

"To the world you may be one person, but to one person you may be the world."

Covert Public Schools
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Special Education



Welcome Back

Welcome back to the 2011-2012 school year! As we strive to promote healthy development in all aspects of each student's life, we also strive to develop a student body of good character. We encourage students to demonstrate the best of themselves every moment of everyday. We strive to instill within our student body a sense of personal pride as well as collective pride and love for our school.



Our Thorough Assessments

Determine why a student is struggling in school.

Help students and their families identify and understand the cognitive and academic strengths and problems that affect learning in school.

Identify helpful teaching and learning strategies.

Help determine appropriate accommodations for school and college.

Provide recommendations and intervention strategies.



How Special Education is different from General Education

Special Education is extra services for children with disabilities to help them learn. Disability means that a child's body or mind doesn't work as it should. Special education laws make sure that children with disabilities can go to school. It makes sure they get the extra help they need to learn.

Special education is **NOT** a place. It is **NOT** a class just for students with disabilities. Special education is the service and support your child needs to learn. It doesn't matter what class your child is in. The extra help your child needs can happen in any class.



People with disabilities may have more difficulty than others walking, moving, talking, learning, breathing, seeing, hearing, etc. We are remarkably like everyone else. We pass, we fail, we succeed, we take trips, we stay at home, we are bright; we are pains in the neck, and we're trying to get by like everyone else. When you encounter someone with a disability, please remember the following:

Watch your mouth.

Staff Changes for 2011-2012

2011-2012 Special Education Teaching Assignments

Ms. Christine Struzik
Elementary Special Education

Mrs. Judy Chapman
Elementary Special Education

Mrs. Brenda Taylor
MS/HS Special Education

Mr. Stanley Williams
MS/HS ELA

Mr. Ken Stephens
MS/HS Math

Administrative Support

Mr. Ricky Jones, CPS
Mrs. Cathy Morton, ISD
Mrs. Sarah Gray, ISD
Ms. Whitney Webster, ISD
Mr. Jim Ripple, ISD
Ms. Doreen Cole, ISD

Congratulations

Sarah Hirons is now Mrs. Sarah Gray

Mr. Chris Grob
Response to Intervention
PBIS Coordinator

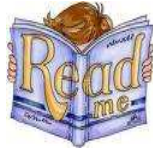
Section 504

❖ Meeting the needs of all students

Section 504 is another law that helps children with disabilities.

If your child has a disability but doesn't need special education, your child might get help from another program.

It is called Section 504. **Section 504** is part of another law called the Rehabilitation Act of 1973.



Section 504 covers all disabilities, not just the ones listed in the IDEA law. It includes health problems that keep a child from doing what other children can do. To get 504 help, a student must have one or more problems with:

- taking care of self **or**
- doing things with his or her hands **or**
- walking **or**
- seeing **or**
- hearing **or**
- speaking **or**
- breathing **or**
- learning **or**
- working



504 can help with things like wheelchair ramps so your child can get into buildings.

It can make changes so your child can be in school programs and activities.

It can also make changes in books or papers to help your child learn.

All schools must have a person to answer questions about 504. Parents have certain rights if their child is in special education. Parents have

different rights if their child is on a 504 plan.

How to get your child covered under Section 504

In order to receive services under Section 504, a child must first be determined to have a disability that substantially limits one or more major life functions, including education, learning, and behavior. Only the school can determine if your child qualifies for accommodations. Parents seeking to have their child receive services under Section 504 should take the following steps:

Submit a written request to the school asking for an evaluation to determine if there is a significant impact on your child's learning or behavior. Request a copy of your School District's Policies and Procedures on Section 504. This document will inform you of your and the school's rights and responsibilities in helping your child receive the accommodations she or he needs.

How Section 504 can help your child

Section 504 ensures that a qualified child with a disability has equal access to education. The child may receive appropriate accommodations and modifications tailored to the child's individual needs.

Learning Disabilities

Learning disabilities have a wide range of categories, even talented and gifted children can have a learning disability in another area of learning. Learning disabilities are lifelong; however, they

certainly do not hamper an individual's ability to become a productive member of society. A learning disability does NOT mean that the person cannot learn. It simply means that modifications may need to be made to enhance learning.



“The real voyage of discovery consists not in seeking new lands but seeing with new eyes.”



It is inevitable that you will have the opportunity and pleasure of working with special needs students in your classroom. You may need to make accommodations for some and modifications for others. Providing for the needs of special education students will certainly be one of your greatest challenges as a professional educator.



When working with special needs students, two terms you are sure to encounter are **accommodations** and **modifications**. An accommodation is a device, material, or support process that will enable a student to accomplish a task more efficiently. Modification refers to changes to the instructional outcomes; a change or decrease in the course content or outcome.

