

Okaloosa County School District

ESE Department

Placement and Program Options

Placement options and programs available in Okaloosa County are based on the State's definitions of Exceptional Students Instruction and Inclusion outlined in 1003.57 of the Florida Statutes and are determined by IEP Teams which include parents, students, teachers, services providers and others with knowledge of the student.

The District uses the term "**Inclusion**" to mean

- a student is receiving education in a general education regular class setting, reflecting natural proportions and age-appropriate heterogeneous groups in core academic and elective or special areas within the school community;
- a student with a disability is a valued member of the classroom and school community;
- the teachers and administrators support universal education and have knowledge and support available to enable them to effectively teach all children; and
- a teacher is provided access to technical assistance in best practices, instructional methods, and supports tailored to the student's needs based on current research.

"Regular Class" means a class in which a student spends 80 percent or more of the school week with nondisabled peers. Students who have this level of placement on their IEPs may require minimal services (ie: Support Facilitation) and/or periodic consultation between the school professionals.

"Resource Room" means a classroom in which a student spends between 40 percent to 80 percent of the school week with nondisabled peers. Students who have this level of placement on their IEPs may require direct ESE instruction in academic or behavioral skill building throughout their school week, but continue to participate in their education through general education classes.

“Separate Class” means a class in which a student spends less than 40 percent of the school week with nondisabled peers. Students who have this level of placement on their IEPs may require direct ESE instruction in academic or behavioral skill building throughout their school day, but continue to participate in general education academic and “specials” classes (ie: Art, Music, PE) or at the secondary levels, electives of interest, as appropriate. In Okaloosa County, Separate class options include:

- **Communication/Behavior/Socialization (CBS):** provides supports and services for students with pragmatic language needs and social deficits which impact behavior and academic progress.
- **Emotional/Behavioral Disability (EBD):** provides supports and services for students with internal or external emotional deficits which impact behavior and academic progress.
- **Varying Exceptionalities (VE):** provides supports and services for students with significant cognitive disabilities which impact content and rate of academic progress.

“Exceptional Student Education Center” or **“Special Day School”** means a separate public school at which nondisabled peers are not enrolled. Silver Sands School is available for students who reside in the South and Central attendance zones, while Richbourg School serves students in the Crestview, Baker, and Laurel Hill areas of the District.

Another educational option is **“Other Separate Environment”**, which means a separate private school, residential facility, or the hospital/homebound delivery of services, as recommended by a Florida-licensed physician.

If you have questions, please call the ESE Department at (850) 833-3164.

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