

Appendix N

Special Education Services Descriptions

School-based Service Delivery Model

Speech and Language Services

Speech and language services diagnose communication disorders; improve spoken language skills; facilitate compensatory skills; and enhance the development of language, vocabulary, and expressive communication skills to support student access to the curriculum. The type and frequency of services provided are determined by individual student needs. For students with less intensive needs, educational strategies are provided to the student's general education teachers and parents/guardians for implementation within the classroom and home environments. Students may receive services in their classroom environment, small groups, or individually. Prekindergarten (pre-K) students requiring extensive services attend a class program, two or five days per week.

Elementary Home School Model (HSM)

Elementary HSM services are provided in all Montgomery County Public Schools (MCPS) elementary schools. HSM services are delivered primarily in the general education setting where students receive specially designed instruction with their nondisabled peers. Access to academic and behavioral interventions are provided in the least restrictive environment (LRE) inside and outside of the general education classroom based on the individual needs of each student. Specially designed instruction is delivered by general education teachers in collaboration with special education teachers and paraeducators through the implementation of coteaching and supported service delivery models.

Secondary Learning and Academic Disabilities (LAD) Services

Secondary LAD services are provided in all MCPS middle and high schools. LAD services are delivered primarily in the general education setting where students receive specially designed instruction with their nondisabled peers. Access to academic and behavioral interventions are provided in the LRE inside and outside of the general education classroom based on the individual needs of each student. Specially designed instruction is delivered by the general education teachers in collaboration with special education teachers and paraeducators through the implementation of co-teaching and supported service delivery models.

Transition Services

Transition services are provided to students receiving special education services, age 14 or older, to facilitate a smooth transition from school to postsecondary activities. These activities include, but are not limited to, postsecondary education, workforce experiences, continuing and adult education, adult services, independent living, and/or community participation. Services are based on the individual student's needs, and consider the student's strengths, preferences, and interests. Transition services are delivered through direct and/or indirect support coordinated by a transition support teacher.

Regionally-based Service Delivery Model

Elementary Learning Center (ELC)

ELCs are regional special education services that provide specialized, scaffolded instruction in core academic areas for students in kindergarten through Grade 5 with global academic needs and delays in social and/or behavioral development and executive functioning. Students receiving these services in the elementary ELC may be identified as representing a variety of disabilities. Specially designed instruction and evidence-based interventions are provided in the core academic areas and are delivered in a special education classroom setting with opportunities for inclusion in the general education environment.

Learning for Independence (LFI) Services

LFI services are designed for students in kindergarten through age 21 with significant cognitive disabilities pursuing alternate learning outcomes (ALOs) aligned with the Maryland Alternate Academic Achievement Standards. Students participate in Real World Learning in the school and community settings with opportunities to participate in instructional experiences with their nondisabled peers.

School/Community-based (SCB) Services

SCB services are designed for students in kindergarten through age 21 with significant cognitive disabilities and/or multiple disabilities who demonstrate significant needs in the areas of communication, personal management, behavior, and socialization. Students are pursuing ALOs aligned with the Maryland Alternate Academic Achievement standards. Students participate in Real World Learning the classroom, school, and community with opportunities for instructional experiences with their nondisabled peers.

Montgomery County Infants and Toddlers Program (MCITP)

MCITP offers early intervention services to assist parents/caregivers of children between birth and the start of the school year following the fourth birthday with their efforts to address their child's developmental and special needs. Upon eligibility assessment, each family is assigned to one of MCITP's five regional sites in Montgomery County. Then, each family works with the team to define the priorities, learn about available resources, and discuss the child's strengths and needs.

Early intervention services are provided in the child's natural environment (home and community settings where a child is during the day). Services are based on each individual child and parent/caregiver's needs and may include services such as specialized instruction, speech/language therapy, occupational and/or physical therapy, and family counseling.

Preschool Education Program (PEP) (Classic, Collaboration, Inclusive, PILOT, Intensive Needs, Full-Day, Medically Fragile and Itinerant Services)

PEP offers pre-K classes and services for children with disabilities ages 3–5. PEP serves children with delays in multiple developmental domains that impact the child's ability to learn. The continuum of services includes an itinerant model for children in community-based child care settings and preschools, an inclusive model in selected MCPS general education pre-K classes, and self-contained classes. Classes are provided for children who need a comprehensive approach to their learning.

Prekindergarten Language Classes

Pre-K language classes serve students ages 3 until kindergarten, with delays in receptive and/or expressive language that affect their ability to communicate and learn in typical preschool environments. Speech and language support and related services are provided in a two-day per week developmentally appropriate class or five days per week in an early childhood classroom setting with some inclusive opportunities with nondisabled peers. The purpose of these services is to build students' oral language for successful communication and to develop early learning skills in preparation for kindergarten. Selected elementary schools offer these services to support one or more administrative areas.

