

Special Education

Individual with Disabilities Education Improvement Act (IDEIA 2004) is a federal law that assures that Special Education is specially designed instruction which meets the unique needs of the special needs students. Related services may also be provided to allow the student to benefit from education services. These may include transportation, speech and language therapy, psychological services, physical therapy, occupational therapy, adapted physical education and assistive technology. Students who qualify are those who demonstrate a **significant developmental delay** due to traumatic brain injury, orthopedic impairment, hearing impairment, mental retardation, communication disorders, emotional disturbance, specific learning disability, autism, visual impairment, or other health impairment.

Special Education programs provide the student with education in the "least restrictive environment." This means that the student will, when appropriate, be educated within the general education setting with the necessary supplementary aids and services. The programs available for special needs students in Sutherlin School District include:

- **Regular education programs** - students are included in the general education setting for the majority of their day and receive direct and related services from special education staff.
- **Resource room programs** - students receive basic skills instruction from special education staff in a resource room setting in addition to being included in the general education program.
- **Regional programs** - students receive services from regional programs. This may be from a Douglas Education Service District program which serves students from other districts in the county or it may be from a Douglas Education Service District employee as a consultant to the district special and general education staff.
- **Life skills programs** - students receive intensive instruction in specialized classroom programs from a special education teacher. Minimal inclusion in general education programs for music, library, PE, or other areas as deemed appropriate by the student's IEP team is provided.

An Individual Education Program (IEP) is developed for all students who are eligible for Special Education. The IEP is developed by a team which includes parents, professionals, and sometimes the student. At least once a year the student's IEP and placement is reviewed and revised with parent participation.

Each school is staffed with two special education teachers and has a team of paraprofessionals that are working under the direction of a special education teacher. Each school also has a counselor and a speech pathologist to assist in meeting the needs of special education students.

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| EAST PRIMARY SCHOOL | 459-2912 | Mari Hess and Carrie Scallon |
| WEST INTERMEDIATE SCHOOL | 459-3688 | Christy Bryan and Linda Franklin |
| SUTHERLIN MIDDLE SCHOOL | 459-2668 | John Bailey and Cathy Flora |
| SUTHERLIN HIGH SCHOOL | 459-9551 | Sheri Esterbrook and Matt Parrish |
| EVALUATION SPECIALIST | 459-2668 | Mike Westlake |

For information regarding questions about special education please contact your student's school or the Student Services Director, Patti Lovemark, at the district office (459-2228).