

Educationally Related Mental Health Services (ERMHS)

Referral, Assessment, and Service Delivery

Department of Integrated Special Education, Rocketship Education (California Schools)

What are ERMHS?

Educationally Related Mental Health Services (ERMHS) are special education related services. Like any other related service, they are provided to students with IEPs who require them in order to access and benefit from their educational programs. Specifically, ERMHS services support students who display mental health and/or social-emotional needs that have a significant and adverse impact on educational performance.

How do I know if a student should be referred to an ERMHS (Social-Emotional) evaluation?

Students can only be referred for an ERMHS evaluation if they already have an IEP (general education students with mental health concerns should be referred to the SST process and/or the general counseling program at the school). The following indicators might suggest to the IEP team that an ERMHS referral is warranted:

- The student is exhibiting maladaptive or atypical behaviors (e.g. self-harm or frequent talk of self-harm, physically aggressive behaviors, etc.) that are negatively impacting educational performance
- A parent or doctor provides information indicating that the student has a mental health disorder
- The student has a significant change in behavior which results in a negative impact on their educational performance

Note that ERMHS services are not tied to any one eligibility, but in almost all cases, students with an eligibility of Emotional Disturbance should have ERMHS services as a component of their IEPs.

How do I refer a student for an ERMHS (Social-Emotional) assessment?

All ERMHS referrals at Rocketship will go through the school's assigned ERMHS provider (Mental Health Provider), who will then loop in the School Psychologist. Teachers should not reach out directly to our ERMHS providers to refer a student for a social-emotional assessment. If a case manager suspects a student may require an ERMHS assessment, they should schedule a time to check-in with the Mental Health Provider to discuss the presenting concerns, including:

- Presenting behaviors
- Previously implemented interventions and effectiveness
- Overall academic and/or educational impact of behaviors

If it is determined that a social-emotional assessment is warranted, the School Psychologist will:

- Prepare an assessment plan and prior written notice
 - NOTE: it is important to note that the AP will be for a social-emotional assessment, not an ERMHS assessment, as we assess for a need (social-emotional need) not a service (Educationally Related Mental Health Service).

The ISE case manager will:

- Schedule an amendment IEP meeting to review the presenting concerns with the family and obtain consent to proceed with the assessment

What is a social-emotional assessment and who conducts the assessment?

A social-emotional assessment is designed to determine whether a student has a mental health need resulting in a need for direct, mental health services in order to access and benefit from his or her educational program. The assessment also helps inform IEP goals for students with ERMHS services. At Rocketship, social-emotional assessments are multi-disciplinary and involve the school psychologist, the case manager, and the ERMHS provider. In order to determine the need for services, social-emotional assessments at Rocketship will include the following components:

- Behavior/social emotional rating scales: completed by the School Psychologist with the teacher, the family and, if appropriate, with the student
- Observations: completed by the School Psychologist and/or ERMHS provider, including observations in both the classroom and during unstructured times
- Interviews: completed by the School Psychologist with the teacher(s), the student, the family, and any other relevant stakeholders
- Instructional factors: completed by the ISE specialist

Following each assessment, the ERMHS provider and the School Psychologist will meet informally before the IEP meeting to discuss results and align on recommendations to be made to the IEP team. The School Psychologist will write an evaluation report incorporating the assessment results and summarizing the assessment recommendations.

What ERMHS services might a student receive as a result of the ERMHS evaluation?

The exact services will be determined by the IEP team based on the results of the social-emotional evaluation, but the following services are all considered ERMHS services: Individual Counseling, Counseling and Guidance, Parent Counseling, Social Work Services, and Psychological Services as defined by CASEMIS. Our ERMHS providers are our Mental Health Providers at Rocketship.

How do we update progress towards IEP goals?

ERMHS providers will provide an update on student progress towards IEP goals directly to the ISE case manager before each IEP goal reporting period. The ERMHS provider will be responsible for completing the progress report update in SEIS.

Child Find Policy

Region(s): ALL

This policy applies to all Rocketship Public Schools schools in all regions.. This policy was written in compliance with relevant state and authorizer requirements in those regions.

Rocketship Public Schools provides a free, appropriate public education to students with disabilities according to state and federal mandates. To be eligible for special education services, the child must be of school age, need specially designed instruction, and meet eligibility criteria for one or more of the following disabilities as set forth in the Individuals with Disabilities Education Improvement Act (the federal law which outlines legal responsibilities related to special education):

- Autistic-like Behaviors
- Blindness/Visual Impairment
- Deaf Blindness
- Deafness/Hearing Impairment
- Emotional Disturbance
- Intellectual Disability
- Multiple Disabilities
- Orthopedic Impairment
- Other Health Impairment
- Physical Disability
- Specific Learning Disability
- Speech and Language Impairment
- Traumatic Brain Injury

Rocketship has systems in place that assist the school in determining whether a student may have a disability. These include a specific “Child Find” form that is completed by parents upon enrollment in a Rocketship school. This also includes a Student Study Team (SST), or pre-referral, process in which school teams analyze data to identify students who are struggling academically, socially, or behaviorally and develop interventions to support the student. Rocketship has additional evidence-based interventions that are made available to students who require it; these include both differentiated instruction in the

classroom and supplemental interventions in the learning lab and classroom. School teams monitor the progress of every child who receives intervention services in order to be able to identify any student who is not responding to interventions. Students who don't respond adequately to pre-referral interventions are referred for a more intensive level of support, which may include a formal evaluation to determine if the student is eligible to receive special education services as a child with a disability.

If you have a concern regarding your child's academic or social functioning, contact his or her classroom teacher, or a school leader at your school site.

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