

*Executive Summary
Prepared for Board of Trustees Meeting
November 12, 2019*

Special Education Programs and Services

Board Goal II. Teaching & Learning...In pursuit of excellence, the district will:

- Cultivate a consistent, strong, district-wide balanced curriculum based on an ongoing needs assessment that supports all students
- Strive to deliver all academic programs through teachers possessing advanced degrees and demonstrable competence in their areas of professional responsibility.
- Advocate and practice true accountability based on measurement of individual student progress over time, regardless of external mandates

Purpose of Report

The intent of this report is to provide the Board of Trustees with the special education services and programs provided to the 3,686+ students with disabilities in Denton ISD. As required, Denton ISD provides a continuum of services which are provided by both certified staff as well as by trained para-professionals. Services are provided in the general education classroom where students have access to the general education curriculum as well as to non-disabled peers. Or students are provided services in a self-contained, specialized programs. Specialized programs are available in each of the four zone to prevent students from having to travel long distances for services. If determined necessary, related services are provided to students to ensure they are benefiting from instructional services.

Objectives

To provide a high-level view of available programs by campus (see Attachment A) and to provide a description of the quality programs and services that Denton ISD provides to students eligible to receive special education services (see Attachment B).

Operational Impact

As the District special education student population increases, additional teachers, para-professionals, support staff will be necessary to implement the services agreed upon during the Annual, Review, and Dismissal (ARD) or Individual Education Program (IEP) meetings. Students received services such as academic instruction, music therapy, adapted physical education, speech, counseling services, occupational therapy, physical therapy, student health services, and special education transportation. Certified teachers (including teachers of the visually and hearing impaired, homebound teachers, adapted physical education), speech language pathologist (English and Spanish), and para-professionals provide direct instruction daily to this population of students with unique needs that require specially designed instruction to benefit from instruction. Support staff (diagnosticians (English and Spanish), licensed specialist in school psychology (English and Spanish), music therapist, brailist, assistive technology specialist, behavior coaches, autism specialists) provide services and coaching to campus staff.

Growth Chart (based on October Snapshot)

2016	3015
2017	3180
2018	3383
2019	3686