



Special Education Programs & Services



The Chartiers-Houston School District provides support for students with a wide range of educational needs. The majority of our students are educated in the general education classroom. Some students may need more extensive support which can be offered through Chartiers-Houston School District's special education programs and services.

The Chartiers-Houston School District, in conjunction with Intermediate Unit 1 and other contracted services and agencies, provide special education services for children identified as having special needs. The need for special education services is based upon data gathered by a multi-disciplinary team and reviewed by an Individual Education Planning (IEP) Team. Parents/Guardians of a child recommended for special education are involved throughout the screening and evaluation process, as well as in the development of an individual education program for their child.

Classes are provided for learning disabled, emotionally disabled and mentally challenged students at their home schools. Classes for other special education programs are located in nearby school districts, with transportation provided by the Chartiers-Houston School District.

Speech, hearing, and vision therapists work on an individual and small group basis with children who have identified speech, hearing and/or vision problems that interfere with learning. Likewise, physical and occupational therapy are provided as recommended by the Individual Education Planning Team to support the child's IEP.

School psychologists are available through the Intermediate Unit 1 and independent contractors. Upon the request of a building principal, these psychologists, as members of the multi-disciplinary team, assist in the analysis of student data and make recommendations concerning placement and/or services

Inclusive Practices

Special Education is a service, not a place. The Chartiers-Houston School District supports the implementation of inclusive practices, with the necessary supplementary aids and services to access the general education curriculum. These services are brought to the child, rather than sending the child out of the general education classroom to receive special education services. Students who need more intensive services access the special education programs.

Learning Support

Learning support services are provided to students who demonstrate a disability in understanding or in using language (spoken or written), reading, writing, and/or mathematics. Accommodations and modifications may be provided in the general education classroom. Students who need more intensive services may receive academic support within the learning support program.

Life Skills Support

The Life Skills Support Program provides specially designed instruction to students whose needs are functional academics, self-care, social skills, language development, communication, and perceptual motor skills. Students who participate in the life skills program are also included in the general education curriculum whenever appropriate based upon their level of need. In addition, these students participate in community-based instruction activities.

Speech/Language Support

Students who demonstrate a need in articulation, fluency, language and auditory processing development, and voice receive speech and language support. The Speech Teacher works closely with the classroom teachers to assist with any communication barriers that may be present. Students are scheduled for individual and/or small group sessions according to age as well as the type and severity of the disorder.

Secondary Transition

Secondary transition is the process of preparing students for life after graduating from high school, including participation in post-secondary education or training, employment, and community living. Transition planning begins at age 14; typically in middle school or early high school, as students explore what they want their post-school outcomes to be. This is done through career awareness exploration activities. Transition planning involves a partnership between the student, the family, school-age services, post-school services, and local community service providers.

Intermediate Unit 1 Services

Hearing Support Program and Services

Hearing Support Services are provided to students who qualify for hearing services due to impairment in hearing, whether permanent or fluctuating, that adversely affects a child's educational performance. A child who meets criteria for deafness demonstrates a hearing impairment so severe that the child is impaired in processing linguistic information through hearing, with or without amplification. The Hearing Teacher works closely with the classroom teachers to best assist with accommodating for child's needs. Hearing Support can also be provided as a related service.

Social Work Services

Social Work services are provided to students who are in need of social skill development. The Social Worker will meet with the student either individually or with a group. Sessions focus on the need of the individual(s) and may include some of the following; role playing, appropriate social interaction, and /or discussion of topic(s) deemed necessary. This is provided as a related service.

Vision Support Program and Services

A visual impairment, including blindness, indicates the impairment, even with correction, adversely affects a child's educational progress and performance. The term includes both partial sight and blindness. The Vision Teacher works closely with the classroom teachers to best assist with developing necessary visual accommodations in all aspects of the child's educational environment. Vision Support can also be provided as a related service.

Occupational Therapy

Occupational therapy focuses on the functional performance of the student in educationally relevant activities, such as self-help, sensory, fine motor and postural skills. Individual and/or small group therapy sessions as well as consultative services are provided according to student need. This is provided as a related service or it can be provided through a Chapter 15 Service Agreement.

Physical Therapy

Physical therapy focuses on the natural opportunities for students to develop motor competence, balance and coordination in routine educational activities. This is provided as a related service or it can be provided through a Chapter 15 Service Agreement.