

SPECIAL EDUCATION

Welcome to Special Education!

The special education program will serve all disabled children, designated by the Building Planning and Placement Team as requiring special education and related services. Children in the program have a wide range of disabilities. All children are assigned to their regular classroom and receive the special education and related services as defined by the student's Individualized Educational Plan (IEP). The special education teacher and/or related service provider consults with the general education teacher regarding educational strategies for students as well as performing a diagnostic function. Some student may receive all or most of their major academic instruction in the resource program. Emphasis is placed on the development of language skills and compensatory strategies, which allow the child to access the general education curriculum.

Hearing-impaired resource rooms are available at McKinley, Fairfield Woods, Tomlinson and Fairfield High schools.

A full-time teacher of the Visually Handicapped employed by Fairfield Public Schools serves students.

Guided Learning

Guided learning is a special education program with a strong behavior management component. It provides a structured, supportive environment designed to assist student in the improvement of academic skills, while fostering appropriate social/emotional development. A critical element is a close home-school relationship. Each child has an individually designed program, and counseling is often an integral part. The goal is for each student to develop the necessary skills to successfully return to the general education program.

Special Education Team Program

The Team/Adjusted Learning Center serve students who have moderate to severe needs requiring very intensive services. The program includes children with significant learning, language, cognitive and/or motor delays. The curriculum content includes academic subjects, communication skills, daily living skills, behavior management strategies, perceptual training, motor development, and social development.

Early Childhood Center

The program serves a wide range of disabled pre-school children requiring special education. The program goals are:

- To provide intensive early interventions in the language, cognitive, motor, play, and self-help domains.
- To provide developmentally appropriate motor, language, social and cognitive activities. A heavy emphasis will be placed on integrating motor and language development. Typical nursery school children are integrated throughout the day into each classroom in a reverse mainstream program called "Just Kids".

Program for Alternative Learning (PAL)

The main objective is to provide an appropriate program for special education students with a variety of needs whom, due to a variety of factors, are unable to access special education within the larger school environment. The program offers a placement for students returning from more restricted out of town facilities as well.

PAL offers a full academic program that can lead to a high school diploma. The curriculum is designed to be practical and relative to the student's everyday experience. Daily counseling sessions and evening parent counseling are an integral part of the program. Students can gain credit by participation in a work experience program.

Students are recommended from public middle and high schools through Building Planning and Placement Team meetings (PPT) and then placed through Central Planning and Placement Team meetings.

PTA page located here; www.Fairfieldsepta.org