

San Benito County Office of Education - Regional Low Incidence Program

Deaf/Hard of Hearing Program

The Deaf/Hard of Hearing (DHH) Program serves students birth to 21 in home-based, early childhood, general education, special education and transition settings throughout many of the twelve districts within San Benito County. The DHH teacher is responsible for conducting assessments to establish eligibility for deaf/hard of hearing services and to identify programming needs for students with a hearing loss. The DHH teacher serves as a resource to all team members including parents, instructional and support staff, and students to provide unique information on a hearing loss's impact on language, communication, academic and functional skill development. Related and support services such as audiology, interpreting/transliterating, transcribing, tutoring, and note-taking are also available to students as determined by IEP Teams. Frequency-Modulated (FM) amplification is provided according to student needs. If a deaf or hard of hearing student needs alternative or more intensive services, the DHH teacher works with the County Office of residence to facilitate other placement options.

Orthopedically Impaired Program

The Orthopedically Impaired (OI) Program serves students with identified mild to severe orthopedic impairments, ages birth to 21 in home-base, early childhood, general education, special education, and transition settings throughout the twelve San Benito County districts. The OI teacher is responsible for conducting assessments to establish eligibility for services and to identify programming needs for students with physical impairments. The OI teacher serves as a resource to all team members including parents, instructional and support staff, and students to provide unique information and services to enable them to function effectively in the classroom and develop skills necessary for independence. These services include direct instruction, consultation and/or curricular modifications/adaptations. The OI teacher also assists assigned students and families in selection, acquisition or use of assistive technology devices.

Visually Impaired Program

The Visually Impaired (VI) program serves partially sighted, low vision, legally blind, and totally blind students ages birth to 21 in home-based, early childhood, general education, special education, and transition settings throughout many of the twelve San Benito County.

The VI teachers are responsible for conducting assessments to establish eligibility for services and to identify programming needs for students with visual impairments. The teacher services as a resource to all team members including parents, instructional and support staff, and students to provide unique information and services. This may include appropriate adaptations and interventions strategies to provide the student access to the curriculum. Th teacher also orders and provides adapted curriculum materials such as Braille, large print, or audio books. In addition, assistive technology is ordered and provided ranging from simple stand magnifiers to complex electronic braille to print devices. The teacher provided direct service to teach all

components of the Expanded Core Curriculum including braille, technology, independent living skills, recreation, career, transition, and social skills. The VI teacher also troubleshoots assistive technology.

Orientation & Mobility

The Orientation & Mobility (OM) Specialist provides services to students whose visual impairment interferes with their ability to move through the environment safely or to remain oriented to the environment. Students referred with an existing diagnosis of visual impairment. Students are provided instruction in techniques for walking with a guide, the use of the long cane for walking, spatial relationships, body imagery, map skills, compass skills, laterality, and community-based instruction: street crossing, route finding, use of public transportation, etc.

Braille Services

In conjunction with the VI teacher, the Braille transcriber performs braille translation and transcription of printed material and oral instructions, prepares copies of tests, study materials, textbooks, charts, and other tactile graphics for visually impaired students, and types of instructional materials, lessons, and worksheets in large type print for partially sighted students.