



# San Diego Unified School District Fact Sheet

## Special Education: RSA & DCPC Collaboration and Differentiated Supports

### DESCRIPTION OF SERVICES

San Diego Unified School District's Resources for Students with Autism (RSA) and the Diagnostic Center for Positive Change (DCPC) have joined forces to serve students with a federal disability code of autism (AUT) in the Integrated Life Skills (ILS) and Progressive Alternative Curriculum Environment (PACE) Programs. RSA serves over 800 students with autism. The DCPC is a service to the ILS and PACE Programs, which follow a curriculum using alternate standards, leading to a certificate of completion rather than a diploma.

By joining resources, RSA and the DCPC will be better able to serve students with autism in the ILS and PACE Programs whose behavior may interfere with their ability to gain educational benefit from their Individualized Educational Programs (IEPs). Both RSA and DCPC believe:

- All students can benefit from sound educational practice.
- All students benefit from living, growing and learning together throughout the formal education process in the least restrictive environment (LRE).
- Through diversity our communities are strengthened.

### TARGET POPULATION

- Students who meet the eligibility criteria for the ILS and PACE Programs function between the borderline to profound range of mental retardation (e.g., 79 to below 20 standard score equivalents of intellectual functioning and adaptive behavior). Students served by RSA **MUST** have a federal disability code of autism (AUT) and/or be identified as a student with a diagnosis of autism spectrum disorder (ASD).

### INDIVIDUALIZED EDUCATION PROGRAM

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

### STEPS TO FOLLOW

- Contact your Program Diagnostic Resource Teacher (PDRT) to ensure that all possible curriculum adaptations and classroom modifications have been made to support students who challenge the delivery of services.
- Make a referral to RSA for supports if the student has a federal disability code of AUT (autism).

### SUMMARY

- ❖ RSA serves students who have a federal disability code of autism (AUT).
- ❖ The ILS and PACE Programs follow a curriculum using alternate standards, leading to a certificate of completion rather than a diploma.
- ❖ Contact your PDRT to ensure that all first-step interventions have been attempted in your classroom.
- ❖ If your student with autism presents behavioral challenges that pose a risk of safety concerns on a comprehensive campus, then RSA will develop and forward a referral to the DCPC for ***consideration*** of intake services.
- ❖ Participation in co-case management with RSA and DCPC staff will occur for those students served via intake at the DCPC.

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- RSA will assist you with student-specific materials and instructional delivery options, with adaptations and modifications, positive behavior support plan development, and communication strategies based upon current research theory. For students with autism, **RSA will coordinate consultation and outreach supports to sites for students with autism.**
- If a student with autism continues to exhibit challenging behavior that prevents services from being effectively delivered on a comprehensive school campus, then **RSA will develop and forward a referral to DCPC** for intake services **consideration** (short-term assessment and intervention). Referring school site personnel will participate in a co-case management model with RSA and DCPC staff for students served via intake services.
- Ongoing follow-up services will be provided by both RSA and ILS/PACE support staff following return of the student to the comprehensive school site classroom.

Contact Information: Diagnostic Center for Positive Change (DCPC) (858) 693-5500  
Resources for Students with Autism (RSA)

[www.sandi.net/depts/specialed](http://www.sandi.net/depts/specialed)

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