

# Starmont Community School District Special Education Plan

Mission Statement: Starmont Schools: "Empowering all students with knowledge, skills, and attitudes necessary for responsible, productive, fulfilling lives."

The Board of Directors of the Starmont Community School District is committed to a philosophy of service to children. The objective of this philosophy is to help each child develop into a mature individual and a contributing member of society. The Board believes that this can best be met through a school program wide enough in scope to encompass the intellectual, physical, civic, social, and aesthetic education of children.

The Board recognizes that some students have unique educational needs. The Board shall provide FAPE (Free and Appropriate Education) to children requiring special education between the ages of three and twenty-one, and to a maximum allowable age in accordance with Iowa Code. Students requiring special education shall attend regular education classes, participate in extracurricular activities and receive services in a regular education setting to the maximum extent possible. The appropriate education for each student shall be written in the student's Individual Education Program (IEP).

Special education students shall be required to meet the requirements stated in Board policy and/or their IEPs for graduation.

## Least Restrictive Environment

All students should be educated to the maximum extent appropriate for each individual student in the general education setting where activities, instruction, and remediation naturally occurs for children of similar ages without disabilities.

## Section 1: What process was used to develop the delivery system for eligible individuals?

The delivery system was developed in accordance with the Iowa Administrative Code rule 41.408(2)c. The group of individuals who developed and/or reviewed the system included parents of eligible individuals, special education teachers, general education teachers, administrators, and AEA personnel.

Members of the committee included the following:

Kim Torson: Parent

Josh Steffen: Elementary General Education Teacher

Sara Walter: Middle School General Education Teacher

Jill Jensen: 9-12 Special Education Teacher

Rachael Hach: K-12 Social Worker

Samantha Thiese: Middle School Special Education Teacher

Heather Anfinson : Elementary Special Education Teacher

Heath Hesse: Elementary Principal

Heather Kaufman: AEA Special Education Consultant

Shauna Koppenhaver: Secondary Principal  
Sara Kluesner: AEA Special Education Consultant

The District Developed Service Delivery Plan will be communicated with Starmont District Staff through meetings, as well as posted on the district's website. The Starmont Board of Education approved this plan on February 13, 2023.

**Section 2: How will service be organized and provided to eligible individuals? Continuum of Services**  
**General Education with consultation:**

The student is served in the general education classroom without any accommodations or modifications to the curriculum, instruction, testing, grading, or other related services. The service provider is responsible for consulting with the general education teacher and monitoring the student's progress during the 45-day trial period.

**General Education with consultation/accommodations:**

The student is served in the general education classroom with consultation and support from the special education teacher. The general education teacher is responsible for direct instruction, testing, grading, and behavioral management as specified in the IEP. Special education teacher support may include assisting with the design and preparation of materials, adaptations, and accommodations. The special education teacher is responsible for monitoring the student's progress on IEP goals.

**General education with direct special education support in the general education classroom:**

The student receives special education support for the general education curriculum in the general education setting. The special education teacher or support service provider will be in the general education classroom to provide direct instruction, instructional support, or other assistance to the student or group of students, through models such as lead teacher, collaboration, or co-teaching. The special education teacher/service provider is responsible for monitoring the student's progress on IEP goals.

**General education with direct special education support outside the general education classroom:**

The student receives special education support for the general education curriculum outside the general education setting. When the services cannot be appropriately provided in the general education setting, the student may receive selected services or all services he/she needs in a separate educational setting (including, but not limited to early childhood special education program, special classes, special schools, home instruction, and instruction in hospitals and institutions). The special education teacher/service provider is responsible for monitoring the student's progress on the IEP goals.

**Regular Early Childhood Program with Teacher Holding Dual Endorsement:**

The child is served in the regular early childhood classroom with a teacher who holds a valid practitioner’s license issued by the Board of Educational Examiners that includes prekindergarten and early childhood special education. The teacher is responsible for direct instruction, preparation of materials, adaptations, and accommodations as specified in the IEP. The teacher with the dual endorsement is responsible for implementing and monitoring the child’s progress according to the IEP.

**Notes:**

For students, 3-5 years of age the term “general education” refers to a regular early childhood program that implements either the National Association for the Education of Young Children (NAEYC), Iowa Quality Preschool Program Standards (QPPS), or Head Start Program Performance Standards.

Students may receive different services at multiple points along the continuum based on the IEP.

The district will provide access to this continuum for all eligible individuals based on their IEPs. Services may be provided within the district or through a contractual arrangement with other districts and/or agencies.

