Act (IDEA)**

“As amended by the United States Congress in 2004, IDEA is a federally-funded statute that requires a free and appropriate public education for students who meet eligibility in one or more of the 13 federal disability definitions. The act has provisions for evaluation, placement, and an individualized education plan (IEP) for eligible students who require specially designed instruction provided by special education certified personnel. Procedural safeguards for parents and the school district are a component of this act. The IDEA is enforced by the U.S. Office of Special Education Programs (OSEP) and monitored locally by the Kansas Department of Education.

“The Shawnee Mission School District uses compliant practices as described in the [Kansas Special Education Process Handbook](#) that is published by the Kansas State Department of Education, which is available online” (Shawnee Mission School District 2019).

### **District Policy**

“The board fully supports the provisions and requirements of the Title II Subtitle A of the Americans with Disabilities Act of 1990 (P.L. 101-336) which protects qualified individuals with disabilities from discrimination in the services, programs, or activities, including employment practices of Shawnee Mission Unified School District No. 512. This section of Title II also requires that qualified individuals with disabilities not be excluded from participating in or receiving the benefits of programs or activities provided by the school district. The district also fully supports and complies with the Boy Scouts of America Equal Access Act of 2001, 20 U.S.C. Section 7905, 34 C.F.R. Part 108” (*Shawnee Mission School District High School Student Handbook*, 2019, 1).

Qualifying for an IEP (Individual Educational Plan) is based on test scores, report cards, medical records, RTI, psychological evaluations etc. A number of factors can qualify a student for special education services.

Special education provides a variety of testing supports based on the individual needs of the students. Our IEP data shows most students need smaller quiet setting, extended time up to time and a half, and some students need the test read aloud. We do have students in the lower 25th percentile based on state assessments that need modified tests.

We have four programs for students with special-needs at Shawnee Mission North. The **Resource Program** encompasses many students with disabilities. Every high school in Shawnee Mission has a resource program. We have a program for students with **intellectual disabilities** which also every high school in Shawnee Mission has. **The Move Program**, which is a center-based program, supports all five high schools in the district. The students in this program have emotional and behavioral disorders. Four out of the five high schools in the district have a center-based program. The **Co-Taught Core Classes** pairs a special education teacher and a curriculum core teacher. The students in this class are made up of one-third special education students and two-thirds standard education students. Through differentiated instruction and modified assessments and assignments, more students can be integrated into what are considered “standard classes.” At North we focus on inclusion; however, there are certain times when special education students need to have their own space and location at the school.

Because North wants to create a school culture that accepts all types of students, we offer a class called **Cadet Teaching**. This class pairs a regular education student with a student with intellectual disabilities. These are ways that help not only unify the student body, but teach empathy and understanding.

We celebrate diversity of all students – no matter their intellectual or physical ability.