

Huntsville Independent School District

Special EDUCATION

Special Education/504 Yearly Report

Director of Special Education
Stephanie Dominique, PhD
November 19, 2026



SPECIAL EDUCATION DEPARTMENT'S *Vision*

EQUITY IN ACTION
We champion fairness and access so every student can thrive.

INCLUSION BY DESIGN
We build learning environments where everyone belongs.

ONE TEAM, EVERY STUDENT
We collaborate with purpose to support every learner.

LIMITLESS POSSIBILITIES
We empower students to dream, achieve, and shape their future.

Every Student. One Team. Limitless Possibilities.

HUNTSVILLE ISD | SPECIAL EDUCATION

HUNTSVILLE ISD | SPED & SECTION 504

District Enrollment Trends • 2023–24 to 2025–26

2023–24

Special Education

14.7%

Section 504

8.8%

2024–25

Special Education

17.9%

Section 504

8%

2025–26

Special Education

18.4%

Section 504

7.86%

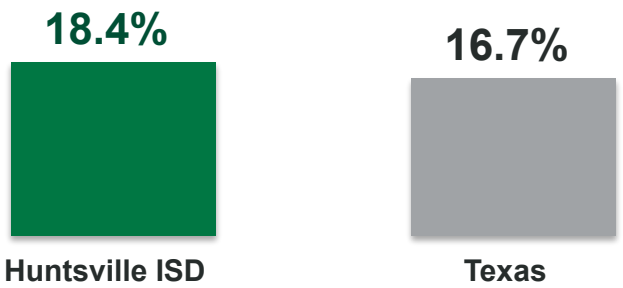
Source: txschools.gov; TEA, Enrollment in Texas Public Schools, 2025–26 (Fall 2025 PEIMS Snapshot). *Includes TOPS

SPED & SECTION 504 Enrollment Comparison

Huntsville ISD vs. Texas Statewide

SPECIAL EDUCATION

Percentage of Total Enrollment



18.4% vs. 16.7%

+1.69 percentage points above Texas

SECTION 504

Percentage of Total Enrollment



7.86% vs. 6.5%

+1.36 percentage points above Texas

Sources: txschools.gov; TEA, Enrollment in Texas Public Schools, 2025–26 (Fall 2025 PEIMS Snapshot). *Includes TOPS

SPECIAL EDUCATION | EVALUATIONS & ARD ACTIVITY

2025–26 full year compared with 2026–27 year-to-date (as of October 26, 2026)

REPORTING PERIOD	Initial Evaluations	Reevaluations	ECI Evaluations	Private School Evaluations	Total ARDs
2025–26 FULL YEAR	288	204	14	19	2,482
2026–27 YEAR TO DATE	111	51	10	5	614

SPED Continuum of Services & Program Placement

	ECSE	Inclusion	Resource	Life Skills	BSC	18+
HES		✓	✓	✓		
SJE		✓	✓	✓		
STE	3-year-olds ✓	✓	✓	✓		
SWHE	4-year-olds ✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	
MPMS		✓	✓	✓	✓	
HHS		✓	✓	✓	✓	✓

Continuum of Special Education Services

Huntsville ISD | An overview of individualized supports

LEAST RESTRICTIVE ENVIRONMENT → **MOST RESTRICTIVE ENVIRONMENT**

INCLUSION

Learning Together

Services and supports within the general education setting.

RESOURCE

Targeted Support

Specialized instruction for part of the day, alongside general education.

LIFE SKILLS

Functional Learning

Individualized instruction emphasizing functional academics and independence.

BSC

Behavior Support

Intensive, structured behavioral and social-emotional support.

Placement is determined by the ARD committee based on each student's individual needs, with services provided in the least restrictive appropriate environment.

SPECIAL EDUCATION | STAFFING SNAPSHOT

Huntsville ISD • Board of Trustees • October 2026

DEPARTMENT VACANCIES 12

ARD Facilitator	1
Diagnosticians	2
School Psychologists	2
Occupational Therapist	1
Speech-Language Pathologists	3
SLP Assistants	3

CAMPUS VACANCIES 7

Teachers	4
Instructional Assistants	3

Campus vacancies include both certified and instructional support roles.

CURRENT CONTRACT STAFF **Department 11** **Campus 4 teachers**

Contract staffing is shown separately and does not establish one-to-one coverage of each vacancy.



