

UPPER SCHOOL SPECIAL PROGRAMS



WHY LCS SPECIAL PROGRAMS?

At LCS, we recognize that students have varying academic needs and often learn at different paces. Through the Special Programs Department (SP), LCS seeks to provide remediation and support in a specialized setting for students with mild or moderate disabilities while they receive academic instruction through a mainstream delivery model.

SP faculty members are ESE certified by the state of Florida. Their collective experience and various teaching methods provide students with the opportunity to learn from well-qualified teachers who understand the process of supporting various learning styles and who are familiar with the general classroom expectations.

MISSION & GOAL

The Special Programs Department endeavors to meet the special needs of students who have been diagnosed with mild or moderate disabilities. The goal is to partner with students, families, and teachers to increase academic independence and performance.

UPPER SCHOOL SERVICES

Special Programs (SP) provides progressive levels of support for 6th through 12th grade mainstreamed students with disabilities. This program is designed to remediate students to fill academic skill gaps so that they can move forward successfully at LCS.

It is ultimately our desire to serve as many students as possible; however, not all students with a disability will automatically qualify for a support plan. Plans are determined based on space availability, documented academic need, and/or other support required to engage successfully in the academic setting at LCS. Admission to SP will be based on the extent to which our resources can help your student succeed as well as his/her ongoing need for support. The SP department practices a referral process for current students to determine the need for intervention and/or testing to establish eligibility for a 504 Plan and enrollment in Special Programs.



TESTING

Special Programs has the ability to complete general curriculum-based assessments and refer students to the school psychologist for formal psycho-educational testing, behavioral evaluation, etc. All formal testing must remain current to within the past three years to remain eligible for placement in SP.

COURSE PLACEMENT

SP faculty desires to ensure student success and works diligently to place students in courses most suited for their ability. Schedules must be approved by SP faculty before student schedules are finalized. If a schedule is appealed and the student is placed in a course outside of SP recommendation, the course will not be supported through SP; therefore, if the student requires extra support to be successful in that course, a private tutor may be required. The opportunities for student success are maximized when a student is fully invested in the educational experience. Involvement in SP does not guarantee specific classroom grades.

TUITION & FEES

Costs for SP services are in addition to tuition and based on the level of support required by the student. Fees are re-evaluated each year by SP faculty to ensure proper support is in place at the beginning of the school year. Each higher level of support includes the services of previous levels.

SPECIAL PROGRAM SERVICE LEVELS

LEVEL 1 - \$500/YEAR

Students receive a 504 Plan due to a documented diagnosis that impacts their academic performance. Students participate in all general education courses and receive accommodations as identified on the 504 Plan and as advocated for by the student in the general education setting. For high school students, College Board/ACT accommodations may be requested in writing from parent/guardian.

LEVEL 3 - \$3000/YEAR*

Students receive remediation in math or reading/language based on identified skill gaps determined through assessment. Executive functioning skills will be developed, and students will have the opportunity to receive assistance with outside coursework as time allows after receiving daily targeted intervention.

LEVEL 2 - \$1500/YEAR

Students will receive testing accommodations in a specialized and supported setting for standardized assessments. Students receive academic monitoring, and SP faculty works collaboratively with classroom teachers for implementation and oversight of accommodations in the general education classroom. All students approved for accommodations for AP exams must be at this minimum level.

LEVEL 4 - \$4000/YEAR*

Students receive intensive remediation in math and reading/language based on identified skill gaps determined through assessment. Ongoing outside resources may be required for success at this level.

** Students who may not need intensive remediation may be served at either level 3 or 4 based on SP determination of need for social-emotional support or executive functioning support.*

SP ELIGIBILITY REQUIREMENTS

- Full Scale IQ of 85 or higher
- Documented ability to demonstrate functioning to include:
 - Performance no lower than 2 years below grade level in math and reading/language on school approved assessment and/or
 - Performance no lower than 30th percentile in math and reading/language on current nationally normed assessment and/or
 - Performance no lower than FSA Level 2 in math and reading.
- Psycho-educational evaluation results current within three years documenting a diagnosis and academic need.
- Updated academic re-evaluation every three years to monitor progress and to evaluate continued need of services.
- Additional evaluations required at the discretion of SP faculty.
- Annual Professional Medical Diagnosis Form on file for non-learning disability diagnoses.
- Prior accommodation plan from a previous school.
- Behavioral records documenting appropriate engagement within the school setting.
- Students must:
 - Be able to perform adequately with peers in mainstream courses.
 - Be able to independently integrate adequately with the student population independently for the school day.
 - Bear the responsibility of coursework and bring to SP for support.
 - Participate in remediation courses as prescribed by the SP department.
 - Present with appropriate behavior record or such that SP feels is manageable for LCS.
 - Have only disorders that LCS is adequately prepared to manage/support.

Students will initially be enrolled in Special Programs for a probationary period of one semester to ensure the student is capable of being successful with the available services provided at LCS and that SP faculty are able to meet their individualized needs. To remain eligible for ongoing services in SP, students must be able to demonstrate their ability to work well with the provided supports, and students and families must work in partnership with SP faculty in a productive and respectful manner. Please note that if your student meets the qualifications for admission to SP or ongoing services through SP, they must remain enrolled in the program at SP's determination of need (which is subject to change based on new/updated data) for ongoing enrollment at LCS. A contract signed by both the parent(s) and student will be required for ongoing enrollment in SP each year.

NEW STUDENT APPLICANTS

It is expected that parents fully disclose all information related to the student's disability and needs. Upon submission of the LCS application, there will be an initial review of documentation to determine academic eligibility for Special Programs. All required documents must be submitted as requested for your application to be reviewed.

Required documents include:

- Current IEP or 504 Plan
- Psycho-educational evaluation dated within the last three years
- Professional Medical Diagnosis Form for non-LD diagnosis dated within the current school year
- Most recent report card or course grades
- Most recent standardized test scores
- Behavior/discipline records from most recent formal school

Students who may be accepted based on the written application will be required to participate in a student shadow day.

