



Progressive Alternative Curriculum Environment Program (PACE)

San Diego City Schools Progressive Alternative Curriculum Environment (PACE) Program is a program for students between the ages of five to 22 years of age who have moderate to severe disabilities. The PACE Program follows a curriculum using alternative standards, leading to a certificate of completion rather than a diploma. The PACE Program serves over 500 students at various comprehensive school sites throughout the district.

The PACE Program prepares students to live in their school community based on the belief that each student, regardless of disability, is assured equal access to the educational options and support provided to all children of the same age group.

These principles include:

- All students can benefit from sound educational practice;
- All students benefit from living, growing and learning together throughout the formal education process; and
- Our communities are strengthened through diversity.

Target Population: Students who meet the eligibility criteria for the PACE Program function within the borderline to mild range of mental retardation (56 to 80 IQ). Federal disability codes of students served in the PACE Program may include, but are not limited to, mental retardation (MR) and autism (AUT).

Individualized Education Program (IEP): Each student's IEP specifies individualized goals and objectives that provide access to the district's core curriculum and meet the individual student's needs. The IEP may also state the need for one or more related services.

Placement: Placement in the PACE Program is made after an IEP team determines eligibility. The PACE Program provides services at or near the student's neighborhood school, school choice or other appropriate setting.

These options include placement in general education classrooms of their same age peers on a full or part time basis, and special day class for small group instruction.

The PACE Program provides:

- Access to general education environments;
- Access to a variety of core curriculum and instructional options, with adaptations and modifications, assistive technology, and communication strategies necessary to meet individual needs, based on the current research theory;
- Collaboration between general and special education staff;
- Designated instruction and services (e.g., Adapted Physical Education, speech and occupational therapy) are available to students who qualify, as determined by the assessment in the area of concern and the IEP team;
- Consultation in developing instructional strategies and writing individual positive behavior support plans;
- Extended school year programs, which are provided to students as determined by the IEP team; and
- Best practices in all areas of teaching and learning based upon the current research theory and philosophy.

Published with support from the Annie E. Casev Foundation

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revised 10/04/05

Serving nearly 136,000 students, San Diego City Schools is the second largest school district in California, with 202 educational facilities and more than 14,500 full-time equivalent positions (representing more than 15,800 employees). SDCS is improving student achievement by focusing on challenging instruction in reading, writing and mathematics in pre-kindergarten through Grade 12. The district is committed to supporting schools and enhancing the classroom learning environment through modernized facilities and resources and through parent, teacher and community involvement in the educational process.

The mission of San Diego City Schools is to improve student achievement by supporting teaching and learning in the classroom.