

Salem-Keizer Public Schools | District 24J

Our Vision: All students graduate and are prepared for a successful life.



Special Education Services

What is Special Education?

All students, birth to 21 years old, may be eligible for special education services. Special education means *specially designed instruction* that is provided at no cost to parents to meet the unique needs of a child with a disability. Specially designed instruction means *adapting the content, methodology, or delivery of instruction to meet the unique needs of the child and to ensure access to the general curriculum.*

Students may qualify under any of the following eligibility categories. Each category has specific criteria to meet, outlined in both state and federal law: (1) Intellectual Disability, (2) Deafness or Hard of Hearing, (3) Deaf blindness, (4) Visual Impairment, (5) Speech or Language Impairment, (6) Emotional Behavior Disability, (7) Orthopedic Impairment, (8) Other Health Impairment, (9) Autism Spectrum Disorder, (10) Specific Learning Disability, (11) Traumatic Brain Injury, and (12) Developmental Delay, through age 9.

Our Staff

Licensed Classroom SPED Teachers: 250

Cohort Teachers (still in program): 37

First three years: ~40%

- 10 speech pathologists (10 contracted speech pathologists to fill vacancies)
- 3 occupational therapists
- 1 school psychologist

Current Vacancies:

- 9 classroom teachers (7 contracted teachers to fill vacancies)

Classified SPED Instructional Assistants:
692.7 FTE

Current Vacancies: 43.9375 FTE

By The Numbers:

- 17% of students receive services
- 6,666 eligible students K-21
 - *Specific Learning Disability: 26.7%*
 - *Other Health Impairment: 18.18%*
 - *Autism Spectrum Disorder: 15.6%*
 - *Speech/Language: 15.45%*
 - *Emotional Behavior: 9.15%*
 - *Intellectual Disability: 6.60%*
 - *Developmental Delay: 4.86%*
 - *Deaf/Hard of Hearing: 1.76%*
 - *All others: <1.00%*
- Special Education Placement
 - *Mostly General Education: 74.03%*
 - *Combination General Education & Self-Contained: 11.87%*
 - *Mostly Self-Contained: 11.96%*
- Students Entering Kindergarten with *services established:
 - 2023-24: 199 (Projected)
 - 2022-23: 261
 - 2021-22: 274
 - 2020-21: 341
 - 2019-20: 324
 - 2018-19: 338

**Established services means a student has been evaluated and qualifies for early intervention services and is receiving those services through an Individualized Family Support Plan (IFSP). Many students are not evaluated until they enter kindergarten, especially if they have not been in any kind of coordinated childcare or preschool program.*

Our Programs

Salem-Keizer offers a variety of specialized programs across the district. Each feeder includes programming for students who may require a more restrictive placement to meet their individualized needs (see program chart and definitions document).

Additionally, we have a separate school program, the Behavior Intervention Center (BIC). This school serves students with the most intensive behavioral support needs, often coming into the district from treatment programs or other public separate schools. Students in this setting exhibit behavior at a frequency and intensity that cannot be supported in a self-contained program. The typical profile of students

served at BIC often includes multiple agency involvement, trauma backgrounds, multiple failed placements into care, mental health needs, and complex medical plans.

Additional Information:

Recovery Services (recovery from pandemic)

Most commonly identified need at IEP meetings is related to social communication and social skills impacts from the pandemic.

Examples of recovery services provided:

- Unified Programs
- Before/after-school tutoring
- Community experiences (camps, events, staff supports)
- Student work experience (paid/unpaid)
- Extended school hours for 18-21 year-olds
- Increased special education services during the school day
- Additional K/1 self-contained classroom

Students with disabilities generate a 2.0 State School Fund weight, up to 11%; SKPS is currently at 17%

Continuum of placement options under state and federal law include placements into treatment programs. Most treatment programs are insurance-only; the few that take district-paid placements consistently indicate that students with the highest levels of aggressive behavior require a higher level of care (usually residential) and their needs can't be met in that program.

District placements generally range from \$50,000-\$100,000/year, if one can be found.

During 21-22 school year, we received 28 students K-8 moving into the district from a day treatment or separate school setting.

High number of Stabilization and Crisis Unit (SACU) Homes in Salem serving individuals from around the state. These homes serve the acute behavioral health needs of students with developmental disabilities.