Program Overview

Special Education Support (Educational Support)

Special Education in the Fox Chapel Area School District offers a wide-spectrum of services. Students may receive specially designed instruction in academic skills, social skills or functional skills from an educational support department teacher in a general education classroom which may also be a co-taught environment, a resource room or in the community. Students may also receive academic tutoring and testing in subjects for which they are included by reporting to a support center during QRT or within their respective classes. Through the Life Skills Program, students can become involved in community-based instruction. Transition services are also provided and implemented through a student’s Individualized Education Program (IEP).

Educational Support Staff

- 2 Full Time Life Skills Teachers
- 1 Full Time Transition Coordinator
- 1 Full Time Educational Support Facilitator
- 5 Full Time Learning Support Teachers
- 1 Full Time Emotional Support Teacher
- 14 Paraprofessionals

Academic and Social Opportunities

Best Buddies International
Unified Bocce/Unified Track & Field
Bender Leadership Academy
Social Thinking Groups
Partnership with CMU-Decision Makers Curriculum & Electronic Portfolio
CCAC Dual Enrollment - PASS Program
Goodwill Good STEPS

Work-Based Learning both Paid & Unpaid (Highlighting Grace Meals Kitchens, Lauri Ann West Community Center and O’Hara Township)

Agency Partnerships – facilitating OID, OBH, & OVR partnerships & hosting transition planning meetings w/case managers, independent supports coordinators, vocational rehabilitation counselors

Resources

Timothy Mahoney
Director of Special Education & Pupil Services
Timothy_Mahoney@fcasd.edu

Disabilities Rights Network
www.drnpa.org 1-800-692-7443

Bureau of Special Education Consultline, A Parent Helpline 1-800-692-7258

Parent Education & Advocacy Leadership Center (PEAL)
www.pealcenter.org 1-866-950-1040

Educational Support Department

Fox Chapel Area High School
611 Field Club Road
Pittsburgh, Pa 15238
Michele Fischer, Department Chair
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Dr. Stacie Dojonovic, Transition Coordinator
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What We Stand For

Mission
The Fox Chapel Area School District exists to maximize student learning, achievement, and development.

Vision
The Fox Chapel Area School District will be recognized as one of the top-performing public school districts in the nation.

Toward that end we will:
• Challenge each student to reach his/her maximum potential level of achievement.
• Provide scholarly experiences that deepen understanding, creativity, critical thinking, problem-solving, innovation, and collaboration.
• Provide an environment that promotes inclusiveness and embraces diversity.
• Foster a culture that encourages student involvement in the community and raises awareness of civic responsibilities.
• Build relationships with postsecondary institutions, businesses, and industry to create and sustain programs that prepare students to excel beyond high school.

Department Accolades
• Selected as a 2019 National Banner Unified Champion School by Special Olympics (1st school from Allegheny County & 8th in Pennsylvania to receive this honor)
• Only school in Pennsylvania & one of 34 schools nationwide to be named to the Special Olympics - ESPN Honor Roll for 2019
• A Student within the Life Skills Program was chosen to be part of a national advertising campaign for Aerie
• 100% of graduates are employed or attending post-secondary education or training programs upon graduation
• Strong partnerships with OVR, OID and OBH to ensure successful transition to adult life
• Transition Coordinator who is Past-President of the International Division on Career Development and Transition and currently serving as Associate Executive Director

Education ABCs

- ADA - Americans With Disabilities Act
- AT - Assistive Technology
- CBA - Curriculum-Based Assessment
- CBI - Community-Based Instruction
- ER - Evaluation Report
- ESY - Extended School Year
- FAPE - Free Appropriate Public Education
- FBA - Functional Behavioral Assessment
- FERPA - Family Educational Rights & Privacy Act
- IDEA - Individuals with Disabilities Education Act
- IEP - Individualized Education Program
- LEA - Local Educational Agency
- LRE - Least Restrictive Environment
- MA - Medical Assistance
- NOREP - Notice of Recommended Educational Placement
- O & M - Orientation & Mobility
- OBH - Office of Behavioral Health
- OID - Office of Intellectual Disabilities
- OT - Occupational Therapy
- OVR - Office of Vocational Rehabilitation
- PBSP - Positive Behavior Support Plan
- PDE - PA Department of Education
- PT - Physical Therapy
- RR - Reevaluation Report
- SDI - Specially Designed Instruction
- SWPBS - School-wide Positive Behavior Supports
- WBL - Work-based Learning