SPECIAL EDUCATION

DEPARTMENT

NEED TO KNOW

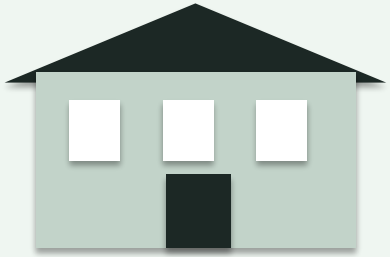
Every Student. One Team. Limitless Possibilities.

HUNTSVILLE ISD | SPECIAL EDUCATION

SPECIAL EDUCATION FUNDING | OLD VS. NEW

A visual comparison of how Texas determines special education funding

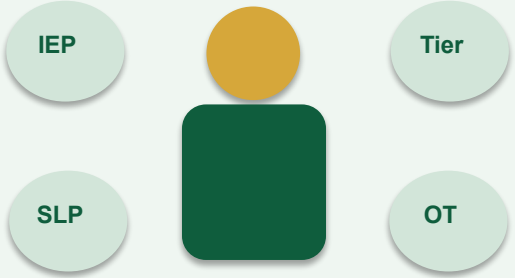
OLD MODEL • INSTRUCTIONAL SETTING



WHERE instruction takes place

Funding tied to instructional arrangement, setting and time

NEW MODEL • SERVICE INTENSITY



WHAT services the student needs

8 intensity tiers + 5 supplemental service groups

2026–27 TRANSITION: Both models reported • New service-intensity model guides future funding

BOARD TAKEAWAY | Accurate IEP services, minutes, and tier reporting are critical.

Source: Texas Education Agency special education funding guidance. Graphic is conceptual, not a funding formula.

SPECIAL EDUCATION SERVICE INTENSITY

2026–27 | October 8 preliminary 50% submission | Board of Trustees

506
Records reviewed

147
Zero daily minutes

351
Fewer than 60 minutes

Reported daily special education minutes



BOARD TAKEAWAY 69.4% of preliminary records report fewer than 60 setting minutes.

Setting minutes do not necessarily represent all IEP services. Next: validate minutes and tiers.

HISD IMPLEMENTATION PRIORITIES

Student needs drive services. Reliable documentation supports accurate reporting.

01

IEP ACCURACY

Document individualized instruction, related services, frequency, duration, and supports.

02

STAFF READINESS

Prepare ARD teams and service providers for updated reporting requirements.

03

DATA VALIDATION

Review service records, minutes, service groups, and tier classifications before submission.



BOARD TAKEAWAY | Consistent IEP documentation and reliable service data are critical.

SPECIAL EDUCATION | COMPLIANCE MILESTONE

From Corrective Action to Compliance

SPPI 11a & 11b • Evaluation Timelines

3+ YEARS

Prior noncompliance and corrective action

COMPLIANT

Both indicators; no current CAP for SPPI 11a & 11b

WHAT DROVE THE IMPROVEMENT

UPDATED PROCEDURES

Clear, consistent processes

STAFF IMPLEMENTATION

Shared accountability

ONGOING MONITORING

Data review and follow-through

SPECIAL EDUCATION DEPARTMENT

CELEBRATIONS

STUDENTS. STAFF. OPPORTUNITIES. BRIGHTER FUTURES.

NEW LIFE SKILLS CURRICULUM
TEACHTOWN

Implementing TeachTown to build real-world skills and greater independence for our students.

Teachers eligible for TIA
Recognizing and rewarding our teachers' expertise.

High implementation
District-wide data shows strong use and engagement.

Positive impact
Supporting student growth, confidence, and independence.



BOCCE TOURNAMENT
3 participants represented Huntsville ISD.



SHSU BEARKAT 4 A DAY
Four seniors participated in a meaningful day of college exploration and activities.



PREPARING FOR BOWLING
Students are building skills, confidence, and teamwork for upcoming Special Olympics events.



SPED PARENT NIGHT
Connecting families with resources, staff, and community partners to support student success.

Every Student. One Team. Limitless Possibilities.

Thank you for your support!



Stephanie Dominique, PhD
Director of Special Education
sddominique@huntsville-isd.org
936-435-6972

Dusty Stoughton
Programming & Instruction Coordinator

Marielle Torres
Assessments & Compliance Coordinator