

# Exceptional Children's Resource Guide

## Graves County Schools

Graves County Schools

### Child Find

The Graves County School District is responsible for locating, identifying and evaluating children between the ages of 3-21 who may have a disability and live in Graves County School District. The contact person at each school to make a referral is the school principal, assistant principal, or school counselor. Teachers and parents may also make referrals to the special education director at the Graves County School Board district office. Your district contact referral is:

Carmen Robertson

Director of Special Education & Preschool Coordinator

2290 State Route 121 North

Mayfield, KY 42066

270-328-1558 or 270-674-1558

[carmen.robertson@graves.kyschools.us](mailto:carmen.robertson@graves.kyschools.us)

### Referral Process

Graves County Schools have committees at each school composed of some of the following professionals to assist teachers with struggling students. Committee members are selected by the principal at each school and may include:

- Principal
- Counselor
- General Education Teacher
- Related Service Providers
- Director of Special Education
- School Psychologists
- Special Education Consultants
- Instructional Supervisors
- Special Education Teachers

This committee is referred to as a PLC (Professional Learning Committee). They meet on a regular basis to review data, provide support to teachers, and to help those who have students experiencing difficulties meeting grade level expectations or state standards. Students are placed in RTI or TIER groups based on their classroom performance, state assessment results, and universal screening to work on skills areas that fall below grade level.

New federal regulations require that education teachers implement scientifically based researched strategies in areas where a child is below benchmark on universal screenings or grade level assessments before a referral for possible special services can be made. Each school has manuals, programs, and resources to address deficits and monitor students progress.

## **Evaluation**

If, after repeated interventions and multiple assessments using different curriculum based measures, a student has not made expected progress when compared to their same age/grade level peers, the PLC determines the need for a referral to special education. The Admission and Release Committee (ARC) meeting is scheduled with the parent(s) of the child, a district representative, a regular education teacher, and a special education teacher. If a referral is accepted, an evaluation is conducted in the area of suspected disability with no cost to the parent.

Evaluations are conducted by a multidisciplinary team, which may include school psychologist, psychometrist, speech/language pathologist, physical and occupational therapists, guidance counselors, teachers, and input from the parent.

Evaluations are required to be completed within 60 school days from the date of parent permission. Special education services may not be provided until a full and individual evaluation has been completed, and the ARC determines whether the student is eligible for services, an individual education plan has been written, and consent for services has been obtained from parents.

## **Eligibility**

Eligibility is determined in an ARC (Admission and Release Committee) after a full and individual evaluation has been completed in the area of the suspected disability. The committee must use Kentucky Administrative Regulations to determine if the disability adversely affects the student's educational performance and prevents them from completing a standard curriculum without specially designed instruction.

**Categories of disability are:**

- Autism
- Developmental Delay
- Emotional Behavioral Disability
- Hearing Impairment

- Mild Mental Disability
- Functional Mental Disability
- Multiple Disability
- Orthopedic Disability
- Other Health Impairment
- Specific Learning Disability
  - Reading Comprehension
  - Basic Reading
  - Reading Fluency
  - Math Calculation
  - Written Expression
  - Oral Expression
  - Listening Comprehension
- Speech-Language Impairment
- Traumatic Brain Injury
- Vision Impairment
- 

Eligibility requirements and planning forms for evaluation purposes can be found on our district website at [www.graves.kyschools.us](http://www.graves.kyschools.us). If you need assistance locating these forms please call Angie Riley at 270-328-2656.

## **Individual Education Program**

When a student is determined eligible by an ARC for special education and/or related services an Individual Education Plan (IEP) will be developed. The IEP includes the services the student will receive during the school year. The plan also includes any accommodations, modifications, and specially designed instruction that is needed for the student to access the general education curriculum. The IEP is reviewed annually with the parent.

## **Placement**

Graves County Schools are dedicated to providing the least restrictive environment for all students. We offer a continuum of services required under Federal and Kentucky State regulations and to the maximum extent appropriate, disabled students are educated with their non-disabled peers.

Options include:

- General Education Classes
- General Education Classes with Collaboration
- Special Education Resource Classes

- Special Classes
- Special Schools
- Home Hospital Instruction

Unless the IEP requires otherwise the student must be educated in the school he/she would attend if he/she were not disabled. The ARC determines the most appropriate placement for the student.

### **Special Education District Staff:**

Carmen Robertson - Director of Special Education & Preschool Coordinator

[carmen.robertson@graves.kyschools.us](mailto:carmen.robertson@graves.kyschools.us)

270-328-1549

Justin Jones - Special Education Consultant

270-328-1558

[justin.jones@graves.kyschools.us](mailto:justin.jones@graves.kyschools.us)

Natalie Winn - Special Education Consultant

270-328-4894

[natalie.winn@graves.kyschools.us](mailto:natalie.winn@graves.kyschools.us)

Melinda Poole - Special Education Consultant

[melinda.poole@graves.kyschools.us](mailto:melinda.poole@graves.kyschools.us)

270-328-4949

Courtney Hayden - Early Childhood Consultant

[courtney.hayden@graves.kyschools.us](mailto:courtney.hayden@graves.kyschools.us)

270-328-1555

Stephanie Cash - School Psychologist

[stephanie.cash@graves.kyschools.us](mailto:stephanie.cash@graves.kyschools.us)

270-328-4987

Cassidy Chandler - School Psychologist

[cassidy.chandler@graves.kyschools.us](mailto:cassidy.chandler@graves.kyschools.us)

270-328-4986