



PARAMOUNT UNIFIED SCHOOL DISTRICT

GREAT THINGS ARE HAPPENING IN PARAMOUNT SCHOOLS



Update on Special Education Study Session

August 28, 2019

Dr. Ruth Perez, Superintendent

Dr. Deborah Stark, Assistant Superintendent, Educational Services K-8

Dr. Elida Garcia, Director, Special Education



Presentation Purpose

- Review highlights of the Individuals with Disabilities Educational Act (IDEA).
- Review the continuum of services and programs offered for students with disabilities in Paramount Unified School District.
- Review actions to increase opportunities for students with special needs into general education settings and initial program outcomes.



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Individuals with Disabilities Education Act (IDEA)

IDEA is a federal law that assures free, appropriate public education is available to eligible children with disabilities and ensures special education and related services to those children.

Children and youth ages 3 through 21 receive special education and related services under IDEA.



Purpose of the IDEA

The purpose of IDEA is to ensure that:

- *All children with disabilities have a free appropriate public education that emphasizes special education and related services designed to meet their unique needs and prepare them for further education, employment, and independent living.*
- *The rights of children with disabilities and their parents are protected.*
- *Educators and parents have the tools to improve educational results for children with disabilities by supporting system improvement activities; coordinated research and personnel preparation; coordinated technical assistance, dissemination, and support; and technology development and media services.*



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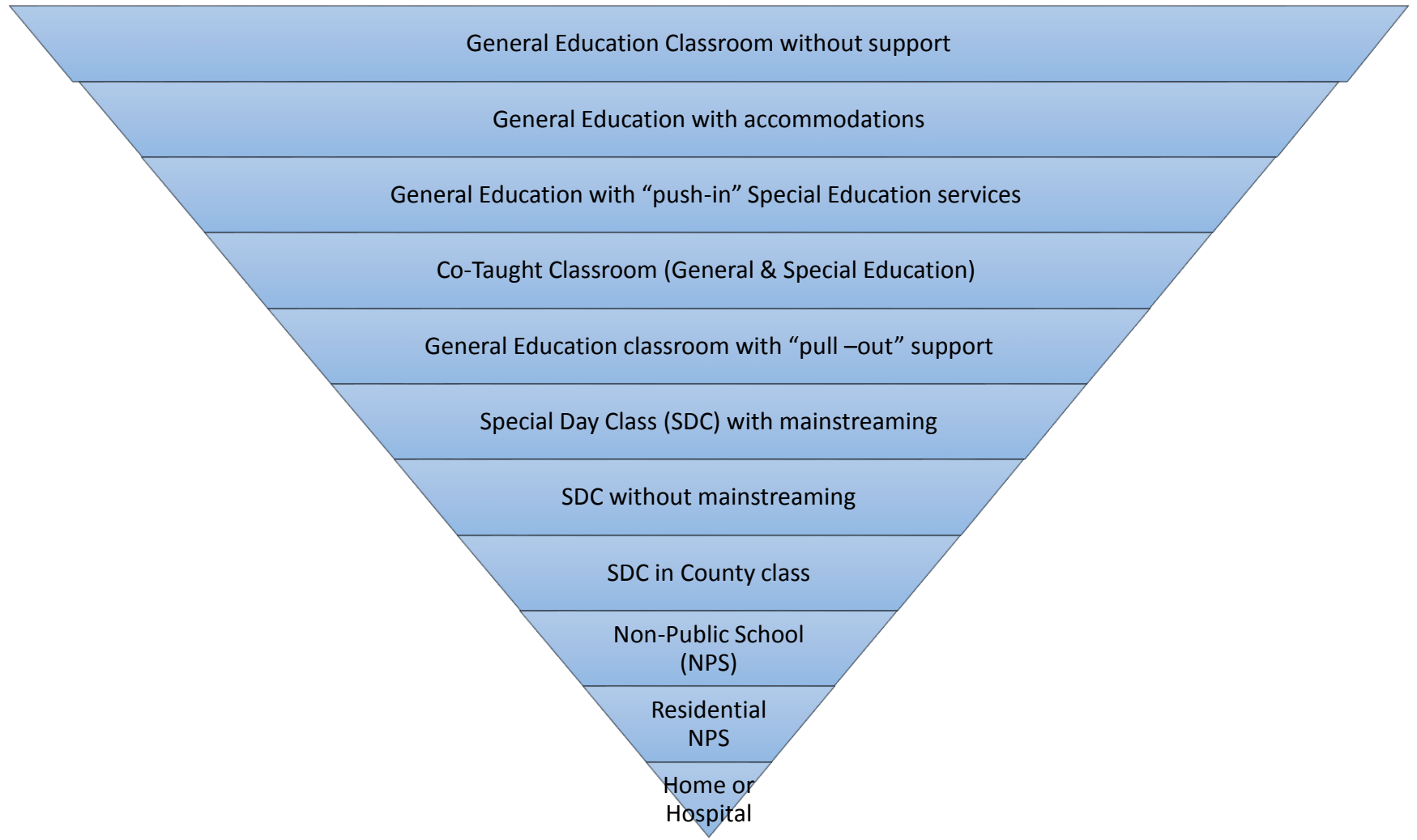
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Least Restrictive Environment (LRE)

