



Multiple Disabilities Support 2023-2024 Program Profile

Description

The Multiple Disabilities Support (MDS) classrooms provide students, ages 5-21, with services designed to maximize each student's level of independence in his/her daily life. Classes are offered at the elementary, middle and high school levels and follow a curriculum that focuses primarily on Functional Living and Communication and Language Development. Curriculum and instruction align with PA State Standards. Other components include: augmentative communication/assistive technology, specific feeding programs, individualized motor and sensory programs, and community based instruction.

Placement Criteria

- Student has cognitive, social/behavioral, and communication skills that are significantly below average
- Educational diagnosis of intellectual disability or multiple disabilities
- Need for alternate curriculum versus modification of general education curriculum
- Behavioral/Mental Health needs that cannot be met in Level 1 or 2 service environments
- Requires extensive case management, including interagency coordination

Exit Criteria

- IEP Team decision based on student progress toward IEP goals, acquisition of activities of daily living skills, and continued development of functional communication system

Location District or center-based class

- Staffing**
- 1 teacher
 - 2 paraprofessionals
 - 1: up to 8:2

Staffing ratios may vary depending on the makeup of the class roster.

Services included in tuition fee

- Intensive, direct and explicit instruction in core deficit areas based on individualized assessment and educational planning
- Adaptive equipment for general implementation of motor programming (tumble forms, mats, changing tables, lifts, etc.)
- Materials and support for augmentative communication
- Sensory activities and materials
- Application of functional and daily living skills
- General personal care, including necessary supplies
- Collaboration with special subject teachers
- Community-based instruction
- Adaptive Physical Education**
- Behavior management system
- Curriculum based assessment
- Progress monitoring to assess progress toward IEP goals
- PSSA/PASA administration
- Transition planning for students ages 14-21
- Specialized software programs designed to meet unique needs

IEP Services not included in tuition fee*

- Direct nursing services for individual students**
- Personal Care Assistant (PCA)
- Speech and language services, including direct service, SSP and IEP maintenance
- Unique, individualized assistive technology needs, including specialized adapted equipment
- Feeding Assessment or Consultation
- Occupational Therapy services including direct service, SSP and IEP maintenance
- Physical Therapy including direct service, SSP and IEP maintenance
- Transition/Vocational Assessment
- Transition/Vocational Support Services
- Job Coaching
- Autism support
- Blind & Visually Impaired support
- Deaf or Hard of Hearing support
- Psychiatric consultation and assessment
- Extended School Year (ESY) services
- Functional Analysis

- Technology hardware and software with associated technical support
- Social work services to assist with interagency coordination, family access to community services, and case management of mental health services; or to provide individual counseling and bi-weekly group counseling.
- Social Work Programmatic Consultation
- Behavior support for students whose needs exceed that which can be met through Educational Coach support time assigned to the class
- Comprehensive positive behavioral support planning, including Functional Behavior Assessments and development of Positive Behavior Support Plans
- Nursing support to develop health plans and coordinate with host district, including mandated health screenings
- Specialized training for all staff
- Psychological services for evaluation/reevaluation
- Psychological Programmatic Consultation
- Technical support from Educational Coaches
- Case management
- Program supervision
- Interagency Coordination Consultation

**Additional fee assessed*
*** May be provided by host district*