

ST. JOHN BOSCO HIGH SCHOOL COUNSELING DEPARTMENT

#COUNSELINGCORNER

HOW TO GET THE SUPPORT YOU NEED: A GUIDE FOR NAVIGATING NEURODIVERSITY AND THE STEP PROGRAM



Mrs. Roohan
Learning Specialist, Counselor, STEP Coordinator

NEURODIVERSITY

Similar to fingerprints, each person's brain is uniquely wired. It is essential to view the learner through the neurodiverse lens, which means we start with and move with the student's strengths and passions. When we begin to embrace the concept of neurodiversity truly, a student doesn't have to hide their disabilities or want to just be like others. As students develop and grow, the aim is that we can help them to understand and love who they are.



THE STEP PROGRAM: WHAT IS IT?

The STEP program is an LA Archdiocese program that meets the needs of students who need extra support. In STEP, the supports are called "adjustments" and the plan is called a STEP (Support Team Education Plan). In the world outside of Catholic schools, the supports are known as accommodations and the plan is generally known as a 504 plan.



THE STEP PROGRAM: WHO IS IT FOR?

STEP is an individualized learning plan with strategies and adjustments for students:

- With a diagnosed condition that impacts learning
- With a learning difference
- Who are experiencing significant academic challenges
- Who are neurodiverse, gifted, twice-exceptional (When a student displays giftedness AND a disabling condition, it is known as twice exceptional.)



THE STEP PROGRAM: PARENT FAQ

Do I need testing to start a STEP plan for my son?

No, testing is not required to start. Depending on your son's situation, it can be recommended.

My son struggles with reading or math or writing. Can he get some support through STEP?

YES!

My son has a medical condition, and the doctor says he needs _____. Can STEP help?

Let's discuss and see what can be done.

My son got extra time in past years. Can he get that?

YES, through STEP!

My son gets anxious. Can his teachers help him?

Let's talk about the triggers and come up with a STEP plan.





**WE'RE HERE TO HELP!
REACH OUT TO
MRS. ROOHAN FOR
MORE INFORMATION.**



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Learning Specialist, Counselor, STEP Coordinator
croohan@bosco.org