- To the maximum extent appropriate, children with disabilities are educated with peers who are non-disabled.
- Special classes, separate schooling or removal of children with disabilities from the regular environment occurs only if the nature or severity of the disability is such that education in regular classes cannot be achieved with the use of supplementary aids and services.



Continuum of Services





PUSD's Programs Aligned with Continuum of Services

Designated Instructional Services (DIS)	Preschool to Adult Transition
▪ Adapted Physical Education	All School Sites
▪ Assistive Technology	
▪ Behavior Intervention Services	
▪ Counseling and Guidance	
▪ Educationally Related Mental Health Services	
▪ Occupational Therapy	
▪ Speech and Language	





PUSD's Programs Align with Continuum of Services

Service		Grade and Schools	
Specialized Academic Instruction	Description	Preschool - 8 th Grade	9 th Grade - Adult Transition
Resource Specialist Program (RSP)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> General Education Curriculum with Accommodations Diploma General Education Classroom 	All K-8 Sites	Odyssey STEM Academy Paramount High West Campus Paramount High School Community Day School Buena Vista High School
Special Day Class (SDC) Mild/Moderate	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> General Education Curriculum with Modifications Diploma General Education Classroom (Co-Teaching) Special Education Classroom 	Collins, Jefferson Roosevelt, Wirtz Preschool Classes Jackson, Paramount Park Zamboni	Paramount High West Campus Paramount High School
Special Day Class (SDC) Moderate/Severe	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Alternate/Life Skills Curriculum Certificate of Completion Special Education Classroom with access to General Education Classrooms 	Lincoln , Los Cerritos, Alondra	Paramount High West Campus Paramount High School Paramount Adult Transition
Behavior Support Focus	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> General Education Curriculum with Modifications Diploma Special Education Classroom with access to General Education Classrooms Behavior Supports and Services 	Alondra Middle School	Buena Vista High School
Autism Focus	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> General Education Curriculum with Modifications Diploma Special Education Classroom with access to General Education Classrooms Behavior Supports and Services 	Hollydale K-8 School	



Paramount Adult Transition Program

The Paramount Adult Transition (PAT) Program, located on the Adult School campus, enrolls students aged 18-22—including students who earned a Certificate of Completion after being in a Moderate/Severe high school class. The PAT curriculum includes:

- Life skills and functional academic curriculum.
- Workability Program.
- Community Based Instruction.
- Independent Living Skills.
- Connection to community resources.





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Curriculum and Instruction

The general education curriculum is *modified* for students in most Special Education settings, including RSP, SDC (Mild/Moderate), Autism and behavior support classes. Curriculum is modified or supplemented according to a student's IEP goals.

