

## What is the Department of Special Services?

The Department of Special Services (CST) provides consultative, evaluative, and prescriptive services to teachers and parents in regard to students who are experiencing school related difficulties.

### Our Team:

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## Special Education

### What is an IEP?

An IEP or Individualized Education Program, is for students that have been evaluated by the CST and are eligible for Special Education and related services. The IEP is developed by the CST case manager, a special education teacher, a general education teacher, and if needed related service providers. The IEP addresses:

- Present levels of academic achievement/functional performance
- Strengths of the student and parental concerns
- Data: CST evaluations, state and district assessments
- Behavioral interventions and supports
- Communication and visual needs
- Related services and supplementary aids and services
- Assistive technology needs
- Consultation from outside agencies
- Goals and objectives
- Support for school staff
- Participation in extracurricular activities
- Extended school year
- Decision making for the Least Restrictive Environment
- State and district testing modifications
- Graduation requirements beginning at age 14
- Transition from elementary to secondary, planning for post secondary goals

### What is a Case Manager?

Members of CST function as case managers for individual students. The assignment of a case manager begins when a student is initially referred to the CST. The case manager is responsible for coordinating the development, monitoring implementation and evaluating the effectiveness of the IEP's for students with disabilities. They coordinate the annual review and reevaluation process, while ensuring special education procedures and procedural safeguards are maintained.

## GLASSBORO PUBLIC SCHOOLS DEPARTMENT OF SPECIAL SERVICES

### Child Study Team Office

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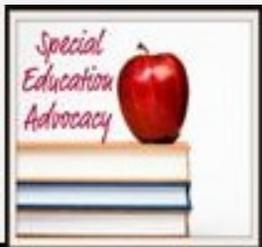


## Special Education Parent Advisory Group

Glassboro School District Special Education Parent Advisory Group is an organization designed to facilitate collaboration among parents, guardians, teachers, child study team members, administration and the community to enhance the education of students who are receiving special education services. SEPAG hosts informative parent meetings throughout the year on various topics of interest pertaining to special education and child development. In addition, SEPAG will provide information to parents concerning programs and services available to families and students through its website and guest speakers. Advocates are also encouraged to propose guest speakers or make suggestions for possible topics for future meetings. If you are interested in serving on our committee, please contact Danielle Sochor.

## Operation Child Find

The Glassboro Public Schools Department of Special Services is seeking to assist families with children with special needs. All families residing within the Glassboro School District who have children ages 3 to 21 with suspected learning disabilities can seek assistance through the Child Study Team. Available services provided by the Child Study Team include identification, evaluation, special education, and related services. All interested residents should contact the Department of Special Services for further information.



## Responsibilities of CST Members

### Responsibilities of the School Psychologist:

A School Psychologist provides psychological services to students to enhance school functioning. The School Psychologist completes psychological diagnostic evaluations for individual students using observations and a variety of standardized techniques to assess cognitive functioning and social, emotional, and behavioral status. The School Psychologist shares the findings with appropriate staff and family so that effective interventions and programs are provided with consideration to intellectual development and social, emotional, and behavioral functioning. The School Psychologist can also support school personnel, families, and students with behavioral challenges that impact overall school functioning. This can include consultation, classroom observations, informal Functional Behavior Assessments, write and monitor behavior intervention plans, and providing social skills training and counseling services.

### Responsibilities of the Learning Disabilities

#### Teacher-Consultant:

The Learning Disabilities Teacher-Consultant uses their previous experiences as a teacher to observe and evaluate students from an educational perspective. A student that is evaluated by the CST often times has an Educational Assessment conducted by the LDT-C. The evaluation investigates the student's educational history, supports in place and the effectiveness of these supports, interviews teachers, observe the student in the classroom setting and conduct standardized assessments. The LDT-C analyzes the information gained to determine learning strengths and weaknesses that may impact a student's ability to progress in school. How the student compares academically with same age peers and looking at gaps in skill acquisition are important components in determining if a student requires an IEP. The LDT-C will provide a written report and make recommendations of effective interventions, strategies, and modifications to staff and family to promote learning.

### Responsibilities of the School Social Worker:

The School Social Worker's knowledge of social, emotional, cultural, and economic factors among children and families enable them to be the link between school, family, and community.

School Social Workers complete Social History Assessments which include an evaluation of the student's adaptive social functioning and information regarding the student's development and family, social, and cultural factors which influence the student's learning and behavior in the educational setting. Social Workers provide counseling services to students addressing issues that negatively impact school performance with the overall goal being attainment of academic success. The Social Worker also coordinates community resources on behalf of students and their families.

## Related Services Providers

### Speech and Language Specialist:

The speech-language specialist evaluates and provides speech and language therapy to students who have difficulties in any of the following areas: articulation, language, voice, speech fluency, and/or pragmatics. Speech-language therapy involves preparing and implementing lessons based on each child's individualized education plan. Therapy may be done in or out of the classroom. In addition, the speech language specialist may consult with teachers and parents on strategies for facilitating the generalization of skills taught in speech-language therapy to real situations in the classroom or at home.

**Occupational Therapist:** Occupational therapists, OTs, work to ensure that students participate in their full educational program from paying attention to behaving appropriately in class. OTs help students perform tasks necessary for participating in learning. OT practitioners work to provide consultation to teachers about how classroom design affects attention, why children behave inappropriately at times, and where best to seat a child based on their learning style or other needs. OT may be recommended for an individual student for reasons that might be affecting his or her learning or behavior, such as motor skills, cognitive processing, visual or perceptual problems, difficulties staying on task, disorganization, or inappropriate sensory responses.