



A Parent's Guide to Special Education at Canton Local Schools

**Working Together
for our Students with Disabilities**

Welcome to Special Programs & Services

Special Services represents a variety of student support programs and services focused on success for all students. The philosophy of the school district provides the foundation for programming and services to our students. Helping students make a good adjustment to school life, bringing families and schools together, and supporting students with individual needs is the focus of our each of our special service programs. Special Services programs operate in each of the schools within our school district. We provide services to students ranging from age three to age 21. Special services staff members include teachers, aides, counselors, nurses, therapists, psychologists, interpreters, van drivers, administrative assistants, and other specialists.

Educational Disability Categories

A description of each disability category may be provided to you at the time of planning for the evaluation/reevaluation and/or at the time of determining educational eligibility.

Autism (AU)	Intellectual Disability (ID)	Deafness
Specific Learning Disability (SLD)	Emotional Disturbance (ED)	
Speech or Language Impairment (S/L)	Hearing Impairment (HI)	
Deaf-Blindness	Other Health Impairment (OHI)	
Multiple Disabilities (MD)	Traumatic Brain Injury (TBI)	
Visual Impairment (VI)	Orthopedic Impairment (OI)	
Developmental Disability (Preschool Only)		

Who is a Case-Manager?

The Case Manager is the professional responsible for your child's IEP. This will be an Intervention Specialist, Individual-Small Group Instructor (ISG), or a Speech-Language Pathologist. This person takes the lead when drafting and/or amending your child's IEP.

Alphabet Soup of Special Education

ETR: Evaluation Team Report

IEP: Individualized Education Program

BIP: Behavior Intervention Plan

FAPE: Free Appropriate Public Education

FBA: Functional Behavior Assessment

LRE: Least Restrictive Environment

SWD: Student with a Disability

AT: Assistive Technology

EI: Early Intervention

IDEA: The Individuals with Disabilities Education Act

IEE: Independent Educational Evaluation

SDI: Specially-Designed Instruction

Questions & Answers

What should I do if I have concerns regarding my child's classroom performance and/or IEP?

If you have concerns regarding a specific classroom performance, the first step is to go directly to that teacher. If concerns are related to the IEP, you will want to contact your child's IEP case-manager. (Your child's IEP case manager sends an introduction letter so you know who to specifically contact.) At any point you may also ask to reconvene the IEP team to discuss concerns. If you feel that your concerns are still not being addressed, your next step is to talk to the building principal and then the Director of Special Services. Ultimately, our goal is to work together to address any concerns that you may have as a parent regarding the education of your child.

What happens when my child is identified with a disability?

Once the evaluation team (including you!) has determined that your child meets the definition of having an educational disability requiring specially designed instruction, a draft Individualized Education Program (IEP) will be written. The IEP team (including you!) will convene to review the draft IEP, which will include reviewing strengths of your child and also addressing goals and services to address areas of deficit.

What happens when I bring in a medical and/or psychological report for the team?

Our District welcomes any information that you may wish to share with the team to best educate your child. It is important to note that in the educational setting, we do not "diagnose" as does the medical setting. In the educational setting, we determine an educational eligibility and services/supports to address that area within the educational setting. It is a legal requirement that the team take into consideration a medical and/or psychological report, but it is not required that the team implement what is stated within the report. The ultimate goal is to work collaboratively to develop a plan that best meets the needs of the child.

What if my child's IEP progress report indicates that he/she is not making progress?

If your child is not making progress on IEP goals, the IEP team will reconvene an IEP meeting to discuss the current goals and services on the IEP. At this meeting, the team will discuss if additional supports may need to be added and/or if supports need to be changed. The ultimate goal of the IEP team discussion is to problem-solve so that the student begins making progress in order to demonstrate growth and close the gap.

How can I be more involved in my child's education and IEP?

Your input and collaboration is key in the education of your child! As an active member of the IEP team, it is important that you provide input into each IEP by communicating with your child's teacher and completing any surveys that may be sent home. Throughout the year, be sure to discuss with your child's teacher(s) how you may specifically be more educationally involved within their classrooms with your child!

Parent Resources



State Support Team Region 9 (www.sst9.org)

Our region's State Support Team is an excellent resource for both parents and educators. Be sure to visit their website frequently for information. Please consider participating in the events below!

Parent Support Coordinator Program

Deb Bates is a great resource for families! She serves as a Parent Support Coordinator to develop effective partnerships with families who have children with disabilities and their school districts. Services available for families include: ETR and IEP Process Technical Support, free special education series, resources, and annual conference. Deb also will attend IEP meetings to support collaboration between parents and district personnel. Deb may be reached at Debbie.Bates@email.sparcc.org or 330.492.8136 ext. 1552.

OCALI (<http://www.ocali.org/center/family>)

The Family Center at OCALI connects families to the information they need regarding services, supports, training and resources, including the free OCALI Lending Library. It offers training and products to help families and to support agencies serving them. On the third Thursday of every month, OCALI also offers a Family Online Learning Series.

Canton Local: Continuum of Services

Canton Local Schools offers a continuum of services for our students with disabilities in order for IEP teams to determine the "least restrictive environment(s)" (LRE) to best meet the needs of our students. Determining the LRE is a decision of the IEP team and is data-driven. Our ultimate goal for our students is to maximize student growth and to close the achievement gap.

All students are general education students first!

Related Services

IEP teams may make data-driven decisions that require students with disabilities to receive related services in order to receive a Free Appropriate Public Education. Examples of related services provided to students with disabilities in Canton Local Schools include the following:

Speech-Language Therapy	Occupational Therapy	Physical Therapy	Clinical Counseling
Nursing Services	Aide Services	Vision Support	Orientation & Mobility

Tips for Parents

- Never lower your expectations for your child! Research shows that if we set high expectations for our students, they will reach them!
- Establish homework routines (e.g., specific place to complete work away from distractions, specific time to complete work, visual timer, breaks, etc.!)
- Show interest in your child's school work! It's important for children to know that their parents and teachers are working together as a team!
- Be patient, maintain a sense of humor, be flexible, and stay positive!
- Celebrate the little things!
- Read with your child!
- When reading with your child, stop throughout and ask reflective questions!
- Assist your child with organizational strategies that can be used both at home and school!
- Encourage your child to ask questions if he/she does not understand content, directions, etc.!
- Encourage your child to be a self-advocate!
- You know your child best and are his/her biggest advocate!
Take care of yourself!
- Have fun!



Contact Us:

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Visit our website to learn more about our programs and services!

<http://www.cantonlocal.org/special-services.html>

Our Mission:

The mission of the Canton Local School District is to develop graduates who excel at innovation, communication, performance, leadership and service.

Our Vision:

Our students will impact and inspire the global society by creating positive change and solutions with integrity and a spirit of community service.