

Special Education



PROGRAM

Lake Park High School District 108 provides a free and appropriate program of special education services for exceptional children who are residents of the District between the ages of 14 and 21. Please direct requests for an evaluation or concerns with regard to a student's progress toward graduation to their guidance counselor.

It is the intent of the district that no individual, solely by reason of his/her disability, should be excluded from participating in an Lake Park program or activity. Anyone having knowledge of instances of discrimination should contact the District office.

The belief of Lake Park High School Special Education is to help inspire in students a sense of personal responsibility and passion for learning. Our staff is committed to identifying and meeting the diverse needs of each student through individualized educational programming. It is our mission to work cooperatively with families, students, community, colleagues, and other professionals in order to promote each student's success and well-being in preparation for their future.

PROGRAM OPPORTUNITIES

Under the Special Education umbrella, Lake Park offers four exceptional opportunities to help meet a student's needs and to enhance their individualized education plan.

Progressions

Progressions offers varying levels of resource and instructional services within the Special Education department. This instructional program is a cross-categorical, departmentalized program that meets the education of students with an Individualized Education Plan (IEP). The program offers the following:

- Resource support for identified students
- Instruction in required core subject areas
- Lessons to improve social skills-collaboration, self- confidence, on-task behaviors, and other individual needs
- Ability to advance in future career paths
- Progression toward independent academic achievement and self advocacy

Choices

Choices is a self-contained program that supports the behavioral, emotional, and academic needs of students in a smaller setting. The philosophy of Choices is a developmental approach that is designed to foster behavioral, academic, emotional, and social growth in a structured, supportive environment.

Decisions are made on an individual basis to secure as much success as possible for each student.

- Provides alternative educational setting
- Maintains students on a graduation track
- Students learn skills to address emotional and behavioral issues so they can experience positive interactions in school, home and the community

Pathways

This self-contained program is designed for students who need significant academic modification to the high school curriculum. Pathways emphasizes academic, vocational, social, and life skills necessary to function independently within society. These skills are addressed within the classroom and community environments. Curriculum at this level may be individualized and adjusted to a lower academic level, students in this program must successfully complete a curriculum of required subject areas and elective courses consistent with the District's requirements for a standard diploma.

- Provides academic learning experiences within the classroom and community settings that will be generalized into their real life experiences
- Builds and develops social, life and vocational skills that allow for enhanced problem solving abilities and increased interpersonal success with others
- Links and empowers students to transition from school to an adult life

Transition Assistance Program

Transition provides a consistent continuum of special education services for students following the completion of four academic years of high school. Each student must have completed all academic requirements for graduation. This program culminates in the receipt of a high school diploma from Lake Park at the end of the student's school year in which they turn 22 years old. The program assists in developing skills in the areas of career awareness, independent living skills, access to the community, and self advocacy.

- Identification of career interests, skills, and abilities
- Development of critical workplace skills and a solid foundation for good work habits
- Change in approach to services: student as an adult decision maker – family as support to such decisions
- Link between students, schools, adult agencies and employers