

Wilmington Public Schools

Special Education Programs and Services

The Wilmington Public Schools offers a continuum of specialized services from preschool to age 22. All of our programs and services are provided to meet the needs of individual learners. While general descriptions of programs are below, our staff make adjustments as needed to address individual student needs. All programs emphasize skill development and skill remediation along with the development of self-advocacy skills to promote maximum independence and responsibility for learning.

EARLY CHILDHOOD/PRESCHOOL PROGRAMS & SERVICES

EARLY CHILDHOOD SERVICES

- Pre-referral observations, consultations, and screenings
- Transition of information and needs of students from Early Intervention beginning at age 2 ½ years old
- Special Education Evaluations completed upon referral
- Consultative and direct service to meet individual needs
- Preparation and assistance with transition to elementary school programs
- Consultation with parents and staff working with children in area preschools and daycares
- Referral and consultation with other agencies providing services to young children as necessary

EARLY CHILDHOOD PROGRAMS

Boutwell and Wildwood Early Childhood Centers

Our preschool programs support children who are developing typically and children with delays across the developmental spectrum through the use of an integrated model. Each preschool class has one Lead Teacher and an educational

assistant, depending on the number of students and their learning needs. Our preschool curriculum is aligned with the Massachusetts Early Childhood Learning Guidelines and Curriculum Frameworks.

Integrated Preschool

- Related services, including speech/language therapy, occupational therapy, and physical therapy
- Ongoing support and consultation with families
- Includes community paying typical preschool openings

Strides ABA Program @Wildwood and Boutwell

- The Applied Behavioral Analysis (ABA) programs provide intensive structure and support for students whose IEP teams have determined that an intensive level of programming and structure based on ABA is necessary for the student to make progress. This program uses a variety of instructional methods guided by the principles of ABA with a focus on reinforcement systems and consistent behavior management. Data collection and careful progress monitoring determines the method of instructional practice. Skills are approached in a variety of settings in order to promote the generalization of skills. These students have severe needs and a team has determined that they require this intensive setting with a high staff to student ratio and a BCBA consultation with ABA programming.

Wilmington Public Schools

K-12 CONTINUUM OF SERVICES AND PROGRAMS

RELATED SERVICES

Wilmington Public provides individualized related services that include:

- Speech and language therapy
- Occupational therapy
- Physical therapy
- Assistive Technology
- Psychological and counseling services

- Social Work services
- Orientation and mobility services
- Vision services
- Deaf and hard of hearing services
- Adapted physical education
- Secondary transition services (i.e. activities of daily living, employability, etc.)
- Board Certified Behavior Analyst (BCBA)
- Other consultation services as needed
- Other services as needed based on students IEP

PROGRAMS

Throughout the district, Wilmington provides a continuum of programs. All Wilmington students, regardless of the nature or severity of their needs, have a right to an education in the least restrictive environment (LRE, IDEA.) The Office of Student Support Services strives to ensure equitable access and success for all students within a fully inclusive school community. Research and practice show that inclusive school communities promote students' understanding and acceptance of individual differences, empathy and compassion. We are committed to collaborating with families, general and special educators and colleagues to provide differentiated instruction, services and support that meet the needs of our students with disabilities, ages 3 through 22 years.

The chart below provides a graphic overview of this continuum at the pre-k, elementary and secondary level. A more detailed description of each program follows. Please note that enrollment and evolving student needs result in changes in programs and services as necessary.

Special Education Programming by School

Boutwell ECC	Wildwood ECC	Shawsheen	Woburn	West Intermediate	North Intermediate	Middle School	High School
Inclusion & Learning Center	Inclusion & Learning Center	Inclusion & Learning Center	Inclusion & Learning Center	Inclusion & Learning Center	Inclusion & Learning Center	Inclusion & Learning Center	Inclusion & Learning Center
		Language Based	Language Based	Language Based	Language Based	Language Based	Language Based
		Steppingstones	STAGES	Steppingstones	STAGES	Student Support & Transitions	Evolution
Strides	Strides	Strides		Strides		Strides	Strides
						Lifeskills	Lifeskills
Integrated Preschool	Integrated Preschool						Postgrad

Inclusion and Learning Center--The Inclusion program is based on the least restrictive environment, knowing that when able everyone benefits from learning alongside peers in a general education setting, given necessary special education support and services. All learners in this program are educated along with their peers with a general education teacher and a special education teacher or educational assistant to provide support. Some students may have related services and/or utilize a learning center to receive special designed instruction outside of the general education classroom as well for portions of the day. Students in this program have a variety of disabilities and can be from any disability category.

