

Mesa Public Schools Special Education Guiding Principles

Student Achievement

- All students are expected to grow and demonstrate academic achievement and social success.
- All students will be prepared to enter their chosen path after high school.

The Role of the Special Education Teacher

- Facilitates the services of students with special needs
- Differentiates instruction and expectations within the context of the state standards
- Creates partnerships with parents
- Provides specialized instruction through direct instruction and collaboration with general education teachers.
- Enhances the district curriculum and provides support to close achievement gaps
- Advocates in the best interests of students
- Supports student access to grade level standards through curriculum modifications and accommodations as needed
- Is an integral part of the school community in supporting achievement for all students

Student Educational Placements

- All students are educated at their home schools or as close to their homes as possible to promote a greater sense of belonging.
- A continuum of services is provided through specialized regional services targeted to student need.
- Decisions regarding the least restrictive environment for a student are made through a thoughtful assessment of academic and behavioral data and the identification of student needs that require specialized instruction that is not available and cannot be created at the home school.
- Students continue to be members of the home school community to the maximum extent possible, even when specialized instruction needs to be delivered in another location.

Leadership Team

- Communicates the vision and makes decisions that support the vision
- Provides information, training, structures, and expectations to foster student growth