

Terrell Hutchinson
Special Education
Director



Please contact
The Office of Special Education
OR
Your child's school principal

The Rhodes School
Office of Special Education
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Houston, TX 77029
281-458-4334

The Special Education Program is committed to equal opportunity for all individuals in education. The Special Education Programs and activities shall be free from discrimination based on disability, gender identity, gender expression, genetic information, nationality, race or ethnicity, religion, sexual, orientation, or association with a person or group with one or more of these actual or perceived characteristics.



Does
My
Child
Need
Special
Education?



What is Child Find?

Child Find is a process of identifying, locating, and evaluating children and youth, birth to 22 years of age, who are suspected of having or have been diagnosed with a disability or developmental delay. The school district provides appropriate special education services under Federal and State laws to students with disabilities.

When Should a Child be Referred to Child Find?

A child should be referred when:

- ◊ A health or a medical disorder interferes with the child's development and or learning.
- ◊ A child seems to have difficulty seeing or hearing.
- ◊ A child appears to have social, emotional, or behavioral difficulties that affect his/her ability to learn or interact with others.
- ◊ A child has a diagnosed progressive or degenerative condition that will eventually interfere with the child's ability to learn.
- ◊ A child seems to have difficulty understanding directions like other children that are his/her age.
- ◊ A child's speech is not understood by family or friends.
- ◊ A child has difficulty with reading writing, math or other school subjects.

What is Special Education?

Special education is a program designed to meet the unique educational needs of individuals with disabilities from birth to 22 years of age who meet the eligibility criteria under the law.

It is defined as:

- ◊ Specially designed instruction
 - ◊ At no cost to the parents
 - ◊ To meet the unique needs of a child with a disability
- Special education services may be provided in a variety of education settings, but services are required by the Individuals with Disabilities Education Act (IDEA) to be delivered in the least restrictive environment.

Who is Eligible for Services?

A student must be evaluated and identified as having a disability to be eligible for special education programs and related services. The degree of the student's disability must require special education.

Eligibility categories listed in the education code (CCR 3030) include the following:

- ◊ Hearing Impairment (Deaf/Hard of Hearing)
- ◊ Hearing and Visual Impairment (Deaf/Blind)
- ◊ Speech and Language Impairment

How Can Children be Referred?

- ◊ Visual Impairment (VI)
- ◊ Severe Orthopedic Impairment
- ◊ Autistic-Like Behaviors
- ◊ Intellectual Disability
- ◊ Emotional Disturbance
- ◊ Specific Learning Disability
- ◊ Traumatic Brain Injury

Referral for assessment needs to be made in writing. An individual Education Program (IEP) meeting will be scheduled to discuss the assessment results and eligibility for special education and related services.

For children pre-kindergarten-12th grade, contact your child's school principal or your district's Special Education department and Parent involvement and agreement must be obtained prior to any further action. Information is confidential and the privacy of children and parents is protected.