A separate curriculum is used with students in SDC Moderate/Severe classes. This curriculum, called *Attainment*, integrates academic skills with a focus on life skills. Students learn math and literacy skills in the context of real-life application.



Opportunities for Students with Special Needs in General Education Settings

PUSD is committed to expanding opportunities for students with disabilities to participate in General Education Settings.

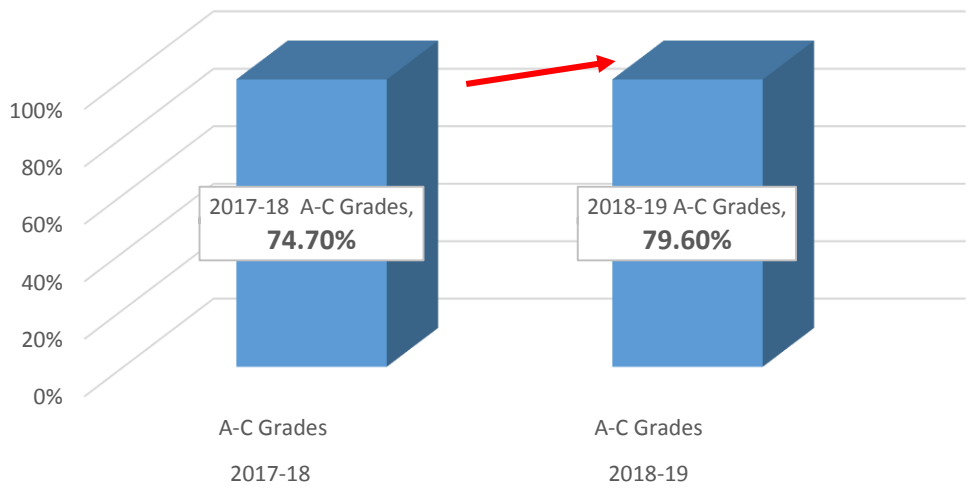
- Co-Teaching began with students in the Resource Specialist Program (RSP) nine years ago and now includes middle and high school students in Special Day Classes (SDC).
- An Inclusion Preschool Class is being launched at Wirtz Elementary School in 2019-20. This class is co-taught by two preschool teachers: one Special Education and one General Education and includes both students with IEPs and general education students.



Early Outcomes: Language Arts

After implementing co-teaching in middle school Language Arts classes, early results are promising. More students with disabilities are passing with grades of A-C.