Prekindergarten Physical Disabilities Classes

Pre-K students with physical disabilities receive services in a variety of pre-K settings. Students with physical disabilities which significantly impact educational performance are served in half-day programs with nondisabled peers in early childhood settings at Forest Knolls and Judith A. Resnik elementary schools with a limited number of those students continuing into kindergarten at the two schools due to unique circumstances.

Autism Spectrum Disorders Services

The Comprehensive Autism Preschool Program (CAPP) provides highly intensive and individualized services for students ages 3–5 who require a full-day of evidence-based instructional practices and behavioral support. The service focuses to increasing language, learning and adaptive skills to ultimately provide access to a variety of school-aged services, and to maximize independence in all domains.

Autism Services serves students in kindergarten through age 21, providing access to ALOs aligned with the Maryland Alternate Academic Achievement Standards. Students receive Applied Behavior Analysis intensive instruction in a highly structured setting to improve learning and communication with opportunities for inclusion with nondisabled peers. Students participate in Real World Learning and transition services at the secondary level.

Secondary Autism Resource Services

Secondary Autism Resource Services, located in three middle and three high schools, are designed for students with Autism Spectrum Disorders who are working toward a high school diploma and have difficulty mastering grade-level curriculum. Students receive instruction through a range of options to include self-contained classrooms and opportunities for instruction in the general education environment with opportunities for enrichment.

Autism Connections Services

Autism Connections Services, formerly Asperger's services, are designed for students who are accessing the general education curriculum at or above grade level and require specialized instruction to address social and/or executive functioning needs. Students receive instruction in a continuum of settings to include self-contained classrooms and opportunities for inclusion in the general education environment and participate in enrichment and acceleration as needed.

Augmentative and Alternative Communication (AAC)

The Augmentative and Alternative Communication classrooms provide intensive support for students in kindergarten through Grade 2 who are nonverbal or have limited speech with severe intelligibility issues. Students learn to use and expand their knowledge of augmentative communication devices and other forms of aided communication to access the general education curriculum. Emphasis is on the use of alternative communication systems to enhance language development, vocabulary development, and expressive communication skills. Services and supports are often provided within the general education environment to the greatest extent possible.

Social Emotional Special Education Services (SESES)

SESES are provided to students who demonstrate significant social emotional learning, and/or behavioral difficulties that adversely impact their school success. Students in kindergarten through Grade 12 are served in a continuum of settings that may include the general education environment through self-contained classes with opportunities for participation in general education classes with nondisabled peers as appropriate.

Extensions Services

Extensions services are designed for students in kindergarten through age 21 with significant cognitive disabilities, multiple disabilities, and/or Autism who demonstrate self-injurious and/or disruptive behaviors and are in need of specially designed instruction in the areas of communication and social skills, while accessing instruction aligned with the Maryland Alternate Academic Achievement Standards.

Bridge Services

Bridge Services support students in Grades 6–12 who demonstrate significant social emotional learning, and/or behavioral challenges that make it difficult for them to succeed in a comprehensive school environment. Many students require social and emotional support to access their academic program. Comprehensive behavior management strategies such as proactive teaching and rehearsal of social skills and the use of structured and consistent reinforcement systems are hallmarks of this service. Services are provided in a continuum of settings that may include separate classes and opportunities for participation in general education classes with nondisabled peers as appropriate.

Twice Exceptional Services

Twice Exceptional Services support students who demonstrate superior cognitive ability in at least one area and typically have challenges with production, particularly in the area of written expression. Twice exceptional services provide students in kindergarten through Grade 12 with specialized instruction that facilitate appropriate access to rigorous instructional experiences in the LRE through a continuum of services. Students may have access to instruction in enriched and accelerated courses.

Longview School

The Longview School, collocated with Spark M. Matsunaga Elementary School, provides services to students ages 5–21 with severe to profound intellectual disabilities and multiple disabilities pursuing ALOs aligned with the Maryland Alternate Academic Achievement Standards. Students participate in Real World Learning in the school and community settings to develop skills in the areas of communication, mobility, self-help, functional academics, and transition services.

Stephen Knolls School

The Stephen Knolls School provides services to students ages 5–21 with severe to profound intellectual disabilities and multiple disabilities pursuing ALOs aligned with the Maryland Alternate Academic Achievement Standards. Students participate in Real World Learning in the school and community settings to develop skills in the areas of communication, mobility, self-help, functional academics, and transition services.

