

# What's Special About the Webberville Community School District?

*A detailed view of programs and services for students with special learning needs.*

## **OVERVIEW**

*The Webberville Community School District offers a full continuum of program/service options designed to meet the individual needs of eligible students with disabilities from birth through age 26 who attend a public or non-public-home school within the IISD boundaries. While emphasis is placed on educating all students in integrated settings to the maximum extent appropriate, placement decisions must be based on individual student needs and desired outcomes, and must be rooted in the Individual Educational Planning Team (IEPT) process. Parent involvement is an integral part of programming.*

## **STUDENT SUPPORT TEAM**

The Student Support Team (SST) is a problem-solving process that may be used by teachers and parents to help address learning or behavioral differences. At the SST meeting, specific learning challenges are identified and intervention strategies are decided upon. The SST may reconvene as many times as necessary to resolve the concern. *Please contact your student's teacher for additional information and to express your concerns.*

## **EVALUATIONS**

Webberville Community Schools provides evaluations for students who are suspected of having a disability under IDEA (the federal special education law) and/or Section 504. If there is reason to suspect that the student has a disability, staff may use the SST process to recommend an evaluation. If the intent of the evaluation is to determine eligibility for accommodations under Section 504, parental notice is required prior to evaluation. If the intent is to access special education programs/services under IDEA, parental consent is required prior to evaluation. Following the 504 or special education evaluation, a Multi-evaluation or team meeting is held to review the evaluation data and develop an appropriate program for the student.

## **SPECIAL EDUCATION CLASSROOM PROGRAMS**

Resource programs are available in all buildings, but vary in time as this is to be determined by the student's disability and need. All these programs serve students with a variety of disabilities including emotional, cognitive, speech/language, hearing, vision, physical/health impairments and learning disabilities. Teachers in these programs are most often endorsed in learning disabilities and perhaps one other area of special education. The amount of time the student spends in the special education classroom is determined by the IEP Team. The average time a student spends in this type of setting is 20 -30 daily.

In grades 7-12 the old resource program now provides support through a model known as co-teaching. In this situation general education and resource teachers share

responsibilities in the general classroom. Placement in a co-teaching team or classroom is a decision made by the IEP Team.

We also offer a Basic Classroom in grades 7<sup>th</sup> through 12<sup>th</sup>. This setting serves students who are moderately Cognitive Impaired and possibly Learning Disabled, depending on the student's cognitive function. The Basic classroom offers all core curriculum areas in addition to life skills, daily functioning, transition skills, and real life situational experiences. Students enrolled in this program will receive a Certificate of Completion upon graduation.

Co-teaching link, go to: [www.uni.edu/coe/inclusion/preparing/building\\_levels.html](http://www.uni.edu/coe/inclusion/preparing/building_levels.html)

At Heartwood located in Mason, Okemos High School, Williamston Elementary, Evergreen, and the Secondary Learning Center there are programs for students who have more significant challenges and need most, if not all, of their instruction in a special education setting. These programs focus on basic academics, life skills, and prevocational education, and might include students who have been found eligible under the categories of severely multiple/severely mentally impaired, cognitive impairment, emotional impairment, physical impairment, autism, or any other disability which requires intensive support from a team of educators.

An Early Childhood Special Education (ECSE) program serves preschool-aged (2.5 – 6 years of age) children with disabilities who require a specialized classroom setting (i.e., their needs cannot be met in a typical preschool or day care setting.) This program is housed in the Webberville Community School District, located in the elementary, and provides five half days per week, Monday through Friday. We currently have 2 sections, one in the morning starting at 8:00 a.m. – 11:15 a.m., and an afternoon session starting at 11:45 a.m. – 3:00 p.m. Students residing the Webberville, Dansville, and Stockbridge have access to this program. If you do not live in the mentioned school districts, please contact your residing school district for a program site.

### **SPECIAL EDUCATION RELATED SERVICES**

A wide range of related services is available within Webberville Community Schools to meet the individual needs of eligible students. These include speech/language therapy, school social work services, occupational and physical therapy, and OHI teacher consultant and school psychology services. Transition plans are developed for all eligible students beginning at age 14. A Transition Consultant oversees community placements for secondary students who have that need. Functional Behavior Assessments are conducted for students at all levels whose behavior impedes their own learning or the learning of others, and Behavior Intervention Plans are developed as necessary by the IEP Team. Appropriate related services are identified through the IEPT process.

## **Ingham Intermediate School District**

IISD, which Webberville is a part, provides a variety of services to students, parents and staff. Please refer to attached link for specific information regarding the IISD. [/www.inghamisd.org/](http://www.inghamisd.org/) Please note: All referrals for IISD School services are processed through the Director of Special Education in the resident district.

## **OUT-OF DISTRICT OPTIONS**

Some students have specific needs which are best addressed in specialized settings as mentioned above. These students are identified through the IEPT process. Webberville students have access to several consortium-type programs which are operated by neighboring districts through cooperative agreements and tuition arrangements. These may include programs for students who have been identified under the categories of cognitive impairment, severe multiple impairment, autism, visual impairment, hearing impairment, and physical impairment. Prevocational training is available at the post-secondary level through IISD.

Webberville's youngest residents, those ages 0-2.5/3, may be served through Early Intervention services provided by the IISD. Please contact Sue Dixon at 517-898-5633 or [sdixon@inghamisd.org](mailto:sdixon@inghamisd.org).

## **STEPS TO TAKE IF YOU THINK YOUR STUDENT MAY NEED SPECIALIZED PROGRAMMING:**

- Meet with your child's teacher. Share your concerns and ideas. Develop a plan for working together.
- Share information you have from outside sources. School personnel welcome input from family doctors, tutors, private therapists, etc.
- Talk with the principal. Often he/she can work with parents and teachers to come up with helpful new strategies or mobilize additional resources. You may wish to request a Student Support Team meeting involving one or more of your child's teachers.
- Contact the Department of Special Education if you have specific questions about evaluations or programming under IDEA or Section 504. All parent requests for evaluation are handled by the Department of Special Education.
- Questions about services to preschool aged children may also be addressed to the Department of Special Education.

*For evaluations of infants and toddlers (ages 0-3) call:*

Early On- Ingham

Stephanie Peters

(517) 244-1210

[speters@inghamisd.org](mailto:speters@inghamisd.org)

*For evaluations of preschoolers (ages 3 -5) call:*

Pam Panozzo-Jones

Director of Special Education

(517)521-3447x323

[pjones@webbervilleschools.org](mailto:pjones@webbervilleschools.org)

*For evaluations of students in grades K-12 call:*

Pam Panozzo-Jones

Director of Special Education

(517)521-3447x323

[pjones@webbervilleschools.org](mailto:pjones@webbervilleschools.org)

*For 504 evaluations, or for general information, call:*

Suzanne Slater

Principal – Webberville Elementary

517-521-3071

[sslater@webbervilleschools.org](mailto:sslater@webbervilleschools.org)

Tim Dowker

Principal – Webberville MS and HS

517-521-3447

[tdowker@webbervilleschools.org](mailto:tdowker@webbervilleschools.org)

*It is the policy of the Webberville Community Schools not to discriminate on the basis of religion, race, national origin, sex or handicap in educational programs, activities or services. All students shall have an equal opportunity to participate in, and benefit from, all academic and extra-curricular activities and services.*

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