



San Diego Unified School District

Fact Sheet

Emotional Disturbance

Description of Program and Students Served

San Diego City School's program for students with emotional disturbance (ED) serves students with disabilities between the ages of 5-22. The ED program utilizes a curriculum based on state standards as well as supplemental curriculum, established by the Individualized Educational Plan (IEP) and leading to a certificate of completion or diploma. ED classes are located at 45 comprehensive school sites (elementary, middle and high school). In addition, over 40 classrooms are located in more restrictive alternative settings.

The classes have been designed to meet the instructional/behavioral needs of students identified as ED. The goal of ED classes is to improve learning in the classroom by creating a highly structured environment focusing on learning appropriate replacement behaviors while continuing to develop academic skills.

Placement

Placement in the ED program is made after an IEP team determines eligibility. The ED program provides a continuum of services in the student's least restrictive environment. These options include placement in:

- General Education Classrooms with the support of a resource teacher
- Special Day Class for small group instruction
- Alternative Programs, as needed

Eligibility

A child who exhibits one or more of the following conditions over an extended period of time (and these conditions have an adverse effect on educational performance, even after supportive assistance has been provided) qualifies for services:

- An inability to learn that cannot be explained by intellectual, sensory or health factors
- An inability to build or maintain satisfactory interpersonal relationships with peers and teachers
- Inappropriate types of behavior or feelings under normal circumstances
- A general, constant mood of unhappiness or depression
- A tendency to develop physical symptoms or fears associated with personal or school problems

Riley School-Riley school is a special education center for students with serious emotional and behavioral problems (K-8). Riley provides close supervision, small classes, a strong core curriculum, frequent counseling, social skills training, and positive behavioral interventions.

Children's Hospital outpatient Clinic located on the Riley campus provides therapy and medical management to many Riley students.

To refer a student to Riley, the DRT would contact Riley at (858) 496-8205.

SUMMARY

- ❖ More than 800 students in SDCS require supports and services due to Emotional Disturbance (ED).
- ❖ These supports may include Teachers, Instructional Behavioral Technicians, Counselors, Psychologists, Speech and Language Pathologists, and other professionals as identified by the IEP.
- ❖ Recommended class size for primary classes is ten students and for upper, middle and senior classes the recommendation is twelve.
- ❖ Mental Health Intervention teams will be providing mental health services to special education students on elementary and middle schools with ED classrooms on site.

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Day Treatment-District operated programs provide a day treatment setting for students (grade K-12) who have intense emotional and behavioral needs. The small school settings provide a therapeutic program interwoven throughout the school day. Referral to district operated programs will be made through the Mental Health Intervention Team or the DRT to the ED Program Office. Day Treatment programs are also offered in conjunction with County Mental Health. Request for assessment for these programs is made through the school psychologist to County Mental Health via AB2726.

Contact Information: Emotional Disturbance: (619) 725-7652

www.sandi.net
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