Integrated Preschool-Our Boutwell and Wildwood Early Childhood centers support children who are developing typically and children with delays across the developmental spectrum through the use of an integrated approach. Each early childhood class has one Lead Teacher (who is a special educator) and program educational assistants. The Early childhood curriculum is aligned with the Massachusetts Early childhood learning guidelines and Curriculum frameworks. Our integrated preschool provides a range of related services based on identified individualized student IEP needs.

Strides-The Applied Behavioral Analysis (ABA) programs provide intensive structure and support for students whose IEP teams have determined that an intensive level of programming and structure based on ABA methodology is necessary for the student to make progress. This program uses a variety of instructional methods guided by the principles of ABA with a focus on reinforcement systems and consistent behavior management, and skill generalization. Data collection and careful progress monitoring determines the method of instructional practice. Skills are approached in a variety of settings in order to promote the generalization of skills. These students typically have severe needs and a team has determined that they require this intensive setting with a high staff to student ratio and BCBA consultation with ABA programming. The program uses the ACE curriculum which was developed by the New England Center for Children.

Language Based- The Language Based Program is for students on an Individualized Education Plan whose team has determined that they have been identified with a Specific Learning disability in Reading, Written Language or a Communication disability that requires support to access the general education curriculum. The Language Based Learning disabilities program provides multi-modal and explicit instruction with a multi-sensory approach to support students reading, writing, listening, speaking and organizational skills in reading and written language. In all content areas, students are provided with consistent instructional methodology which is highly structured and focuses on verbal and visual modalities to support language processing and production. Study and executive functioning skills are emphasized throughout all classes. The mission of the Language Based Program is to provide students with literacy instruction in all areas impacted by their language based disability. The goal is to explicitly teach strategies that will empower students to become more independent learners. Additionally, the goal is to move students into the least restrictive environment as deemed by data support and progress monitoring. The students in this program have Individualized Education Plans that

guide the individualization of their curriculum, their services, and the skills they need to develop to progress in school and the needed skills to be academically successful. Intensive literacy and written language practice is part of this programming. The most effective strategies are used consistently over time, are coherent and simple enough to be internalized, and multi-purpose so they can be applied across content. Currently, the Wilmington Middle School and Wilmington High School Language Based programs are receiving multi year training and coaching through the Landmark Outreach PD program.

STAGES-The STAGES (Students Accessing Guidance for Emotional Support) Program is for students with identified emotional disabilities who, as a result of their disability, do not have well developed coping mechanisms or emotional regulation strategies to appropriately interact with other students and meet the academic demands of the general education classroom. Program services can range from pull out services providing direct instruction in the core curriculum to a supported full-inclusion program. The STAGES program staff are involved with all teachers and paraprofessionals working with the students across settings to monitor progress and academic performance. Staff connected with this program receive ongoing professional development and training from McLean's Hospital Anxiety Mastery Program. Students typically transition to the Transitions program at Wilmington Middle School.

Stepping Stones- Stepping Stones services students who have multiple social emotional needs and a team has determined that they require this smaller, intensive special education services, with high staff to student ratio, therapeutic component, and a highly structured day. In accordance with education in the Least Restrictive Environment student's access to inclusive opportunities in this program is dependent upon individual student progress toward IEP goals. BCBA support and consultation is provided as part of this program. Staff connected with this program receive ongoing professional development and training from McLean's Hospital Anxiety Mastery Program. Related Services may include and may be provided in this setting or in a separate setting in groups or one to one: CBT/DBT Training, Social Skills Training, Speech and Language Therapy, Physical Therapy, Occupational Therapy, Vision Services, Counseling/School Psychologist, Applied Behavior Analysis, Orientation and Mobility, Adapted Physical Education, and Deaf/Hard of Hearing Services. Students typically transition to the Student Support Program at Wilmington Middle School.

