

The Mission of the WISD Referral Committee is to ensure that all students living within Washtenaw County have access to high quality Special Education programs and services that they require to make progress. Our first priority when exploring the entire special education continuum for students is to consider the Least Restrictive Environment (LRE). To the maximum extent appropriate, all students are entitled to have opportunities to engage with typically developing peers and be educated in the school closest to their home. [*§300.114 LRE requirements and §300.116 Placements*].



WISD Center Program Referrals

Only special education directors in local districts or public school academies may submit referrals to center-based programs for students residing in Washtenaw County, with moderate to severe disabilities. Students must first be registered in their resident district prior to a referral being made. This process is in place to best serve students and meet the requirements of the Individuals with Disabilities Education Act (IDEA), specifically *§ 300.115 Continuum of alternative placements*. (a) *Each public agency must ensure that a continuum of alternative placements is available to meet the needs of children with disabilities for special education and related services.* A referral is only an exploration of programs and services. Any and all placement decisions shall be made by the Individualized Education Program (IEP) team as part of the IEP process.



Program Overviews

High Point- Severe Multiple Impairment (SXI)/ Severe Cognitive Impairment (SCI) (Ages 3-26)

The SXI/SCI program at High Point is designed to serve learners who require the maximum amount of support in order to make progress on their IEP goals and objectives. Students commonly require intensive supports to address medical interventions, motor needs, behaviors, and assistive communication. Instruction is based on Michigan's Alternate Content Expectations/Essential Elements for students with the most significant cognitive disabilities.

High Point- Deaf or Hard of Hearing (DHH) (Ages 3-8th grade)

The DHH program at High Point is designed to have total communication classrooms where all forms of communication are used- verbal, nonverbal, and amplification. There is a focus on providing intensive language and comprehensive literacy instruction for each child. Opportunities exist to participate in a general education setting within Honey Creek Community School classrooms and electives.

High Point- Autism Spectrum Disorder (ASD) (Ages 3-26)	<p>The ASD program at High Point is a sensory-friendly setting designed to serve learners who require the maximum amount of support in order to make progress on their IEP goals and objectives. Students commonly exhibit severe behavioral needs in both intensity and frequency which require the intervention of a crisis response team. Student programs are primarily focused on functional communication, safety, and social skills in preparation for advancement and/or adult agency support and services.</p>
Progress Park (K-12)	<p>The Progress Park program is designed to serve students with the most intense level of social-emotional/behavioral needs with a trauma-informed approach. Students receive support from a team of specially trained staff to develop the tools they need to return to their local district. Student programs are primarily focused on emotional growth, relationship building, and increased academic independence. Students' Behavior Intervention Plans are highly individualized and carefully monitored.</p>
Local Based Classrooms (LBC) (K-12)	<p>The LBCs* are intentionally housed in general education buildings to maximize opportunities for students to be educated with nondisabled peers. Instruction is highly individualized and based on an alternative curriculum using Essential Elements in combination with Common Core State Standards. Students in the LBCs generally fall within the moderate range of their various disabilities and may require specially designed instruction in multiple areas of development.</p> <p>*K-5 Eberwhite Elementary, Ann Arbor; 6-8 Milan Middle School, and 9-12 Dexter High School.</p>
Red Oak (Ages 18-26)	<p>The Red Oak program focuses on functional life skills to build independence for adulthood for young adults who continue to be eligible for special education programs and services. Students commonly require direct instruction for skills that are critical to integrate within a community including safety/awareness, functional communication, and regulating emotions/behaviors.</p>
Young Adult Program (Ages 18-26)	<p>The Young Adult program is designed for students to work on skills to be safe and independent in the community. There is a focus on employment, developing skills, and social awareness at home and in the community, building self-advocacy, and connecting to adult agencies. Students may remain in the program until age 26 or until they no longer demonstrate a need for specially designed instruction.</p>

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