

Mother of Divine Grace School Special Services Questions & Answers

Do I need to sign up for Special Services?

When should I sign up for Special Services?

Any student that is not producing written (writing and reading comprehension) work on his own that is within two grade levels of his chronological grade OR does not have reasonable success with math and cannot complete math work within two grade levels without assistance is encouraged to sign up for special services.

Issues that may cause the work to fall behind the two grade levels are: emotional, allergy or health problems, high functioning autism, aspergers, PDD, non-verbal learning disorders, dyslexia, severe ADD, ADHD and deafness.

Any child with low functioning autism, severe seizures, Down syndrome or any form of educable mental retardation or traumatic brain injury is encouraged to sign up for special services.

If the student is currently within two grade levels, but is slowed by learning issues (bipolar, OCD, allergies, meningitis, etc.) that will prevent them from working at normal speeds or completing a year's work within a year (5 courses is standard) then he is encouraged to sign up for special services.

If it is unlikely that the student (grade 7 and higher) will be able to meet the regular California graduation requirements he is encouraged to sign up for special services.

Are there any other reasons to sign up for Special Services?

Any time that a student is having great difficulty in completing a school year within a year (5 courses is standard) you may want to consider special services to allow your knowledgeable consultant access to our Special Services Mentors to help her modify the curriculum for the student.

Any student who is college bound and has vision problems, memory recall issues or mild ADD may want to enroll in Special Services to aid the student in receiving additional services at college (colleges will want documentation that the student had a special services designation in high school).

If you have concerns or unsure of your child's level, sign up for special services and submit a writing sample or consider taking a test at www.kidtest.com and submit the results to us. We will help you determine whether Special Services are right for the child and what level of help will be appropriate.

What level of service do I need?

Your previous experience will determine what level of service you will need. If you have had success and are confident in teaching your child who needs special services then it is likely that you will only need LEVEL 1 service. This will give you access to specialized assessments and put you with a knowledgeable consultant who has access to our special services mentors. Your consultant will help you to be creative with assignments, pinpoint crucial areas to focus on academically during crisis times give you academic support and some specialized assistance. Please note that your consultant may require the student to change to Level 2 in order to remain enrolled in the school if she judges that more help is needed.

If you are not certain about how to approach setting up a program, you may want to sign up for Level 2. In addition to all of the services of level one, you receive a one-time conference call with your consultant and the special services mentor. If you need more help setting up the child's program you should consider LEVEL 2 service.

Please keep in mind that the severity of the learning issue does not necessarily mean that you need more service. Sometimes the student with a minor learning issue can take much more work and planning than a student with a more severe learning issue. Please keep this in mind when signing up for your special services. The level of service is based on the amount of help you need in setting up the program, not the severity of the learning issue.