

A Quick Reference Guide to Support Services at Hopewell Area School District Elementary Schools



Educational Support Services

Educational Support services are provided to the children of Independence Elementary in the following ways: Instructional Support, Learning Support, Guidance Services, Speech and Language Support, Gifted Support, Title I Reading, and PSSA Tutoring. Once a child is identified as having a need, the appropriate support teacher collaborates with parents and staff to develop an educational plan of specifically designed instruction, tailored to each child's individual needs.

Learning Support

Learning Support services are provided to students at Independence Elementary in grades K-4. Once students have been formally evaluated through a multi-disciplinary evaluation, and have been identified as having a Learning Disability or other specific need, an Individualized Education Program (IEP) is developed. This individual program provides for adaptations and modifications to the general curriculum that allow the child to meet success at his/her instructional level.

Life Skills

The Life Skills class, which is now located at Independence Elementary, focuses on the individual strengths and academic needs of each student. The students receive both group instruction and 1:1 instruction with lessons geared to their abilities. The goal of the Life Skills room is to keep the students on track for a successful future!

School Counselor

A school counselor is on staff to serve both Independence and Raccoon Elementary Schools. The counselor works with students, families, and staff members in meeting the needs of the children in our school. The counseling program is designed to help all students develop their educational, social, and personal strengths in order to become responsible and productive citizens. The counselor works with individual students, small groups, and classrooms based on individual need.

RTII (Response to Intervention and Instruction)

RTII is a team approach for providing high-quality, scientifically validated instruction, /interventions based on each learner's needs in order to maximize student achievement through early identification of learning difficulties.

Speech & Language Support

The Speech and Language Support program provides all students with the opportunity to correct or improve any problems with communication skills. The Speech and Language Pathologist completes speech and/or language screenings and provides the necessary remediation to help make students better communicators in the home, school, and community. The Speech and Language Support program works in conjunction with the grade level curriculum and the IEP goals. Parents, teachers, and support staff are included in the development of the IEP and play an active part in the speech/language remediation process.

ESL (English as a Second Language)

The district's goal is to offer ESL students the best education as he/she enters a new culture and learns a new

language. Students identified as ESL will receive concentrated English instruction during the school day. We encourage all our students to be a part of the activities that our school offers.

Title I Reading

The Title I Reading program, staffed by reading specialists and an aide, provides support to students at Independence Elementary in grades K-4 as they work to succeed in acquiring literacy skills. Children work with a reading teacher individually, in small groups, and/or in the classroom setting to improve their ability to acquire meaning from print. Ongoing assessment of the child's progress is an important aspect of planning instruction. Students in grades K-4 participate in the "DIBELS" assessment (Dynamic Indicators of Basic Early Literacy Skills) &/or the Qualitative Reading Inventory 3. Classroom teachers, parents, and Title I teachers collaborate to develop the most appropriate learning plan for each child based on his/her needs and strengths. Title I has provided a Parent Resource Center for all families to use. There are many books, videos and pamphlets that provide great ideas for helping your child succeed in school and in life. Stop in and borrow a book today.. Accelerated reader books and books on cassette can be borrowed from the Title I classroom. Reading with your child, just 15 minutes a day, can be the most relaxing and rewarding time you spend with your child. JUST SAY, "IT'S TIME TO

READ, DEAR!" (Drop Everything And Read!)

Gifted Support

Gifted Support services are provided to students at Independence Elementary. Students must meet specific criteria and be formally evaluated to be admitted to the program. When a student is identified, a Gifted Individualized Education Plan (GIEP) is developed. This plan provides the student with a variety of academic opportunities to enhance their high-achieving abilities. The Gifted Support service is offered on-site one day a week, with approximately one hour for each session.

Health Services

Our goal is the prevention of illness and the promotion of health. Students receive the following mandated services: Grades K-4 receive height, weight & vision screening; grade 1 receives a physical examination; grades 1 & 3 receive dental exams; and grades K-3 receive hearing screenings. Students with hearing concerns are followed yearly. Prescription and non-prescription medications will only be administered if the parent has completed the appropriate forms from the Health Office in accordance with HASD medication policy.