

Special Education Services Descriptors

Below are broad descriptions of special education services and supports that are currently offered within Winnetka Public Schools. Special Education services include instruction that is provided by a special education teacher, related services that are provided by specific specialists, and accommodations/supports that are provided by teaching associates.

Special Education services are delivered within the general education setting and outside of the general education setting. It is the goal of Winnetka Public Schools to provide services within the general education classroom to the greatest extent possible. [Research](#) supports that inclusionary practices benefit all learners.

Associate Supported Classroom

Teaching associates are present in a number of our classrooms to support specific students as indicated on the student's individual education plans. Associates may also offer assistance to any student in the classroom who may need some guidance. The goal is to provide additional adult support to the full classroom. Some students may have a one to one associate for specific medical or safety needs. These associates are primarily supporting the one student, but can also offer assistance to other students at times.

Direct Instruction (in targeted areas of deficit)

This instruction is specific to areas in which students are not performing at grade level. Areas targeted include reading, writing, math, executive functioning.

- Pull out - refers to instruction that is occurring within a special education classroom.
- Push in - refers to instruction that is occurring within the general education setting.

Resource

This term refers to a shorter class period in which students work with their special education teacher within the special education classroom to pre-teach, re-teach, review or work on specific IEP goals.

SEL Resource

SEL Resource is similar to the resource period outlined above, yet includes the presence of a social worker during some of the resource periods. Most students within the SEL resource setting require specific support in the area of social-emotional learning.

Co-teaching

Co-teaching is one of the teaching models offered within our integrated service delivery model. Co-teaching refers to the presence of two teachers within the classroom; a general education teacher and a special education teacher. Co-teaching occurs in a variety of formats including:

- Full day co-teaching format: The special education teacher is present in the classroom for the full day. All students have access to both teachers throughout the school day.
- Partial day co-teaching format: The special education teacher is present for the majority of the day, but may also be assisting in other classrooms during a portion of the school day.
- Content specific co-teaching format: The special education teacher is present for a specific content area (elementary) or a part of the full class period (middle school) for specific core content classes. Content area support is most often in the areas of language arts and mathematics.

Flexible Service Delivery

Flexible service delivery is a combination of teaching models. The special education teacher may co-teach for a full class period, a portion of a class period, incorporate modifications to curriculum as outlined on students' IEPs, or may transition between two classrooms to offer direct support to a greater number of students. This format is most often utilized in the middle schools, and enables the special education teachers to target their support to the students' needs on a given school day.

Replacement Curriculum

Replacement Curriculum refers to curriculum that is more than 2 years below grade level. Replacement curriculum is most often implemented outside of the general education classroom and is individualized to each student who may be within the special education classroom. Replacement curriculum is offered in all core content areas with inclusionary opportunities as appropriate.

Related Services

Related services are services provided by specific specialists. These services can be offered within the general education setting and outside of the general education setting.

Related services include:

- Speech Therapy
- Occupational Therapy
- Physical Therapy
- Social Work
- Adapted Physical Education
- Vision Itinerant Services
- Hearing Itinerant Services
- Orientation and Mobility Services
- Assistive Technology Services