Student Support @ Wilmington Middle School-The Student Support program provides instruction in a smaller setting with additional therapeutic support for student's emotional needs and maladaptive behaviors. This program includes varied amounts of time in the inclusive setting based on the student's ability to access the curriculum. This program is targeted to provide services to students who have multiple social emotional needs and a team has determined that they require this intensive setting with high staff to student ratio, therapeutic component and a structured day. In accordance with education in the Least Restrictive Environment student's access to inclusive opportunities in this program is dependent upon individual student progress toward IEP goals. Curriculum is based on the Massachusetts Standards and the curriculum of Wilmington Public Schools. The students in this program have Individualized Education Programs that guide the individualization of their curriculum, their services, and the skills they need to develop and make progress in school. A Social Worker consults to the program and provides services to students as needed. Teaching and clinical staff receive ongoing consultation in CBT through McLean's Hospital Anxiety Mastery Program. Related Services may include and may be provided in this setting or in a separate setting in groups or one to one: CBT/DBT Training, Social Skills Training, Speech and Language Therapy, Physical Therapy, Occupational Therapy, Vision Services, Counseling/School Psychologist, Applied Behavior Analysis, Orientation and Mobility, Adapted Physical Education, and Deaf/Hard of Hearing Services

Transitions @ Wilmington Middle School-Transitions is a program for students at Wilmington Middle School. The Transitions Program is for students on an individualized education plan whose Team has determined that they require intensive support with transitions, large groups, and sensory and emotional regulation. These students present with weaknesses in social thinking, self awareness, executive functioning, and emotional and sensory regulation. Academic skills are typically average for these students, and they are able to access the inclusive classroom environment for academics. The Transitions program allows students to be fully integrated in the general education setting with support across curriculum areas and a safe place to go for support as needed. The special education program staff are available to the students as needed to help them progress in the general education setting. The special education teacher in the program consults extensively with the students' general education teachers and may attend classes with the students as needed. The mission of The Transitions Program is to provide students with intensive instruction and support as needed

for academics, organization, self regulation, social-emotional skills, and to help students access the curriculum and the life of the middle school.

Curriculum is based on the Massachusetts Standards and the curriculum of Wilmington Public Schools. The students in this program have Individualized Education Programs that guide the individualization of their curriculum, their services, and the skills they need to develop and make progress in school. A Social Worker consults to the program and provides services to students as needed. Teaching and clinical staff receive ongoing consultation in CBT through McLean's Hospital Anxiety Mastery Program. Related Services may include and may be provided in this setting or in a separate setting in groups or one to one: CBT/DBT Training, Social Skills Training, Speech and Language Therapy, Physical Therapy, Occupational Therapy, Vision Services, Counseling/School Psychologist, Applied Behavior Analysis, Orientation and Mobility, Adapted Physical Education, and Deaf/Hard of Hearing Services.

Evolution @ Wilmington High School- The Evolution program provides instruction in a smaller setting with additional support for student's emotional needs and maladaptive behaviors. The program includes varied amounts of time in the inclusive setting based on the student's ability to access the curriculum. This program is targeted to provide services to students who have multiple social emotional needs and a team has determined that they require this intensive setting with high staff to student ratio, therapeutic component and a structured day. In accordance with education in the Least Restrictive Environment student's access to inclusive opportunities in this program is dependent upon individual student progress toward IEP goals. A Social Worker consults to the program and provides services to students as needed. Teaching and clinical staff receive ongoing consultation in CBT through McLean's Hospital Anxiety Mastery Program. Related Services may include and may be provided in this setting or in a separate setting in groups or one to one: CBT/DBT Training, Social Skills Training, Speech and Language Therapy, Physical Therapy, Occupational Therapy, Vision Services, Counseling/School Psychologist, Applied Behavior Analysis, Orientation and Mobility, Adapted Physical Education, and Deaf/Hard of Hearing Services.

Life Skills-@ Wilmington Middle and High Schools The Life Skills Program teaches academics at the student's level, functional skills, transition skills, pre vocational, and vocational skills. This program may be supported by a licensed nurse if

needed for a student's medical needs. Typical student profile is a student with intellectual, neurological or medical needs that require significant modification to the grade level curriculum and a focus on functional life skills.

Post Grad-@Wilmington High School Provides experiential and educational opportunities in the areas of daily living, employment, community inclusion, recreation, leisure and real-world academic skills in order to promote a successful transition to adulthood. The program's main goal is for young adults to gain the necessary skills to become confident, independent, and integrated members of our community. This program has a full time job coach to support students' work experience. This program includes off site job training, and job placements for students within the community.

If more detail regarding services or programs is needed please contact the Office of Student Support Services, Coordinator of Special Education at 978-694-6032.