

Important Note: For the protection of the other students and employees, your child will be sent home if any of these symptoms, conditions, or illnesses are found or suspected during the school day. Please make sure your phone number on file is current.

STUDENTS WITH DISABILITIES

As you look at the Lab School as a place for your child, it is important to know how the law affects private schools and special education. We want to make you aware of our position on meeting the learning needs of children with disabilities.

Even though our class sizes are small which gives us the ability to offer one-on-one attention and instruction, we are not qualified or certified to teach Special Education. A small class size is a good learning environment for children with disabilities and, at times, we can manage those special needs. However, the Lab School is structured to be a high-paced, high-performing, active learning environment that is quite rigorous.

Therefore, we may not be able to effectively meet the needs of your child. Through our pre-assessment with the classroom teacher, we can discuss whether or not the Lab School can meet the special learning needs of your child.

If your child qualifies for special education, he may be able to receive some special education services that are paid for by the public school district. Here are a few key things to keep in mind.

1. Evaluations for Special Education Services - Federal law requires public school districts to look for and evaluate students who are suspected of having disabilities. This requirement is called Child Find. It applies to students who attend private school as well as those who attend public school or are homeschooled. This means that if you or your child's teachers think he or she might have a learning disability, a request will be made for an evaluation that is paid for by the public school system. The district will consult with the school before deciding whether your child needs to have an evaluation. If the district agrees to evaluate, the district will be responsible for arranging and paying for these tests.

2. Equitable Services - If your child qualifies for special education, you can make a choice. You can move your child to your local public school so he or she can receive the full range of special education services, or you can have the child stay at Lab School and get what is called "equitable services." Equitable services are paid for by public funding. This funding is set aside specifically for students with disabilities whose parents place them in private schools. Because this funding is limited, your child might receive fewer free services if attending private school than in public school. For example, he or she might receive fewer one-on-one sessions with a speech therapist.

3. Services Plan - If you choose to keep your child in Lab School, the school and the district may create what's called an "Individualized Services Plan." This written plan is similar to an

Individualized Education Program (IEP), but a services plan tends to be less comprehensive than an IEP.

4. Teacher Certification - It's important to note that public schools have strict guidelines for special education teachers. Teacher qualifications are spelled out both in the Individuals with Disabilities Education Act and the federal No Child Left Behind law. The Lab School has no certified special education teachers on staff.

5. Accommodations - The Lab School is usually willing to provide certain accommodations like extra time on tests and the use of assistive technology. We may also allow your child to be tutored at the school, during the class day, by a private tutor that you pay for, but it is also possible that your child's needs may be so great that the school will recommend you send your child to a public school that has more resources.

6. Placement Decisions - When a school district determines that a child is eligible for special education, the district will also decide which learning environment and special services are appropriate for him or her. Parents are part of the team that makes this decision, which is referred to as "placement." For many students with learning disabilities, the most appropriate placement is in a general education classroom in their local public school.

MEDICATION DISPENSING

If possible, parents are advised to try to give medication at home, on a schedule, during non-school hours. It is the responsibility of the parent to inform appropriate school personnel of medical conditions of the student and medications that the student is taking that may have an effect on their child's educational success, even if the medications are not taken at school. This information will be kept in confidential health records. If, however, it is necessary that a medication be given during the school day, compliance with the following instructions is required. All medication to be given at school must be kept in the school office regardless of the student's age.

1. It is the responsibility of the parent/guardian of the child to provide any medication to be given at school.
2. Written authorization and instructions from the parent/guardian must be on file in the school office before school employees may administer any medication to a student. A new authorization form must be completed for any change in medication. Telephone permission will not be accepted.
3. Prescription medicines must be brought to school in the original prescription container labeled with the date, name of the prescriber, name of the student, name, and dosage of the medication, directions for administration, and name and phone number of the pharmacy.
4. Sample drugs must be accompanied by a physician's written order, specifying the dosage, frequency, and directions for administration.