Grand Island Central School District

Plan for Special Education Services for Students with Disabilities (2026–2029)

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Received By:

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I. Nature and Scope of Special Education Programs and Services

The Grand Island Central School District offers a range of special education services for students with disabilities. Programs are planned for students upon the recommendation of the Committee on Special Education (CSE) and the review of the Board of Education.

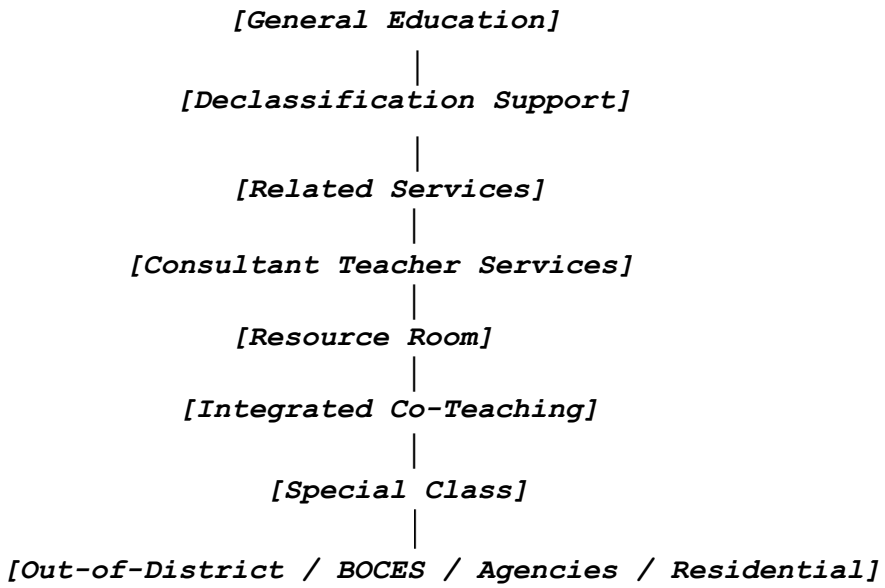
A full continuum of services is available in the **Least Restrictive Environment (LRE)**. Placements are made in district schools or schools in close proximity to Grand Island whenever possible. The district is committed to integrating children with disabilities into the general school environment based on individual student needs and readiness.

Placement Standards

When recommending special education placements, the Committee evaluates:

- Levels of academic or educational achievement and learning rates
- Levels of social development
- Levels of physical development
- Management needs of pupils in the classroom

II. Continuum of Services Overview



III. Directory of Programs and Services

Section 1: In-District Programs

Declassification Support Services

Students transitioning from a special education program to a full-time regular class placement may receive support to maintain performance. Services include psychological support, social work, speech/language improvement, or academic reinforcement. Consultation services are also available to general education teachers to assist with classroom adjustments. Program success is monitored via teacher progress reports.

Related Services

Includes speech therapy, physical therapy, occupational therapy, counseling, and other support recommended by the CSE. Frequency, duration, and location are specified on the student's IEP.

- **Grouping:** Delivered individually or in small groups (maximum 5 students).
- **Speech/Language Caseload:** Maximum of 65 students per teacher.
- **Staffing:** District-employed School Psychologists, Speech Pathologists, Social Workers, Counselors, Behavior Therapists, Hearing Teachers, and Adapted Physical Education Teachers. Occupational Therapy, Physical Therapy, and Vision Services are contracted through private providers.

Consultant Teacher Services

Provides direct or indirect support for students in full-time general education settings:

- **Direct:** Individual or group instruction by a special education teacher inside the general education classroom.
- **Indirect:** Consultation with general education teachers to modify instruction and learning environments.
- **Requirements:** Minimum of 2 hours per week per student IEP. Maximum caseload is 20 students per teacher.

Resource Room Programs

Supplements regular or special classroom instruction for students with disabilities (primarily learning disabilities).

- **Requirements:** Minimum 3 hours per week; maximum 50% of the school day.
- **Group Size:** Maximum 5 students per instructional group.
- **Caseload Caps:** 20 students at the elementary level; 25 students at the secondary level.

Integrated Co-Teaching (ICT)

Joint instruction delivered by a certified general education teacher and a special education teacher within a shared classroom setting.

- **Class Cap:** Maximum of 12 students with disabilities per ICT class.
- **Staffing:** Minimally includes 1 general education and 1 special education teacher. Supplementary staff cannot replace the special education teacher.

Special Class Instruction

Intense instructional programming in a self-contained setting. The goal is to prepare students to return to general education when appropriate.

