

STUDENT SERVICES

Student Services: The Student Services Department develops and administers all special services offered by District 29. A student's eligibility for assistance through the Student Services Department is determined by an evaluation of his/her needs with input from parents, teachers, administrators and the student. According to the District's Response to Intervention (RtI) Service Delivery Model, information regarding the student's need for assistance is gathered using a variety of means and procedures which may include, but not limited to, the following types of assessment: consultation with parents, classroom observation, social developmental history, vision and hearing screening, an evaluation by the school psychologist, academic and achievement assessment by teachers. All information obtained in this process will be reviewed by a team whose participants may include: the student, parents, teachers and administration. This team may recommend the development of several school-based assistance plans including: an Intervention Plan, an Individual Educational Plan, a 504 Plan and/or a Program Plan to address areas of strength and weakness within the school setting. Student Services may include the following educational personnel:

Learning Disability/Behavior Disability Teachers: LD/BD teachers, commonly known as student services teachers, serve students who have significant difficulties in the areas of learning, behavior and/or social-emotional development. Instruction is provided to meet remedial and compensatory needs both within and outside of the classroom in one-to-one or small-group settings. Students receiving help may have been diagnosed according to state and federal law through the case study evaluation process resulting in development of an Individual Education Plan.

Speech/Language Pathologist: The Speech/Language pathologist works with students who demonstrate impairments in the areas of articulation, oral motor, language, and/or fluency that interfere with their education. The SLP works closely with both general education teachers and student services teachers to promote the development of effective instruction, and improve student speech and language skills.

Occupational Therapist/Physical Therapist: District 29 contracts occupational and physical therapy services through Northern Suburban Special Education District on an as-needed basis. Therapists provide both direct and consultative services to students evaluated through the NSED process and diagnosed with motor and/or sensory impairments.

English as a Second Language Program (ESL) Teacher: The ESL teacher offers services to students whose first language is other than English. These services provide support to help the student in understanding and completing learning objectives for academic areas within the schools.

Gifted/Enrichment Teachers: The gifted/enrichment teachers provide support for students in their areas of strength. A student's needs for gifted/enrichment programming may be met

through any or all of the following types of support: differentiation of curriculum in the classroom, special projects in the classroom, small group and/or one-to-one instruction out of the classroom. Topics for out-of-the-classroom support are usually designed to extend areas of study in the regular grade-level curricula. Gifted/enrichment instruction is implemented in a fluid manner with students rotating in and out of groups and one-to-one work both in and out of the classroom, based on the match between an area of study in the classroom and a student's particular areas of strength. Staff involved in these types of instruction include: all classroom teachers, the gifted resource teacher, and the enrichment projects teacher.

School Psychologist: The school psychologist serves both Middlefork and Sunset Ridge schools. Primary responsibilities fall within three broad categories: consultation with staff and parents, individual and group counseling, and assessment of academic, behavioral and behavioral difficulties. The school psychologist works collaboratively with school staff to define problems and design interventions within the District's Flexible Service Delivery Model. The school psychologist may function as the problem solving team facilitator structuring and guiding meetings.

Social Worker: The social worker is available for students and parents in the District on an as-needed basis. These include: individual and group counseling, problem-solving, consultation with parents, and staff, and crisis intervention. The social worker facilitates parent education and/or networking meetings and serves as a liaison for families wishing to access community resources. The social worker is available to students and families in times of crisis.

Testing: In addition to regular classroom testing, students may experience other types of formal testing such as the Illinois Standards Achievement Tests (ISAT) and **Measures of Academic Progress (MAP)**. Eighth graders must also take the annual placement tests for New Trier or the high school they will attend in the fall.

Over the years, Sunset Ridge students have performed very well on these formal assessments. We feel that testing alone does not determine intellectual growth or achievement, however, we encourage all students to do their very best as these results may be factored into determining placements for classes and levels in high school and impact whether the schools have made adequate yearly progress under the No Child Left Behind Act.