

What is Special Services?

Special Services is the department in the District of that is responsible for many different services provided to the children in the district's schools.

Among those services are:

- Child Study Team services
- Special Education
- Speech & Language services
- School Health Services
- English as a Second Language

Who works in the Special Services Department?

In addition to the Director, of Special Services and the office staff, there are many professionals and instructional aides that provide services to children. Among the professions represented are:

- Learning Disability Teacher-Consultant
- School Psychologist
- School Social Worker
- Speech/Language Pathologist
- Occupational Therapist
- Physical Therapist

Who is eligible to receive services?

Any child, between the ages of 3 and 21, whose parents are legal residents of Mendham Township is a potential

candidate for services. Services are for students (age 3 – 21) with educational disabilities or believed to have such disabilities.

How does a child become eligible to receive services?

A child between the ages of 2.9 and 5 can be evaluated by the Child Study Team (CST) to determine if there exists an educational disability. Parents are encouraged to phone the Special Services Department to request further information (973-543-7107 ext 223).

Any child who is having difficulty in school should be referred to the school-based Intervention & Referral Services (I&RS) Team, formerly, to help find possible solutions to those difficulties. If school-based, general education efforts do not resolve the difficulty, the I&RS Team may make a referral to the Child Study Team. Each step of the way, parents are part of the process and are informed before any action is taken.

Parents have the option of making a direct referral to the Child Study Team, but working with the school-based I&RS Team is recommended as an appropriate first step in most situations.

What is Child Study Team process?

The process begins with the parent being notified, in writing, of a meeting with the Team and receiving a copy of *Parental*

Rights in Special Education, a booklet prepared by the NJ Department of Education advising parents of their basic rights and responsibilities in the process.

The first meeting is a “planning meeting” at which time all available information is reviewed with the parents, the CST, the child’s teacher and others who might have knowledge of the child and his/her difficulty in school. Following review of the material, a decision is made whether or not the child potentially has an educational disability. If there is agreement that an evaluation should be conducted, the nature and scope of the evaluation is discussed and written parent consent for the evaluation is required.

Each document that is prepared and/or signed is copied for the parents and they are reminded throughout the process of their ‘Parental Rights’.

Members of the CST conduct individual evaluations based on their specialties. A written report is prepared and sent to the parents in advance of an Eligibility meeting, held to discuss all of the evaluations and to receive the recommendations of the Child Study Team. Again, parent input is an important part of this process. Parents may bring others to any meeting, if they wish.

Director of Special Services & Programs

Mr. Robert Koroski

Secretary to the Director of Special Services

Mrs. Gwen Spoerl

Psychologists

Mrs. Peg Goldenberg

Mrs. Michele Ippolitto

Social Worker

Mrs. Kathleen Ruskin

LDT-C

Ms. Miche Cote

Speech/Language Pathologists

Mrs. Maureen Hengst

Ms. Caitlin Delaney

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Mendham Township Schools



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Please visit our website at:
www.mendhamtwp.org