



Special Education

FAQs





What Special Ed Programs Does QPS Offer?



QPS Special Education Programs

- STARS (Students Together Achieve Real Success)

- Substantially separate program
- For K-8 students who have special needs relating to social, emotional, or behavioral functioning



- CARES (Children Achieve Real Educational Success)

- Substantially separate program
- Language-based program
- For K-8 students with developmental disorders relating to speech/communication (e.g., ASD)



QPS Special Ed Programs, cont'd

- GOALS

- For middle and high school students deemed “at risk”
- Teaches behavior management, coping skills
- Seeks to help students transition back into regular school environment



- Language Development Class Program

- Substantially separate program
- Grades 1-12
- For students with language delays that prevent participation in general education setting



QPS Special Ed Programs, cont'd

- Learning Center Program
 - Substantially Separate
 - Elementary, Middle, and High School Students w/cognitive, intellectual, or neurological impairments
 - Development of vocational, academic, and social skills
- Transitional Learning Center
 - For pre-K students who are not academically ready for kindergarten
 - Fosters development of academic and social skills





What Does “Substantially Separate” Mean?



“Substantially Separate”

- AKA “self-contained classroom”
- Separate from general education setting
- Teaches academic, social, and daily living skills
 - Academic - Reading, Writing, Math, etc.
 - Social - Making friends, taking turns, following directions
 - Daily Living - Washing hands, dressing self
- Instructors usually use Applied Behavioral Analysis (ABA) methods to teach
- Students may receive services such as speech, occupational, and physical therapy





What Does “Least Restrictive Setting” Mean?



“Least Restrictive Setting”

Federal law requires that students with disabilities (SwD) receive an education with their non-disabled peers to the maximum extent possible.

- “Mainstreaming” - Placing SwD in classroom with non-disabled peers for ongoing activities, depending on their capabilities (e.g., SwD may attend art or phys ed w/non-disabled peers but spends rest of the day in a special ed class)
- “Integration” - SwD is fully included in school’s “regular” classes and activities (Can participate in “regular” academic class if curriculum is modified and support is provided)
- “Full Inclusion” - SwD is a member of “regular” class and is not assigned to additional special ed class (but may be pulled out of class to receive services such as speech therapy, etc.)



What Is Applied Behavioral Analysis (ABA)?



What is ABA Therapy?

ABA Therapy is an instructional method that uses a combination of positive reinforcement and consequences to either encourage or discourage behaviors. It is often used with children who have autism spectrum disorder (ASD), but can be used to treat other conditions as well.





What is the difference between an IEP and a
504 Plan?



Individualized Education Plan (IEP)

- Covers only students who qualify for special education (must fall into 1 of 13 categories listed in IDEA Act)
- K-12 only
- Usually has more procedural protections
 - School is required to inform parents, in writing, of their rights
 - Parents have right to participate in creation of IEP, must receive written notice before school changes it
 - Provides for independent evaluation if you disagree with school's assessment
- Usually provides more “hands-on” services
 - Speech/occupational therapy
 - Direct tutoring
 - Extra time to complete assignments

504 Plan

- Covers more disabilities than IEP Plan - only need to show that child's disability "substantially limits a major life activity," for example:
 - ADHD
 - Trauma/PTSD
 - Anxiety & Bipolar Disorder
 - Emotional Disturbance
 - Asthma
 - Food allergies
- Provides accommodations so student can participate in school setting to fullest extent
- Available for college students as well as K-12
- Fewer direct services available
- Fewer procedural protections



What Support Does QPS Offer Parents of Special Education Students?



Quincy Parent Advisory Council (QPAC)

- State-mandated group of caregivers who work with teachers, administrators, and the school committee
- Host monthly meetings to provide tips/advice and support caregivers of children with special needs
- Provide opportunities to learn about Special Education laws and regulations
- Provide resources available to help children succeed