

A LOOK AT SPECIAL EDUCATION WARREN TOWNSHIP SCHOOL DISTRICT

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Matthew Mingle, Ed.D.
Superintendent

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Director, Special Services

OUR MISSION

The mission of the Warren Township School District in partnership with family and community is to provide an environment where each child is valued and experiences the challenge and excitement of learning.

How does a student get referred?

1. Faculty members use many strategies to help students improve their academic performance. When a student either loses ground or does not show growth, a teacher may refer the student to the school's Intervention & Referral Services (I&RS).

2. I&RS (Intervention & Referral Services) is a multi-disciplinary team which may include the principal, guidance counselors, teachers, nurse, Child Study Team members, and other school personnel. The I&RS committee discusses and recommends additional strategies. The parents are informed.

3. Anyone who has an educational or parental responsibility for a child can make a referral to the Warren Township Department of Special Services Child Study Team by notifying the Director in writing.

Mrs. Molly Lange, Ed.S., Coordinator
Anti-Bullying and Section 504

Americans With Disability Act (ADA), Section 504
ADA-504 provides equal opportunity services for non-classified students.

What are the steps in the evaluation process?

STEP 1 – A student is referred for evaluation by a parent, teacher, I&RS Committee or principal. The reasons for the referral are stated, along with any documentation of interventions.

STEP 2 – Determination is made by an IEP (Individual Educational Plan) Team composed of the child study team, parents, and teachers as to whether an evaluation should take place. If so, the IEP Team determines what assessments should be made.

The Child Study Team (CST) is composed of:

- a. **The Social Worker** who reviews the student's family background and his/her development.
- b. **The School Psychologist** who evaluates the emotional, social and intellectual functioning.
- c. **The Learning Disabilities Teacher- Consultant (LDT-C)** who focuses on the student's academic profile.
- d. **Speech & Language, Physical, and Occupational Therapists** are also available for evaluations, if necessary.

At any time during the process of evaluation or after the child is classified, a parent can elect to either stop the process or refuse to accept the services. The school system works with the parents to reach agreement on a suitable option.

STEP 3 – The findings are compiled and a meeting is held to determine eligibility. If the child is eligible, an Individual Educational Plan (IEP) is developed. This is reviewed at least yearly.



What happens when a student is classified?

After the IEP is completed and all parties are in agreement, then the IEP is implemented. Special education teachers and other staff members are responsible for carrying out the student's program. The Case Manager, who is a CST member, coordinates the IEP and the student's program.

Placement Options

1. **In-class Resource Program (ICRP)** – Instruction provided by a special education teacher within the child's regular class.
2. **Pull-Out Replacement Resource Program (PRRP)**– a replacement of a subject(s) outside of the regular education class.
3. **Supplementary Aids & Services (SAS)**. These may include an aide, prompting, cueing, reinforcement, organizing materials and activities, data collection, consultation and positive behavioral supports in the general education classroom.
4. **Special Program Placements** – In and out of district placements in specialized programs.
5. **Preschool Program** – an integrated preschool program for eligible 3-5 year old that provides preschool children with a disability an opportunity to be educated with their typical peers.

What are the related services in the district?

Related services are those services that are necessary for the student to benefit from special education programs. Examples include:

- Occupational Therapy
- Physical Therapy (contracted)
- Counseling
- Speech and Language Services

Who are the personnel in the department?

Supervisor of Special Education

Pre-School Administrator

Melissa Smolenski

Child Study Team Members

School Psychologists:

Katherine Cimei
Parsad Gandhi
Rebecca Hartman, Psy.D.
Edward Lee
Beatrice Schwarzkopf, Psy.D.

LDT-C's

Erica Bell
Jacqueline Fattell
Carlyn O'Regan
Linda Yu

School Social Workers:

Sara Callahan
Jaclyn Cohen
Marylin Orejuela

Speech/Language Specialists

Julie Costa
Jennifer McMahon
Emily Niclas
Ashley Papcun
Nicole Runfola
Allison Reu

Related Services

Behavior Specialist

Rebecca Hartman, Psy.D.*

Occupational Therapists:

Michele Barbagallo
Alison Hales, OT.D.
Sarah McCarthy

CST Office Staff

Annette Glorius
Maria Wiecek

GUIDANCE COUNSELORS

Elementary Schools:

Woodland: Alexandra Pranzo
ALT: Kelly Blessing-Maire
Mt. Horeb: Kelly Stankiewicz, Ph.D.
Central: Alyssa Pech

Middle School (Grades 6 to 8):

Jenna Rotella
Lauren Systo
Helen Scully

Student Assistance Counselor (SAC):

Jaclyn Cohen

Parenting Information

Warren Township Schools Special Education Advisory Group (SEPAG) is our special education parent advisory group. The email contact is: warrentsepag@gmail.com

Project Child Find

Melissa Smolenski, Administrator
Children who may have disabilities and are not yet of school age may be eligible for program support. The NJ Department of Health serves youngsters less than 3 years of age and Warren helps children between 3 and 5 years of age.

Where can I get more information?

The Special Services Department maintains a library, in addition to the material in the Warren Township Public Library. The NJ Department of Education publishes two important pamphlets that are available through the Department of Special Services:

Parental Rights in Special Education (PRISE)
N.J. Administrative Code 6:14