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Office of Education Support
2008-2009
Sandra De La Cruz, M.Ed.
Assistant Superintendent of Education Support
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972-237-5366



Education Support – Education Support programs comprise a variety of services that assist students who are experiencing academic behavioral, social, emotional and physical predicaments that could prevent them from becoming successful. The various programs within Education Support include State, Federal, and Student Support Programs; Innovation and Support; Special Education; Bilingual/ESL Programs; Health Services; Counseling Services; Elementary DEAP; and Sexual Harassment. For more information about Education Support call:

Sandra De La Cruz, M.Ed., Assistant Superintendent of Education Support

Phone: 972-237-5366 Fax: 972-237-5540

Darla Staggs, Administrative Assistant, 972-237-4008

State, Federal and Student Support Programs – State, Federal and Student Support programs focuses on funding for strategies that assist students most “at-risk” of failing and/or dropping out of school. Strategies include: supporting schools in providing direct instruction and necessary support to help them stay in school and be successful, including passing state mandated tests (TAKS, RPTE, etc.); analyzing programs and data to provide the best opportunities for student success; present program ideas to help schools “close the gap” between successful students and at-risk students; and manage appropriate campus funding. Programs include: Title I, Part A (No Child Left Behind) Support Services, including English/Reading, Math, Science, and Social Studies Facilitators; Migrant Services; Parent and Community Involvement Programs; Home Instruction for Parents of Pre-School Youngsters (HIPPY); Safe & Drug Free Schools & Communities; Project STOP Drug Testing Program (USDE Grant); McKinney-Vento Homeless Services (TEXSHEP Grant); Social Workers & Social Services; District Spanish Language Translation Services; Dropout Recovery/Prevention (DRPP Grant); Adult Education/ESL (EL Civics Grant); and Truancy. In addition, State Compensatory Education (SCE) is a legislatively funded program to serve those students most at risk of failing and/or dropping out of school. Also provided is support for campus and district compliance with policies and regulations established by federal and state law, the Texas Education Agency, the U.S. Department of Education and local board policy. For more information about these programs call:

Ricky Mitchell, MA.Ed. Ad., Executive Director of State, Federal and Student Programs

Phone: 972-237-4044 Fax: 972-237-5540

Ann Estrada, Title I Secretary, 972-237-5522

Lydia Patlan, Secretary, 972-237-4013

Innovation and Support – The roles and responsibilities of the Executive Director of Innovation and Support focus on **researching, developing and implementing, research-based “best practices” and maximizing funding opportunities that are aligned with campus and district priorities.** This position has direct responsibility for the preparation of selected innovative and competitive grants including working with campus/district teams in researching, developing, implementing, monitoring and evaluating identified grant-funded programs specific to their needs. The Executive Director of Innovation and Support also serves as the District’s AVID Director and District 504 Compliance Coordinator. Other programs within Innovation and Support include: Multi-Cultural & Diversity, Life Skills Program for Student Parents Grant Program (formerly PEP); General Education Homebound (GEH), General Educational Development (GED); Upward Bound (UTA & Mountain View College), and Innovative Projects and Grant Writing procedures and processes including technical assistance and staff training are also other areas of responsibility under the Executive Director of Innovation and Support. Current innovative Grants and projects include: TEEG Cycle 2 & 3, Texas Fitness Now, Dropout Recovery Pilot, and Beginning Teacher Induction and Mentoring (BTIM), STEM Initiative and Algebra for All. For more information, call:

Marva Dixon, Ed.D., Executive Director of Innovation and Support

Phone: 972-343-4020 Fax 972-343-5540

Kandice Cole, Administrative Assistant, 972-237-5344

Special Education – All students with disabilities are ensured the availability of a free, appropriate public education, which includes special education and related services to meet their unique needs. To the extent that they will benefit, students with disabilities shall have the opportunity to participate in

educational programs and activities with students without disabilities. Included in the Special Education department is instructional support/inclusion; specialized instructional programs; assessment and related services; and Encore/compliance.

Joyce F. Jackson, MS, Executive Director of Special Education

Phone: 972-237-4048

Fax: 972-237-4033

Dolores Jackson, Administrative Assistant, 972-237-5441

Bilingual/ESL Programs –Bilingual and English as a Second Language Program is to provide all students with the skills necessary to be fluent English speakers, readers and writers in our society. The teachers will meet the needs of all students by using a systematic approach to move students from Spanish to English proficiency in the Bilingual classroom. A comprehensive English development system is utilized in the English as a Second Language classroom.

Liz Martin, MLA, Director of Bilingual/ESL Programs

Phone: 972-237-4014

Fax: 972-237-4033

Sandra Salazar, Secretary, 972-237-4015

Health Services – The Health Services Program is comprised of 37 registered nurses, a special education nurse and 2 health clerks within the Grand Prairie Independent School District. The nurses and health clerks provide services to over 25,500 students and their parents and 4,100 employees. School nurses provide a critical role in the education of students by promoting health as well as providing direct care. The program provides services related to immunizations, communicable diseases, medication administration, care for acute and chronic illnesses, nursing procedures for the medically fragile, minor and emergency care, diabetes treatment, asthma treatment, pregnancy monitoring /education, bio-terrorism, health education and crisis management. Other services address the potential for health problems and include vision, hearing, scoliosis, and type 2 Diabetes screenings. School nurses also promote a healthy school environment by monitoring ozone action days, providing blood-borne pathogen training, CPR, unlicensed diabetic care assistance training and first aid to the staff. The school nurse serves in a collaborative role with other educators in providing services in the following areas: Special Education, Section 504, Life Skills Program for Student Parents (PRS), and the General Education Homebound (GEH) program. The school nurse supports the physical, mental, emotional and social health of students thereby promoting successful learners.

Pat Shull, RN, BSN, NCSN - Health Services Coordinator

Phone: 972-237-4027 Fax: 972-237-5540

Michelle Douthitt, RN, BSN - Special Education Nurse, 972-237-5544

Lydia Patlan, Health Services Secretary, 972-237-4013

Counseling Services – Counseling Services consists of 13 high school Counselors (including 2 Career and Technology Counselors for the high schools and 2 Counselors for the alternative schools), 14 middle school Counselors, and 25 elementary school Counselors. The Grand Prairie Independent School District has adopted the comprehensive counseling and guidance program as recommended by the Texas Education Agency. Four components are necessary to obtain a balanced counseling program. They are:

1. **Guidance Curriculum** or, what and how counselors teach students – Guidance activities can take place in large classroom groups or in smaller groups of designated students. Topics can include self-confidence development, motivation to achieve, interpersonal effectiveness, communication skills, and responsible behavior.
2. **Individual Planning** or, how counselors help students plan for their future. Counselors help students find their strengths and barriers to learning. Information can be educational, career oriented, or personal and social.
3. **Responsive Services** or, how counselors help students and parents when they have life issues. These areas can include academic concerns, relationship concerns, abuse/neglect, grief/loss, substance abuse, family issues and coping with stress.
4. **System Support** or, how counselors support the school and the community – Counselors can help schools by providing parent education, consultation, staff development, community outreach, public relations, and professional growth and development.

For more information call:

Jeff Horn, M.Ed., Coordinator of Counseling Services

Phone: 972-237-5311

Fax 972-237-5540

Lydia Patlan, Secretary, 972-237-4013