

# Special Education Continuum of Services

# Resources

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# What does NYS mean by special education services?

- *Special education* means specially designed individualized or group instruction or special services or programs and special transportation, provided at no cost to the parent, to meet the unique needs of students with disabilities.
- Includes but is not limited to that conducted in classrooms, homes, hospitals, institutions and in other settings.
- Includes specially designed instruction in physical education, including adapted physical education.

# What does NYS mean by specially designed instruction?

*Specially-designed instruction* means adapting, as appropriate to the needs of an eligible student, the content, methodology, or delivery of instruction to address the unique needs that result from the student's disability; and to ensure access of the student to the general curriculum, so that he or she can meet the educational standards that apply to all students.

# What is mainstreaming?

- Mainstreaming is the old-fashioned term!! In the past, it meant those students who came out of a special class to spend time in a regular classroom
- Resource room students were not mainstreamed students

# What are the new terms?

- Inclusion means all students with disabilities are included in the regular education classroom whenever appropriate
- Integrated means the students are in an integrated co-teaching classroom

Developing effective inclusion practices has been a goal of the Office of Special Education since the late 1990's.

# What is included in the continuum of services?

- The **continuum of special education services** for school-age students with disabilities is an array of services to meet an individual student's needs that includes:
  - consultant teacher services (direct and/or indirect)
  - resource room services
  - related services
  - integrated co-teaching services
  - special class.

# What are some additional services?

- *Transition Services* are a coordinated set of activities for a student with a disability beginning not later than the first IEP to be in effect when the student is age 15
- *Transitional support services* are those temporary services, specified in a student's IEP, provided to a general or special education teacher to aid in the provision of appropriate services to a student with a disability transferring to a general education classroom or to another special education program or service in a less restrictive environment.  
*Travel training* is instruction, as appropriate, provided to students with significant cognitive disabilities, and any other students with disabilities who require this instruction, to enable them to develop an awareness of the environment in which they live; and learn the skills to move effectively and safely from place to place within that environment

# What are some additional services?

- *Adapted physical education* is a specially designed program of developmental activities, games, sports and rhythms suited to the interests, capacities and limitations of students with disabilities who may not safely or successfully engage in unrestricted participation in the activities of the regular physical education program.
- *Twelve-month special service and/or program* is a special education service and/or program provided on a year-round basis for students with disabilities determined to require a structured learning environment of up to 12 months duration to prevent substantial regression.
- *Special transportation*

# What are the services at a state level?

- The **continuum of placement** options in NYS includes:
- public schools
- boards of cooperative educational services (BOCES)
- private approved day and residential schools
- home and hospital instruction.

# What are consultant teacher services?

CT services are defined as direct and/or indirect services provided to a school-age student with a disability in the student's **general education classes**, including career and technical education classes, and/or to such student's general education teachers.

# What are Direct Services?

- Direct CT services mean specially designed instruction provided to an individual student with a disability or to a group of students with disabilities by a certified special education teacher to aid the student(s) to benefit from the general education class instruction. Direct CT can be combined with indirect CT services.
- **It is not a pull out service.**
- The minimum number of hours for CT services, two hours per week, applies to direct and indirect services, in any combination.

# How does CT look on the IEP?

- If CT services are to be provided to an elementary student, the IEP should indicate the subject areas of instruction when the CT would be providing services to the student (e.g., during reading groups; during math instruction).
- If CT services are to be provided to a middle or secondary student, the IEP must specify the class subject where CT will be provided (e.g., English, math, science, art, music).
- If indirect CT services are to be provided, the IEP must indicate the regular (or general) education class being taught by the teacher receiving the consultation.

# What is Resource Room?

- *Resource room program* is a special education program for a student with a disability registered in either a special class or general education class who is in need of specialized supplementary instruction in an individual or small group setting for a portion of the school day. Resource room programs are for the purpose of supplementing the general education or special education classroom instruction of students with disabilities who are in need of such supplemental programs. This means that instruction is not provided in place of the student's regular academic instruction.

# What are the requirements for Resource Room?

Regulations require that each student with a disability requiring a resource room program shall receive not less than three hours of instruction per week in such program. However, if the student is also recommended to receive consultant teacher services, the minimum number of hours of the combined resource room and consultant teacher services is three hours per week. The IEP must specify the frequency, duration and location for each service. Resource room can be in the general classroom setting.

# What is the difference between RR and CT?

- Consultant teacher services are provided simultaneously with general education content area instruction.
- Resource room services are small group supplementary instruction that cannot otherwise be provided during the student's regular instructional time.

# Can a student complete homework in Resource Room?

Specialized supplementary instruction must be provided in the resource room program for each student. While the teacher may use classroom related assignments as the vehicle to provide specialized supplementary instruction to address the unique needs of a student with a disability, a resource room program for a student with a disability cannot be treated as a study hall.

# What is Specialized Supplementary Instruction?

Resource room services are small group supplementary instruction that cannot otherwise be provided during the student's regular instructional time. As examples, a resource room program might be recommended for students who need specialized supplementary instruction in organization skills, reading, the use of an assistive technology device, the use of Braille or the use of a compensatory strategy.

# What is the definition of integrated co-teaching services?

Integrated co-teaching services, as defined in regulation, means the provision of specially designed instruction and academic instruction provided to a group of students with disabilities and non-disabled students.

The maximum number of students with disabilities that can be on the class roster of a class where integrated co-teaching services is provided is 15. There is no regulatory maximum number of non-disabled students in an integrated co-teaching class.

# What is the difference between CT and Integrated Co-Teaching?

- Integrated co-teaching services means students are intentionally grouped together based on similarity of need for the purpose of receiving specially designed instruction in a general education class, usually daily for the identified class. In this model, a general education teacher and a special education teacher share responsibility for the delivery of primary instruction, planning and evaluation for all students.
- Direct CT services are specially designed individual or group instruction recommended for an individual student with a disability in his or her general education class

# How are Integrated Co-Teaching and Co-Teaching Collaboratively different?

- Integrated Co-Teaching means two teachers, regular and special ed are in the classroom all the time and share responsibility for the students
- Co-Teaching or Collaborative Teaching means the special educator comes into the classroom at specific times to assist with instruction to aid those disabled students in the class

# What is meant by special class?

- Special class means a class consisting of students with disabilities who have been grouped together because of similarity of individual needs for the purpose of receiving specially designed instruction in a self-contained setting, meaning that such students are receiving their primary instruction separate from their non-disabled peers.

# Questions? Concerns?

Thank you!