

*What is **Special Education**?*

Who benefits from these services?

Special education is specifically designed instruction, at no cost to the parents, to meet the unique needs of an eligible child. This includes specially designed instruction conducted in schools, homes, and other settings.

Special education encompasses programming and services which may include occupational therapy, speech and language therapy, school social work, and physical therapy. Consultative therapies from professionals with specific certifications in Autism Spectrum Disorder, visual, and/or hearing impairments are also given consideration when developing programs for children.

Not all special education students receive every service. Services are based on the eligibility of the student along with each student's individual needs. Grandville Public Schools is committed to providing appropriate programming for all students.

To learn more about a specific program in this pamphlet, please contact the Special Education Department at (616) 254-6768.



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GRANDVILLE PUBLIC
SCHOOLS

SPECIAL EDUCATION



All children are unique. They learn and grow in different ways. At times, children need extra help in an area or areas of their learning. This assistance allows children to reach their greatest potential. Through various special education programs, Grandville Public Schools is able to give all children the assistance they need to grow as learners.

OVERVIEW OF GRANDVILLE PUBLIC SCHOOLS' SPECIAL EDUCATION PROGRAMS

EARLY CHILDHOOD SPECIAL EDUCATION (ECSE)



The Early Childhood Special Education program (formerly known as PPI) is designed to meet the needs of preschool-aged children (3-5 years old) who have developmental delays. Eligibility for this free program is determined through a special education evaluation process.

K-12 CLASSROOMS

Grandville provides a full continuum of classroom support services for students who experience mild to moderate learning difficulties. Resource Room classrooms are for students who require less support through special education. There are also cross-categorical self-contained classroom programs for students requiring intensive support through special education.

AUTISM SPECTRUM DISORDER:

Grandville operates the Region III K-12 classroom continuum for students who qualify with an autism spectrum disorder. There are three elementary classrooms, one middle school classroom, and one high school classroom.

OUT-OF-DISTRICT CLASSROOM PROGRAMS:

A full range of services is available for students (ages 0-25) who experience moderate to profound impairments through Region III programs and the Kent Intermediate School District programs.

STUDENTS PLACED IN CENTER & REGIONAL PROGRAMS:

The various programs serve students with physical, mental, and/or emotional disabilities. The special education multidisciplinary evaluation team (MET) process recommends eligibility for placement to the Individual Educational Planning Team (IEPT). The IEPT determines eligibility for center and regional program placement in cooperation with parents.

REGION III SECONDARY TRANSITION PROGRAM:

Grandville Public Schools houses the Region III Secondary Transition Program for students who are at least 18 years old and who meet established criteria for the program. Application must be made annually and must be done through a referral process. This program is designed for students who may be in transition to another higher level or to a work setting.

THE FOLLOWING SPECIAL EDUCATION PROGRAMS AND/OR SERVICES ARE AVAILABLE TO GPS STUDENTS:

School Psychology: The school psychologist conducts comprehensive evaluations on students who experience learning or behavioral difficulties. Written parent permission is required. The evaluation results are discussed with parents & staff at an Individualized Educational Planning Team (IEPT) meeting.

School Social Work: School social workers provide individualized or small group counseling to students experiencing learning or behavioral adjustment problems. Parental consent is required when students need ongoing counseling.

Speech & Occupational Therapy: Therapists evaluate students who may require individual or small group speech or occupational therapy. After the evaluation, an IEPT meeting is held to determine if a student is eligible for service.

Physical Therapy: Therapy is provided through Kent Intermediate School District at Grandville.

Homebound Instruction: Occasions arise when a student is unable to attend school due to medical/health issues. Homebound instruction is provided to help students progress in their school work to the extent their health & ability will allow. The service is not intended to replace classroom education, but rather to support the student until he/she is able to return on a full or part time basis. Students are eligible for homebound instruction if a licensed physician certifies the existence of a severe medical condition that requires a student to remain at home. Services are coordinated at the building level through a building administrator.

Call (616) 254-6768