

Elementary and Middle School Self-Contained Classrooms

Keystone provides two special education self-contained classrooms for elementary students and middle school students with disabilities. Currently, the elementary program is hosted by the Jefferson County North district and is located at the Elementary/Middle School in Nortonville. The middle school program is located at John Dewey Learning Academy in Ozawkie.

Self-Contained Setting. These special classrooms exist to provide a setting for students with disabilities who require a very restrictive, self-contained setting. The purpose is to provide an educational placement for student with social emotional needs that cannot be accommodated in their home school. These classrooms are also where students will be placed if they transfer in to one of our school districts with a current IEP indicating self-contained placement. Only the Keystone special education administrative team can make referrals to one of these classrooms. Special education administration will consider several guiding questions (see below) to determine whether or not these classrooms may be considered as a placement option by the student's IEP team. *The IEP team makes the placement decision; administration determines whether these special classrooms can be considered as an option.*

The goal is for placement in one of these classrooms to provide a temporary setting for students. Every effort will be made to reintegrate each student into his/her home school as soon as feasible.

***Disciplinary Placements.** The special classrooms are available as disciplinary placement for students with IEPs who have been long-term suspended or expelled. State and Federal statute require students with disabilities who have been suspended or expelled to receive FAPE -- a Free and Appropriate Public Education, and these classrooms are typically the setting for long-term disciplinary removals for elementary and middle school students with disabilities. Long-term disciplinary actions are made at the school/district level, with IEP teams first making a manifestation determination. If the IEP team determines that there **IS** a manifestation, long-term removal is not an option for the school. If the manifestation team determines that there is **NOT** a manifestation, the school may pursue long-term removal. Special Education Administration must be involved in disciplinary referrals (prior to and at the manifestation determination).

These special classrooms also serve as a 45 Interim Alternative Educational Setting (IAES) for students with disabilities when behavior is related to weapons, drugs, or serious bodily injury.

When a long-term removal or 45 school day (IAES) is over, the student returns to his or her home school. There might be some instances that the IEP team would want to consider continued placement at the special classroom; contingent upon the criteria/circumstances described in "self-contained setting" above the provided below.

Guiding questions to determine placement options: The Keystone administrative team will decide, based upon converging evidence, whether placement in a highly restrictive, alternative placement is required. The following will be considered by the administrative team:

- Does the student have a current IEP?
- What are the student's program needs? Are there behavioral goals and a plan? (FBA completed)
- Does the IEP team have data indicating that positive behavior supports have been implemented with integrity?
- Is there data documenting that multiple interventions have been implemented? What were the results?
- If interventions and supports have been successful, does the school have the resources to sustain this level of support?
- Has the most restrictive setting in the home school been tried (e.g. self-contained classroom)?
- Is the student a danger to himself or others?

If the Keystone Administrative Team determines, based upon the above information, that the special self-contained classroom can be a placement option, the student's IEP team will meet with the special classroom staff to make the decision about the most appropriate placement. The above questions may also serve to assist IEP teams in making placement decisions.

** A very brief description is provided above; contact Keystone Special Education Administration or see the KSDE Special Education Process Handbook for specific legal requirements.*