

**The Individuals with Disabilities Education Act (IDEA) assures disabled students an equal opportunity for a free appropriate public education. A diversity of special education services, highly qualified professionals and well-equipped classrooms are provided by Medina Independent School District to meet the assurances of IDEA.**

**Students ages 3 through 21 who qualify for special education with disabilities such as:**

- **Emotional Disturbance**
- **Learning Disabilities**
- **Intellectual Disabilities**
- **Other Health Impairments**
- **Physical Impairments**
- **Speech or language disorders**
- **Visual or hearing impairments (birth to 22)**

**A child-centered process is used to find an appropriate program for a student in Special Education. This assures placing each student in an educational program which will afford each one the best educational opportunity.**

**When a child appears to need educational assistance, an Educational Team meets to consider the best plan to address the student's needs. The Educational Team may recommend varied interventions or an assessment by the Special Education Department. A licensed psychologist, educational diagnosticians, a speech pathologist, and other related service providers staff the Special Education Department.**

**Testing is completed on referred students to determine if a disability and an educational need exist. The information gathered during testing helps the school staff and parents make the best possible educational plan for the student.**

**An Admissions, Review and Dismissal (ARD) Committee meets to develop an Individual Education Program (IEP) for each eligible student. The completed IEP is carried out by Medina ISD staff in the Least Restrictive Environment (LRE).**

The Medina Independent School District provides a continuum of special education offerings ranging from full inclusion to specialized classroom instruction. These services include, but are not limited to:

### **The Learning Continuum**

- \* Students may remain in the general education classroom all day with assistance as needed from a special education teacher/instructional assistant.
- \* Students identified as having a speech impairment are served during the school day by a speech/language pathologist.
- \* Students may report to a special education classroom less than 50 % of the time or be served by one or more special education teachers for more than 50% of the time, if needed.
- \* Students 16 years or older may receive on-the-job training under the supervision of a vocational adjustment coordinator or job coach.
- \* Students with visual impairments receive instruction in the use of advanced technology and in social skills while attending general education or special education classes.
- \* Students with auditory impairments receive instruction while attending general education or special education classes.

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- **Adapted Physical Education**

Adapted Physical Education is a diversified and systematic program of developmental activities, exercises, games, sports, and rhythms that are designed in the psychomotor domain. The program is organized and presented in a sequential and developmental manner that is geared to the needs, limitations and abilities of each individual student.

- **Assistive Technology Program**

The Assistive Technology Program helps students be more independent in their surroundings.

- **Autism Program**

The Autism Program recognizes the unique needs of students with autism and related disorders. Educational programs are based upon current research and documented effective teaching practices for students with autism.

- **Community-Based Vocational Training**

Training sites in the community are utilized to implement Individual Educational Plan (IEP) objectives relating to employment skills.

- **Extended School Year (ESY)**

ESY provides services to students during vacation breaks so that they can continue working on Individualized Education Program goals and objectives.

<http://www.tea.state.tx.us/special.ed/resources/esy.pdf>

- **Homebound**

Homebound provides certified teachers for one-to-one instruction in the student's home. Lessons and exams are provided by the student's classroom teacher(s) to ensure that similar content is provided.

- **Inclusion**

To the extent that they will benefit, eligible special education students are included with their age-appropriate peers. Many programs are available to these students. Both general education and special education teaching staff have received training in making modifications and adaptations for learning differences.

- **Life Skills**

The Life Skills program serves students with moderate to severe disabilities and stresses functional skills in the community, recreation-leisure, vocational and family domains. The program's goal is full integration into the activities of the student's age-appropriate school and community.

- **Local Curriculum**

Locally developed classes for students who are unable to participate in grade level TEKS courses. These classes are taught by special education teachers.

- **Occupational Therapy (OT)**

Occupational therapists working in the schools provide an array of services designed to enable students to benefit from an IEP or 504 Plan.

- **Orientation and Mobility Training (O & M)**

Orientation and Mobility Training for students with visual impairments who need to safely move around the school and community.

- **Physical Therapy (PT)**

Physical Therapy provides services to students from a broad continuum of support options. The therapist primarily looks at mobility and positioning issues, as well as gross motor skills.

- **Preschool Program for Children with Disabilities (PPCD)**

The Preschool Program for Children with Disabilities provides early childhood education for disabled students, ages 3-5, in neighborhood schools and some community based settings.

- **Program for Students with Auditory Impairments**

These services are provided for students who are deaf or have an auditory impairment.

- **Special Education Counseling**

Special Education Counseling provides a comprehensive guidance and counseling program for Special Education students.

- **Special Olympics**

Medina ISD participates in Special Olympics annually. Students ages 8-22 are eligible to participate following the guidelines of Special Olympics. Coaches at several campuses work with the students to prepare them for the spring games.

- **Transition**

A service to assist students in making a successful transition from public school to adult living.

- **Visual Impairment**

This program works to prepare students with visual impairments for their roles as independently functioning, productive members of society.

**If you suspect that your child has special needs, help is available. Contact the Medina I.S.D. Special Education Department.**