



**District Fact Sheet
Special Education Program
October 6, 2017**

Q: What is Special Education?

A: Special education is specially designed instruction, support, and related services provided to students with an identified disability requiring an individually designed instructional program to meet their unique learning needs. To be eligible for these services the disability would need to limit the student's ability to access the general education curriculum to the point where the general program could accommodate their needs.

It is important to understand that special education isn't a place or a class but services provided to students with disabilities if they are required to access general education. These services can be provided in a number of settings such as the general education classroom, the resource room or learning center, a district based special day class, or classes provided by other public or private schools.

Q: Why is San Bruno Park changing our Special Education program?

A: The cost of special education has risen over the past ten years for many school districts. Even so the increase has been far greater in San Bruno than other similar districts in our area. This increased cost is due to the increased cost of students served in nonpublic and county schools. At the beginning of the 2016-17 school year, the district had 48 students placed in these out of district educational settings. In February 2017, however, the District committed to bringing these students back home to San Bruno Park schools, which is in line with both the law and our philosophy, and better for kids.

Q: Why are we still short on staff?

A: There have been questions raised about the staffing of our special education programs and not being fully staffed at the beginning of the school year. The district has been working since March 2017 to hire staff for our new program. Open positions are being posted regularly and will be posted again if the right person isn't found to support our classrooms. We are committed to ensuring that our students receive the support and services they are guaranteed under the law, which includes hiring the right people to serve our students. I can assure you that we are utilizing every resource available to staff our programs consistent with student needs.

Q: Why might employees moved when they are set in a position?

A: Many times the placement of classified employees is done through a process outlined in their union contract. With a large number of new employees and changes in schedules there were many employees who moved to new positions and new sites through this process. Employees often have a choice of positions and sites



they can work at and as part of the process choose the positions they desire. Decisions about where an employee works is often not by choice of district management but of the employee through this process.

Q: How are special education students placed into classes and who decides what is best.

A: Anytime special education students are placed into a special education classroom or receive services it is done through the IEP, Individual Education Plan, process. The process is guided by members of the IEP team which include the students' parents, teachers, special education staff, other specialized staff, and school administration. The team considers the unique needs of the student, collectively determines the appropriate program services dependent. These vary depending on the needs of the student. Changes in a student's placement, services, or goals can only be made through agreement with the IEP team.

Q: What is Least Restrictive Environment (LRE) and how does it apply to special education students?

A: Not only does the IEP team determine services and goals, they also are responsible to ensure that a student is placed in a program where the student will receive services that allows them to make progress depending on their unique needs. LRE is student specific and varies with each student. As a student receives more specialized and individualize support that is not for the typical student, their educational environment becomes more restrictive.

Q: How are complaints regarding Special Education Programs submitted to the District?

A: The District has a formal complaint process that is outlined on the District's webpage. Individuals who have complaints can access information under the Uniform Complaint procedure in the [forms](#) section on the District website.