Carl Sandburg Learning Center

Carl Sandburg Learning Center, collocated with Maryvale Elementary School, is a special education school that serves students in Grades kindergarten–5 with intellectual disabilities, Autism Spectrum Disorder, or multiple disabilities. Services are designed for elementary students who need a highly structured setting, small student-to-teacher ratio, and access to the Maryland College and Career Ready or Maryland Alternate Academic Achievement Standards. Emphasis is placed on the development of language, academic, and social skills provided through an in class transdisciplinary model of service delivery in which all staff members implement the recommendations of related service providers. Special emphasis is placed on meeting the sensory and motor needs of students in the classroom setting. Services also may include a behavior management system, psychological consultation, and crisis intervention.

Rock Terrace School

Rock Terrace School, collocated in Tilden Middle School, is a special education school that serves students in Grade 6 through Age 21 with intellectual disabilities, Autism Spectrum Disorder, or multiple disabilities. Students pursue instruction in the Maryland College and Career Ready Standards or ALOs aligned to the Maryland Alternate Academic Achievement Standards. Students participate in Real World Instruction and employment experiences with the goal of preparing students for post-secondary college, career, independent living, and/or community participation.

Countywide Service Delivery Model

Low incidence services are based in central locations and serve students from the entire county. In some cases, the services are provided regionally when the level of incidence increases.

Services for the Visually Impaired

Vision services are provided to students with significant visual impairments or blindness. Services enable students to develop effective compensatory skills and provide them with access to the general education environment.

A pre-k class prepares children who are blind or have low vision for entry into kindergarten. Itinerant vision services are provided to school-aged students in their neighborhood schools or other assigned schools. Skills taught include visual utilization, vision efficiency, reading and writing using Braille, and the use of assistive technology. Students may receive orientation and mobility instruction to help them navigate their environment. Students over the age of 14 receive specialized transition support as appropriate.

Deaf and Hard of Hearing Services

Deaf and Hard of Hearing (D/HOH) services provide comprehensive educational support to students who are deaf or have a significant hearing loss. These services, provided by itinerant teachers, enable students to develop effective language and communication skills necessary to access the general education environment in their neighborhood schools or other assigned schools. Students with more significant needs receive services in special centrally located classes. Services are provided in three communication options—oral/aural, total communication, and cued speech. Assistive technology and consultation also are provided to students and school staff members.

Physical Disabilities Services

Physical Disabilities Services include occupational, physical therapy, as well as consultation and training in assistive technology for students with disabilities, from birth through age 21. Services are provided as part of an Individualized Family Service Plan (IFSP) or Individualized Education Program (IEP) ensuring that students with physical disabilities have access to the MCPS curriculum in the LRE.

MAJOR SERVICES

Occupational and Physical Therapy Services

Occupational and physical therapy services are provided to qualified students in MCITP through the IFSP or through the IEP for students in special education. Following evaluation and review by an IEP team, consultation and direct occupational and/or physical therapy related services are provided to eligible students. Kindergarten through high school students who qualify are served in MCPS comprehensive schools and separate public day schools. Pre-K students with physical disabilities receive services in a variety of pre-K settings. Students with physical disabilities which significantly impact educational performance are served in half-day programs with nondisabled peers in early childhood settings at Forest Knolls and Judith A. Resnik elementary schools with a limited number of those students continuing into kindergarten at the two schools due to unique circumstances.

Assistive Technology Services

Interdisciplinary Augmentative Communication and Technology Team (InterACT)

InterACT provides assistive technology services for students from birth–age 21 who are severely limited in verbal expression or written communication skills, due to physical disabilities. Services are provided in the natural environment for children birth–age 3, or in the elementary, middle, or high school instructional setting for pre-k through age 21.

High Incidence Accessible Technology Team (HIAT)

Consultation and training in assistive technology and Universal Design for Learning (UDL) are provided by HIAT, a collaborative team that applies the principles of UDL to support school teams to meet the needs of all students to build the capacity of classroom environments to incorporate technology options for all students. Through HIAT, technical support and training to school teams on assistive technology and UDL are offered to promote the achievement of curricular outcomes for staff members and parents/caregivers as they access technology and UDL resources.

John L. Gildner Regional Institute for Children and Adolescents (RICA)

The John A. Gildner Regional Institute for Children and Adolescents (RICA), in collaboration with the Maryland Department of Health, provides appropriate educational and treatment services to Grades 5–12 students and their families through highly structured, intensive special education services with therapy integrated in a day and residential treatment facility. An interdisciplinary treatment team, consisting of school, clinical, residential, and related service providers develops the student's total educational plan and monitors progress. Consulting psychiatrists, a full-time pediatrician, and a school community health nurse also are on staff. RICA offers fully accredited special education services which emphasize rigorous academic and vocational/occupational opportunities; day and residential treatment; and individual, group, and family therapy. The RICA program promotes acquisition of grade and age-appropriate social and emotional skills and allows students to access the general education curriculum.