

## **Resource Specialist, Non-severe/Special Learning Disabilities Programs**

### **Description of Programs and Students Served**

San Diego City Schools (SDCS) provides a continuum of service options for students who are eligible for the Non-severe Program. The department's philosophy is to keep students as close to their neighborhood school as possible. It provides services for students' ages 5 – 22 and may be provided through a Resource Specialist Program model or a Special Day Class model. English Language Learners are provided opportunities for special education based on their language proficiency levels and assessed areas of need. The program provides services for more than 9,000 students throughout the school district.

### **Typical Class Size**

The maximum caseload for Resource Specialists is 28 students. Special Day Classes can range from 12 - 18 students depending upon the composition of the classes. Middle and high school classes may have higher numbers as many of those students are mainstreamed for a large portion of the school day.

### **Service Delivery Models**

Students are served in the least restrictive environment beginning with providing Resource Specialist support with the general education classroom. Services also can include consultations; pull out services, co-teaching, learning centers, and special day classes.

### **Curriculum**

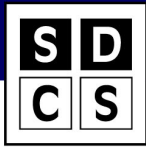
The focus of the curriculum is standards-based instruction utilizing the state content standards and the district's Literacy Framework. In conjunction, the department uses supplemental curriculum that is research-based to provide additional support. The staff provides a comprehensive program and differentiates instruction based on assessed areas of individual need. Performance based assessments are utilized to keep data on progress and make ongoing instructional decisions. The goal of the program is to improve student achievement through systematic, structured instruction based on data. This will build a strong foundation and accelerate learning.

## **SUMMARY**

- ❖ **SDCS Non-severe (Specific Learning Disability) Program serves more than 9,000 students**
- ❖ **Instruction is standards-based and assessed through ongoing performance measures and data collection**
- ❖ **Services are provided for students with handicapping conditions other than Specific Learning Disability (SLD)**
- ❖ **Supports may include teachers, special education assistants, counselors, psychologists, speech and language pathologists, occupational therapists, and other professionals identified by the Individualized Education Program (IEP) team**
- ❖ **Program level assistance may be provided by: Ombudspersons, Diagnostic Resource Teachers, and Program Managers**

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Serving more than 138,000 students, San Diego City Schools is the second largest school district in California, with 200 educational facilities and more than 14,500 full-time equivalent positions (representing over 18,800 employees.) SDCS is improving student achievement by focusing on challenging education in reading, writing and mathematics. 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.



**Eligibility**

Students with Specific Learning Disabilities (SLD) have average intelligence and exhibit a discrepancy between ability and achievement due to one or more processing disorders such as auditory and visual processing, memory or attention problems. In addition, the Non-severe Program serves students with a variety of Federal Handicapping conditions other than SLD such as Other Health Impaired or Autism.

**Placement**

Placement in the Non-severe Program is made after an IEP team determines eligibility. The Non-severe Program provides a continuum of options in the least restrictive environment for the student. Options include: General education with Resource Specialist Support (consult, collaboration or direct service), Special Day Class for small group instruction, and Alternative Programs as needed.

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