

What is Special Education?

Special education is the provision of specially designed instruction, services, or programs. This could mean extra help, adapted programs, learning environments, or special equipment or materials to support students with their learning and help them participate in the Least Restrictive Environment (LRE). The individual needs of a student shall be determined by a committee of special education (CSE). If a child qualifies or meets the criteria for special education services, they will be determined to be a student with a disability issued an Individualized Education Program (IEP). The IEP will include levels of performance in the following areas: academic, social, physical, and management. Areas of need may be addressed through a variety of supports and need-based goals. Goals and programming shall be reviewed annually.

Student with a disability includes the following classifications:

- 1) Autism Spectrum Disorder
- 2) Deafness
- 3) Deaf-blindness
- 4) Emotional disturbance (term being considered, emotionally disabled)
- 5) Hearing impairment
- 6) Learning disability
- 7) Intellectually disabled
- 8) Multiple disabilities
- 9) Orthopedic impairment
- 10) Other health-impairment
- 11) Speech or language impairment
- 12) Traumatic brain injury
- 13) Visual impairment

Continuum of Special Education Services for School-age students with Disabilities:

“The continuum of services identifies different service delivery models to provide specially designed instruction to a student with a disability. Some of the services such as consultant teacher and integrated co-teaching services are directly designed to support the student in his/her general education class.”

Consultant Teacher Services (CT)-- CT services are provided to a school-age student with a disability in the student's general education classes, and/or to the student's general education teachers. These services are provided by a certified special education teacher, unless the CT services are to be provided for the purpose of providing specially designed reading instruction, such instruction may be provided by a certified reading teacher qualified.

- Direct CT services means specially designed instruction provided to student(s) with a disability by a certified special education teacher, to aid the student(s) to benefit from the general education class instruction. The purpose is to adapt the content, methodology, or delivery of instruction to support the student(s) to successfully participate and progress in the general curriculum during regular instruction. Direct CT can be combined with indirect CT services.

- Indirect CT services means consultation provided by a certified special education teacher to a general education teacher. The purpose is to assist the general education teacher in adjusting the learning environment and/or modifying his/her instructional methods to meet the individual needs of a student with a disability who attends the general education class.

Resource Room Services- Resource room program is a special education program for a student with a disability who needs specialized supplementary instruction for a portion of the school day. Resource Room instruction is not provided in place of the student's regular academic instruction. An instructional group which includes students with disabilities in a resource room program cannot exceed five students per teacher.

Integrated Co-Teaching Services- Integrated co-teaching services, as defined in NYS regulation, means the provision of specially designed academic instruction provided to a group of students with disabilities and nondisabled students. This is sometimes called "Collaborative Team Teaching," and involves a class being taught by both a special education teacher and a general education teacher. In this model, both teachers share responsibility for the planning and delivering of primary instruction, as well as evaluation for all students. A maximum of 12 students with disabilities may be in such a class. There is no limit to how many general education students may be in the class. Integrated co-teaching can be an alternative to placement in a special class with the added benefit of having both a special education and a general education teacher deliver the curriculum to the student.

Special Class- Special class means a class consisting of students with disabilities who have been grouped together because of similarity of individual needs. This is a "self-contained setting," meaning that such students are receiving their primary instruction separate from their nondisabled peers. The instruction in this type of class often involves a modified curriculum. The following special class sizes are possible:

- 15:1- No more than fifteen students taught by one special education teacher. This class size is typical for students whose special education needs consist primarily of the need for specialized instruction, without social-emotional, behavioral, or other management needs.
- 12:1+1- Up to twelve students taught by one special education teacher and assisted by an additional adult to help with management needs of students.
- 8:1+1- When students' have intense management needs, and require a significant degree of individualized attention and intervention, up to eight students can be taught by one special education teacher, with one supplementary school personnel assisting.
- 6:1+1- Up to six students taught by one special education teacher and assisted by an additional adult to help with students' highly intensive management needs and a high degree of individualized attention and intervention.

Related Services- Related services assist a student in benefiting from other special education services or assist the student in accessing the general curriculum. Related services include, but are not limited to: Speech-language therapy, audiology services and/or interpreting services, physical therapy, occupational therapy, counseling services and/or psychological counseling

services, orientation and mobility service, parent counseling and training, school health services and/or school nursing services, and assistive technology services.

Additional special education services that may be recommended for students include:

Adapted Physical Education- Adapted physical education is a specially designed program of developmental activities, games, sports and rhythms suited to the interests, capacities and limitations of students with disabilities who may not safely or successfully engage in unrestricted participation in the activities of the regular physical education program.

Twelve-Month Special Service-(ESY) Twelve-month special service and/or program is a special education service and/or program provided on a year-round basis for students with disabilities determined to require a structured learning environment of up to 12 months duration to prevent substantial regression.