

Questions About Special Education

How are students identified for Special Education services?

Teachers monitor students in their classroom who may require special education services and then meet with the Student Supports Services Specialist who will then advise the classroom teacher to begin the referral process or to not refer but continue with general classroom instruction and supports. Students may also be identified as requiring special education services through incident reports, medical documentation, school meetings, referrals from the guidance counselor or mental health therapist, outside agency referrals or requests from parents and guardians.

What happens if my child is referred?

If your child is referred, teachers will clearly describe your child's strengths and challenges through observations, work samples or other forms of evaluation. Teachers are also encouraged to document strategies that they previously tried to support student challenges before completing a referral form.

Referrals form are then sent to the Student Supports Services specialist who will then meet with the parents or guardians for written permission to begin special education services. Services may include academic testing, classroom observation and recommendations or support from other specialists such as an educational psychologist, speech and language pathologist, physiotherapist, occupational therapist or other professionals.

If the school based team determines that your child qualifies for special education services, a qualified special education teacher and professional support staff are responsible for your child's Individual Education Plan (IEP) and program delivery. An educational assistant may also become part of the support plan for your child.

What is an Individual Education Plan or IEP?

An Individual Education Plan is a program plan that outlines the specific goals and objectives that the school-based team develops to improve the educational results of your child. Parents and guardians are encouraged to participate in IEP planning meetings to share their knowledge and wisdom of their child.

What is a Resource Room?

A resource room is a separate classroom in the school where some students who require special education services attend to receive direct and specialized instruction from a qualified special education teacher.

How long will my child attend the Resource Room?

Depending on a child's needs, some children will attend the resource room for short periods or longer depending on how they progress in their educational plan.

What happens if my child is found eligible for special education, but I do not agree?

If your child is found eligible for special education services and you disagree with that decision, or if you do not want your child to receive special education and related services, you have the right to decline these services for your child. The school may provide your child with special education and related services only if you agree. Also, you may cancel special education and related services for your child at any time.

It is important to note, however, that if you decline or cancel special education services for your child and later change your mind, the evaluation process may have to be repeated.

Who can I contact for more information?

You are encouraged to contact Brian Zimmer at the Student Support Services Office at (306) 922-7530 for further information and if you have additional questions.