



Acalanes Union High School District

Service Specific Class

The Service Specific Classes at Acalanes and Miramonte High Schools serve students with moderate to severe disabilities within the Acalanes Union High School District. The students attend general education and life skills classes as appropriate and as determined by the IEP team. Students receive a Certificate of Completion when leaving high school. After high school students attend the district Transition Program at Del Valle until age 22.

The Life Skills program is a commitment to providing curricular content that emphasizes personal responsibility, social competence, interpersonal relationships, self-advocacy, physical and mental health, occupational awareness, pre vocational and vocational skills, recreation and leisure skills, consumer awareness, activities of daily living skills and community participation. The importance of the Life Skills program is to help the individual students live as independently as possible, enjoy self-determination, make informed and safe choices, contribute to society and enjoy integration in the mainstream of society.

Students participate in Community Based Instruction which includes practice of community skills such as use of public transportation, ordering lunch in a restaurant, shopping for personal care items and budgeting personal funds. Community Based Instruction may include trips to places of interest related to curricular content, museums, plays, movies, grocery stores, shopping centers, department stores and the exploration of job opportunities and job sites at various community locations.

The students work on functional academics and their specific IEP goals and objectives. Functional academics may include language arts, math, science, history, and computers which focus on skills that students will need living, to develop independence. For instance, language arts lessons may include reading and understanding newspapers, menus, bus schedules, chapter books, computer reading programs, recipes, calendar activities and journal writing. Math lessons may include math skills such as budgeting, shopping math, math games, "dollar up", coin combinations, paying bills, making change, reading graphs and charts, sequencing, and reading a thermometer. Social skills are emphasized to help students develop the skills and the ability to follow directions and learn appropriate behavior related to friendship, school, community and jobs.

Special Education Instructional Assistants work with the students. They assist the students in the general education and service specific classes as well as in the community. In addition, peer tutors are an integral part of the program. Peer tutors are from the general education classes and work with students for one period during the day either in the general education or the service specific class. Peer tutors build relationships by interacting and relating to students in this program at their age and grade level. Both high schools have a Lunch Buddy Club on campus which promotes another opportunity for friendships. Specialists may work with students as specified in each student's IEP. The Special Education Teacher/Education Specialist is the classroom teacher and Case Manager for each student.