

Special Education Programs and Services for Children with Disabilities

Ohio School Districts are required to provide free appropriate educational services to all children in their school district, ages 3 through 21, who are determined to have a disability. Special education programs and services are provided by trained personnel in the following areas of disability as defined by federal and state law: cognitive disability, deaf-blindness, deafness, hearing impairment, emotional disturbance, multiple disabilities, orthopedic impairment, other health impairments, specific learning disability, autism, speech or language impairment, traumatic brain injury, and visual impairment.

Each student identified with a disability receives special education services designed to meet his or her individual needs. An Individualized Education Program (IEP) is developed for each child identified with a disability by a team of trained professionals that includes regular and special education teachers and support staff, as well as parents, students and a district representative. This IEP guides the child's special education services. Each special education student's progress is reviewed at least yearly and his/her need for special services is reassessed at a minimum of every three years. Instruction is carried out both in the general education and special education settings, and students are served in the least restrictive environment.

Support Services are often required to assist a child with a disability. Services include, but are not limited to, the following:

- Occupational Therapy (OT) Services: Focuses on sensory integration, coordination of movement, and on fine motor and self-help skills that adversely effect educational performance.
- Physical Therapy (PT) Services: Focuses on gross motor skills that adversely effect education performance.
- Speech and Language Services: Speech and language pathologist assigned to work with students that have communication difficulties that adversely effect educational performance. The speech and language pathologist can diagnose, evaluate and treat communication problems such as articulation, language, voice and fluency.

Brookville Local Schools offers a continuum of program options for students with a disability allowed by the Individuals with Disabilities Education Act (IDEA) and the Ohio Department of Education. We are committed to providing all children with opportunities to benefit from a free and appropriate public education.

A Resource Guide for Parents titled, Whose IDEA Is This? provides further information about special education services in Ohio.

Brookville's Student Services Department is committed to providing high quality, comprehensive support services to meet the unique learning and emotional needs of all students with disabilities. For more information regarding special education programs and services, please contact Chelsea Hoelze, Director of Student Services, at (937) 833-6419.