



Autism Support 2024-2025 Program Profile

Description

The Autism Support classroom program serves students across the broad spectrum of Autism. Intense focus on the core deficit areas of autism - communication, social engagement, self-regulation, and executive functioning – is provided in the context of a variety of models designed to support students with autism. Teachers and related service providers work within an Applied Behavior Analysis framework to provide instruction in academic content and in skill areas related to the core deficits of Autism Spectrum Disorders. Students have access to both general and specialized curricula based on their individual needs. Students' individual needs for Speech Therapy and Occupational Therapy are identified in the IEP. Other related services are also available if needed to implement the IEP. An integrated related services delivery model is used to allow for a high degree of generalization of skills across people, activities and settings.

Placement Criteria

- District and consortium have exhausted LRE possibilities
- Language and functional communication impairments significantly impact behavior
- Student requires intensive interventions related to core deficits of Autism
- Behavior issues and/or mental health issues too severe for level 1 & 2 services
- May require extensive case management, including interagency coordination
- S/L and OT services must be addressed on the IEP for placement

Exit Criteria

IEP Team decision based on: consistently sufficient social skills and communication skills that allow for self-regulation; decreasing maladaptive behaviors; potential placement in alternate or more restrictive setting if progress on IEP goals not being achieved at reasonable pace

Location

Typically District classroom with access to same age peers for inclusion purposes to extent possible
Hill Top Academy may be a classroom site for more behaviorally intensive classes

Staffing

1:3-5:1 (FT) *1 teacher to 3-5 students with 1 full-time paraprofessional*
Staffing ratios may vary depending on the needs of the students in the class.
Classes exceeding 5 students may require additional staff.

Services included in tuition fee

- Intensive, direct and explicit instruction in the general or alternate curriculum based on the assessed needs of the learner
- Visual and environmental structure and support based on individual needs
- Benchmark assessments as appropriate for the individual student
- Curriculum-based assessments, including the Assessment of Basic Language and Learning Skills, the Competent Learner Repertoires Assessment, PEAK or PEAK Life PCAs, etc.
- Progress monitoring to assess progress toward IEP goals
- Access to enrollment in online courses (CAOLA) for course credit or credit recovery as per IEP team decision

IEP Services not included in tuition fee*

- Occupational Therapy services including direct service, SSP and IEP maintenance
- Physical Therapy including direct service, SSP and IEP maintenance
- Speech and language services, including direct service, SSP and IEP maintenance
- Personal Care Assistant (PCA) for behavior, self-care, or inclusion support
- Psychiatric consultation and assessment
- Unique, individualized assistive technology needs
- Transition/Vocational assessment
- Transition/Vocational Support services based on student's age, level of need, and identified post-school outcomes
- Job Coaching
- Blind & Visually Impaired support

- Specialized software programs designed to meet unique needs (Boardmaker, etc.)
 - Technology hardware and software with associated technical support
 - PSSA/PASA/Keystone administration
 - Transition planning for students ages 14-21
 - Community-based instruction
 - Comprehensive positive behavioral support planning, including Functional Behavior Assessments, functional behavioral analyses when necessary, and development of Positive Behavior Support Plans
 - Technical support from Educational Coaches
 - Social Work Programmatic Consultation to assist with interagency coordination and family access to community services
 - Nursing support to develop health plans and coordinate with host district, including mandated health screenings
 - Psychological Programmatic Consultation
 - Psychological services for evaluation/reevaluation
 - Weekly educational team meetings
 - Speech Therapy and Occupational Therapy for team meetings and training in special initiatives
 - Speech Therapist to provide additional coaching/consult to classroom staff on communication strategies for students
 - Specialized training for staff
 - Physical Education**
 - Case management
 - Program supervision
 - Interagency Coordination Consultation
- Deaf & Hard of Hearing support
 - Extended School Year (ESY) services
 - Functional Analysis

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