The continuum includes services for eligible individuals ages 3-21.

**Section 3: How will caseloads of special education teachers be determined and regularly monitored?**

The Special Education Team at each center will determine a teacher caseload, to be at most 18 students assigned to any one teacher at Level 1 only. If a Special Education teacher has a combination of level 1 and 2 students on their caseload then the caseload is not to exceed 16 students. A caseload limit of 12 students at Level II and III will be used with consideration given to ensuring the needs of each student are being met. The team will consist of the principal and special education teachers.

Points System

Student

Level 1 = 1 Point

Level 2 = 2 Points

Level 3 = 3 Points

**2022-2023 Caseloads**

Elementary Caseload

Teacher 1: 12

Teacher 2: 9

Teacher 3: 8

MS Caseload

Teacher 1: 15

Part-time Teacher 2: 6

Primary

Teacher 1: 2

Teacher 2: 2

HS Caseload  
Teacher 1: 22

Level 3 Classrooms  
Teacher 1: 29  
Teacher 2: 21

Caseloads will be tentatively set in the spring for the following year. Caseloads may be modified based on summer registrations and actual fall enrollments. The Special Education Team at the appropriate center will review caseloads at least twice during the school year.

An exception to the maximum caseload may be made if the special education team assesses the caseload and ensures, in their review, that the needs of each student are being met.

If the person requesting the review does not agree with the determination, he or she may appeal to the AEA Director of Special Education. The AEA Director/designee will meet with the personnel involved and will provide a written decision.

Note: Early childhood programs will meet the criteria for a maximum class size of 20 and a teacher-to-child ratio of 1:10, according to preschool program standards.

#### **Section 4: What procedures will a special education teacher use to resolve caseload concerns?**

A scheduled review of teacher caseloads will be conducted by the building principal at least twice a year:

1. At the beginning of the school year
2. At the end of each school year plan for the next school year.

At any other time, if a special education teacher feels there is a need for a caseload review, they may request the review by submitting, in writing, the request to the building principal. The principal, within 5 working days, will provide the teacher with a resolution and/or explanation.

If the teacher feels that the principal's solution is not satisfactory, they may request a meeting of the Caseload Assistance Team (CAT), which will consist of other special education teachers in the building, a general education teacher, the AEA special education consultant, and the principal. The principal must convene the CAT meeting within 5 working days of the teacher's request. The CAT will then make a recommendation to the principal as to whether there is a need for adjustments to a teacher's schedule or roster, and the principal will provide that information to the teacher within 5 days after their meeting.

#### **Section 5: How will the delivery system for eligible individuals meet the targets identified in the state's performance plan? How will the delivery system for eligible individuals address needs identified by the state in any determination made under Chapter 41? What process will be used to evaluate the effectiveness of the delivery system for eligible individuals?**

In order to meet the State Performance Plan/Annual Progress Report (SPP/CASA) goals, accountability will be addressed in the following ways:

- Individual student IEP goal progress monitoring
- Aggregation of process monitoring and summative evaluations for groups of students at both school and district levels.
- Examination of disaggregated subgroup achievement and SPP/CASA data

### **Individual**

Individual student progress on IEP goals will be reviewed and discussed monthly by the special education teacher along with AEA consultants/specialists and school administrators if possible. The purpose of the review is to determine if adequate progress is being made if any adjustment in instruction is needed, or if other targeted or intensive interventions through MTSS or special education are indicated. Special education teachers will share data with general education teachers quarterly.

### **School: Aggregated by School and District**

The IEP subgroup performance will be reviewed and discussed by grade level/content teams which include both general and special education teachers quarterly. Subgroup achievement, growth, and achievement gap will be included as items for discussion and planning. Schools with a subgroup achievement gap; thus, impeding progress toward meeting the district SPP/CASA requirements, will develop a school-based plan to close the achievement gap by grade level in each school. These plans will be monitored at the school level every semester and at the district level at the end of the school year. In the event that this process creates the need to revise the DDSDP, the district will follow the process to revise and readopt the DDSDP.

### **District: Disaggregated by School Levels**

At the district level, the IEP subgroup data for each school, along with the plans as described above, will be reviewed on an annual basis by the district's leadership team. IEP student data will also be disaggregated and examined at the school level. In addition, the district will examine its APP/CASA data to determine priorities and develop an action plan as needed. If the district meets SPP/CASA requirements, both procedural and performance, the delivery system will not be considered effective. If the district does not meet requirements, the district will work in collaboration with the State and AEA.

**Revised: 2/1/2023**