

Nolan Richardson Middle School

Home of the Jaguars



Special Education Needs Policy

Inclusion Policy for Special Education Students

MYP Special Needs Policy

IB Standard B1.5d:

- The school has developed and implements a special needs policy that is consistent with IB expectations

IDEA: Individual Disability Education Act

The Individuals with Disabilities Act (IDEA) is a federal law enacted in 1990 and reauthorized in 1997. It is designed to protect the rights of students with disabilities, by ensuring that everyone receives a free, appropriate, public education regardless of ability. Furthermore, IDEA strives not only to grant equal access to students with disabilities, but also to provide additional special education services and procedural safeguards.

District Policy Statement

El Paso Independent School District offers a unified continuum of educational services and programs for eligible disabled students ages 3-21. The El Paso Independent School District's mission of excellence in teaching and learning applies to all students. A unified system of general and special education is one that is capable of responding to the needs of all its students by accessing a range of specialized services and supports.

Nolan Richardson Philosophy

Faculty and staff are committed to enable all our students to utilize the potential that each student possesses to become a well-adjusted contributing member of our society. We believe that each student regardless of exceptionality, is entitled to this opportunity in the least restrictive environment.

Special Education Needs

Less than ten percent of our student population at Nolan Richardson have special academic, physical, social and or emotional needs that are addressed so that each student can and will be successful. Examples of these special needs include the following:

- Specific Learning and Intellectual Disabilities (such as dyslexia and dyscalculia)
- Emotional Impairments
- Speech and Language Impairments
- Visual Impairment
- Hearing Impairments
- Physical Impairments

- Health Impairments (Otherwise Health Impaired)
- Autism Spectrum Disorders
- Cognitive Impairment

Nolan Richardson faculty and staff are committed and believe that students can best be served through the cooperative efforts of teachers, support personnel, principals and parents. In order to meet the needs of all students, Nolan Richardson utilizes the following strategies to facilitate our student's success:

Inclusion

Nolan Richardson espouses the inclusive model of support that allows most students to remain in the general education classroom setting and are provided access to the curriculum in the least restricted environment. Nolan Richardson provides a specific content inclusion teacher during the entire class period to support and service both students and general education teacher.

Differentiation

Teachers tailor instruction to meet our special education student's needs. When differentiating instruction teachers at Nolan Richardson consider the following four areas:

- Content
- Process
- Product
- Environment

Differentiated instruction attempts to maximize our students' potential, and allows the student to demonstrate their learning in different ways.

Special Education Services at Nolan Richardson

Special education services are individualized to meet the unique needs of students with disabilities. Special education services may include:

- Small group instruction
- Behavioral Modifications
- Extended Time
- Speech Therapy
- Occupational and Physical Therapy
- ESL Support
- Organizational Support
- Alternative Testing Environment
- Curriculum Modifications
- Teaching Modifications
- Health Services
- SLU (Structured Learning Unit) and Personal Care Services

These services are provided in accordance with students Individualized Education Plan (IEP), which is specifically tailored to the unique needs of each student.

Documentation of Services

Nolan Richardson documents compliance with local, state and federal special education guidelines and policies on a continual basis.

Nolan Richardson administration oversee the implementation of the school's special education program.

Information regarding students' progress and performance are contained in the students' personal cumulative folder. Parents of identified student attend annual meetings with teachers and other personnel to ensure educational plans meet their child's specific needs.

School and District Support Staff Providing Special Education Series at Nolan Richardson

- Diagnostician
- Special Education Coach
- Inclusion Math Teacher
- Inclusion Reading Teacher
- Speech therapist
- Occupational and physical therapists
- Home-trainers
- School counselors
- Special Education counselors
- Self-contained teachers

Communication with Families of Richardson Special Education Students

In order to form a cohesive support team for students, it is necessary to keep families well-informed.

- IEP meeting
- IEP progress reports
- Special Education Documentation: Evaluation Plan Prior Written Notice, Reevaluation Plan Prior Written Notice, IEPs, CDIC (transition plan and services)

Ongoing Review of the Special Needs Policy

- This policy will be formally reviewed yearly by NRMS staff and revised as needed to adapt to changing best practices and the needs of our learning community. Revised September 2017
- This policy is available to the community through the NRMS website, and the school leadership team welcomes comments and recommendations at any time.

Counseling Services

Counseling services are provided at the school, during school hours, as IEP dictates