- **Class Caps:** Maximum 15 pupils for self-contained instructional needs. Additional adult support is assigned for high management needs.
- **Age Ranges:** Maximum 36-month age span for students under 16; no age limit span for students 16 and older.
- **Classifications Served:** Autistic, Learning Disabled, Emotionally Disturbed, Other Health Impaired, or Speech Impaired.

Academic Support

Organizational and academic support taught by a Special Education Teacher or Teaching Assistant with a maximum student-to-teacher ratio of **15:1**.

Section 2: Building Program Distribution (2026–2027 School Year)

School Building	Programs Offered
Charlotte Sidway	• (2) 6:1+1 Special Class • 12:1+1 Special Class • Academic Support • Integrated Co-Teaching
Huth Road	• (2) 6:1+1 Special Class • Academic Support •Integrated Co-Teaching
William Kaegebein	• 8:1+1 Special Class • 12:1+1 Special Class • 15:1+1 Special Class • Academic Support • Integrated Co-Teaching • Resource Room
Connor Middle School	• 6:1+1 Special Class • 12:1+1 Special Class • 15:1+1 Special Class • Academic Support • Integrated Co-teaching
Grand Island High School	• 12:1+1 Special Class • 15:1+1 Special Class • Academic Support • Consultant Teacher • Integrated Co-Teaching

Section 3: Out-of-District & Community Placements

When student needs exceed local district capabilities, Grand Island contracts with regional BOCES centers:

- **Erie 1 BOCES:** 3 students
- **Orleans-Niagara BOCES:** 2 students
- **Erie 2 BOCES:** 1 student
- **Monroe 1 BOCES:** 1 student

Private Agency Placements

15 students are enrolled in specialized approved private placements:

- **Baker Victory Services:** 1 student
- **Beyond Learning Center:** 1 student
- **CHC Learning Center:** 2 students
- **Gateway Longview:** 1 student
- **St. Mary's School for the Deaf:** 2 students
- **St. Stephen's:** 2 students
- **Stanley G. Falk:** 1 student
- **Summit School:** 5 students

Additional Placements

- **Residential Placements:** 0 students
- **Homebound Instruction:** 1 student
- **Group Homes:** 2 students
- **Home Schooling:** 102 students total (including 26 receiving special education services).

IV. Program Evaluation & Administration

- **Curricular Alignment:** Special education goals are systematically aligned with district learning standards and evaluated via IEP goal achievement.
- **Stakeholder Feedback:** Multi-faceted evaluation involves feedback from building Instruction Support Teams (IST), parents, classroom teachers, special education staff, and administrators.
- **Staff Evaluations:** Professional observations follow standard APPR guidelines conducted by building and district administrators.

V. Financial Comparisons

Funding Source / Category	2024–25	2025–26	2026–27
611 Federal Grant	$729,600	$737,691	$754,407
619 Federal Grant	$9,677	$14,216	$16,486
Special Ed Per-Pupil Cost	$21,276.00	$22,283.00	*TBD*
General Ed Per-Pupil Cost	$19,596.15	$20,575.96	*TBD*

VI. Facilities Plan

The Grand Island Central School District Board of Education is dedicated to providing physical facilities and space that support special education programs. Long-term facility reviews and renovation plans are continually updated to meet the needs of all district-operated programs.

VII. Preschool Special Education (CPSE)

School districts manage special education coordination for 3- and 4-year-old children under the Committee on Preschool Special Education (CPSE).

- **Placement Services:** The district arranges evaluations and placements in state-approved preschool programs across local counties (Erie, Cattaraugus, Chautauqua, Genesee, and Wyoming).
- **Current Status:** 73 preschoolers are currently placed in 5-day (half/full day) programs.
- **Funding & Due Process:** Programs are cost-free to parents (funded via state and county) and afford procedural due process protections identical to school-age children.
- **CPSE Leadership:**
  - **CPSE Chairperson:** Angela Amato
  - **CPSE Clerk Typist:** Lisa O'Leary

VIII. District Special Education Data Profile

Multi-Year Subgroup Metrics

Metric	2023-24	2024-25	2025-26
CSE Referrals	65	57	72
CPSE Referrals	49	59	35
Special Education Students	359	383	370
Section 504 Students	226	208	227
Declassification Support Students	7	13	4
Declassified Students	11	10	9
Homeless Students receiving SpEd	4	6	4
Foster Students receiving SpEd	1	3	4
Homebound Students receiving SpEd	1	1	1
Homeschooled Students receiving SpEd	26	27	32

NYSED School District Data Profile Highlights (2024–25)

- **Total CSE Students:** 359
- **Total CPSE Students:** 79
- **Classification Rate:** 11.8%
- **Graduation Rate:** 75.76%
- **Dropout Rate:** 15.15%
- **Suspesion Rate:** (>10 Days): 1.01%