6-8 ELA Grades 2nd Semester

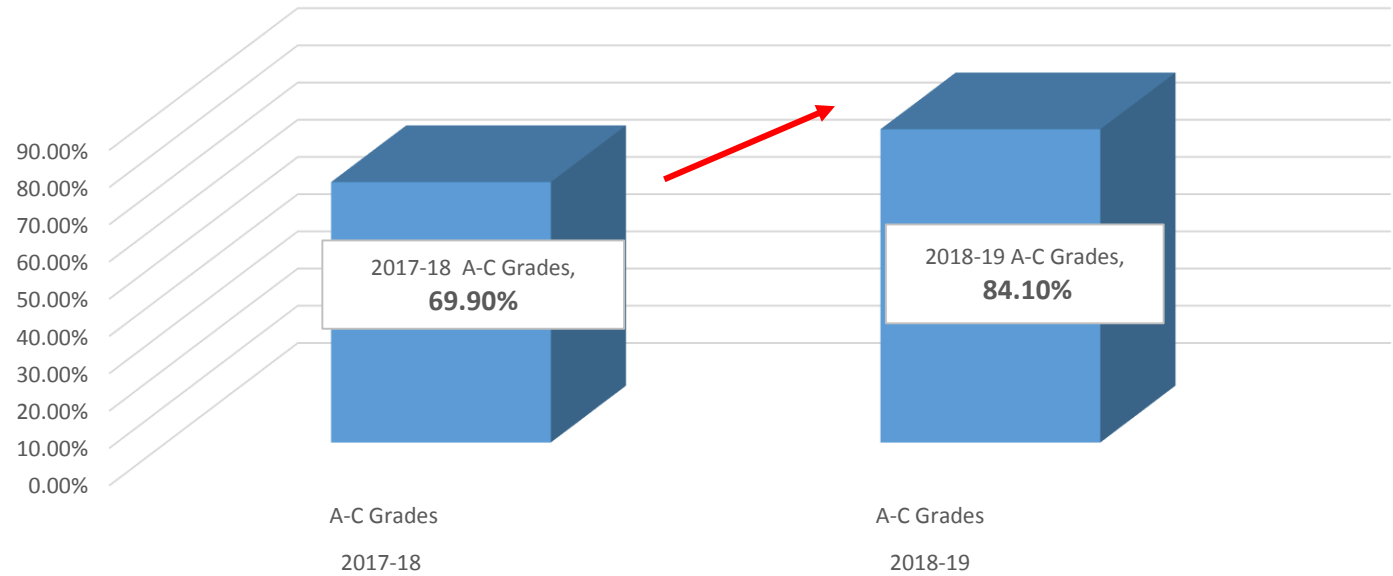




Early Outcomes: Math

After implementing co-teaching in middle school math classes, early results are promising. More students with disabilities are passing with grades of A-C.

6-8 Math Grades 2nd Semester





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What do teachers say about co-teaching?

Co-teaching puts both general and special educators into a collaborative mindset to meet the individual needs of all the students we serve.

Helena Chun, Teacher
Keppel Elementary School

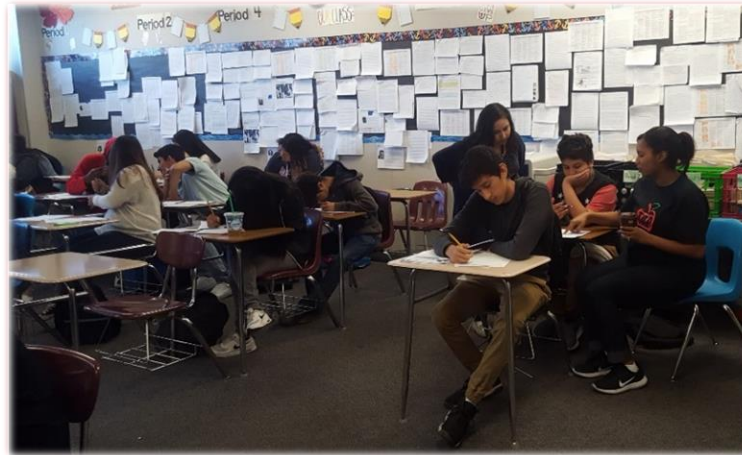




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What do students say about co-teaching?



Having two teachers is better because they both explain and put more understanding in the lesson.

10th grade student
Paramount High School

I feel like I have learned so much more because I'm in a co-taught class.

6th grade student
Zamboni Middle School



Support for Schools

- Professional Development
- Curriculum Development
- Program Support
- Technical Support



Program
Administrators

Program
Specialists

Behavior
Intervention
Specialists

School
Nurses



Support for Schools

Professional development for teachers, principals and instructional aides.

- Professional Development on Co-Teaching is provided by Dr. Wendy Murawski of 2Teach LLC, an expert in this topic. Co-teaching teams receive two days of training, followed by classroom visits and feedback.
- All instructional aides were trained on effective behavior strategies in August, 2019; follow up training will be provided mid-year.





Next Steps

- Monitor and assess the new inclusion preschool class by surveying teachers and parents.
- Monitor co-teaching in grades 9-12; analyze courses offered and collect data on student outcomes (grades, behavior).
- Develop a two-year plan to address students with significant behavior support needs, including how to provide professional development for Special and General Education staff.



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Questions and Discussion