

# Special Education at Peirce

September 19, 2023



**PEIRCE**

**SCHOOL OF INTERNATIONAL**

# Agenda

- ❑ Special Education at Peirce
- ❑ Inclusion
- ❑ What if my student is struggling but does not have an IEP or 504 Plan?  
Multi-Tiered Systems of Support (MTSS), Referrals and Evaluations
- ❑ Q&A

# Case Manager Update

## **New!**

Antia Ivory, Case Manager for Pre K IEPs and all 504 Plans (PK-8)

Athanasia Kolontouros, Case Manager for K-8 IEPs

## **September 2023 Snapshot**

1102 students currently enrolled at Peice

262 students with IEPs and 504 Plans

164 students with IEPs

98 students with 504 Plans

# Special Education at Peirce

Providing specialized supports and services to Diverse Learners, students with disabilities, through an inclusive philosophy and practice.

Based on:

- Federal Law - [IDEA](#) and [Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973](#)
- [IB Standards and Practices](#)
- [Peirce School Mission](#)

All students can learn, and that students with disabilities learn best when they have the opportunity to learn with their peers in the General Education setting.

# Individuals with Disabilities Education Act (IDEA)

Provides a process for evaluation to consider a student eligible for Special Education supports and services under thirteen disability categories.

Guarantees a free and appropriate public education in the least restrictive environment.

Students who qualify for services under IDEA receive an Individualized Education Program (**IEP**)

# 504 Plans

## Section 504

Ensures that any child with a disability receives accommodations, modifications, and supports for academic success and equal access to the learning environment through a **504 Plan**.

The disability must limit a major life activity which includes the student's ability to learn in the General Education classroom.

1. Request 504 plan
2. Provide necessary documentation
3. \*Per CPS: Necessary documentation will include a report and/or evaluation from either a CPS Staff Person or an external medical professional, which includes, but is not limited to a medical doctor, Occupational Therapist, Physical Therapist, Speech Pathologist, Social Worker, Psychologist, or Nurse, which is no more than twelve months old
4. 504 conference is scheduled
5. 504 plan is created and implemented

# Inclusive Practice

## **Provides Special Education Supports and Services in the General Education classroom setting through Co-Teaching.**

Co-Teaching is a service delivery option:

- Two or more professionals with equivalent licensure but differing expertise.
- Shared instructional accountability for a single group of students.
- Level of participation based on their skills and the needs of the group.

## **What does Co-Teaching look like?**

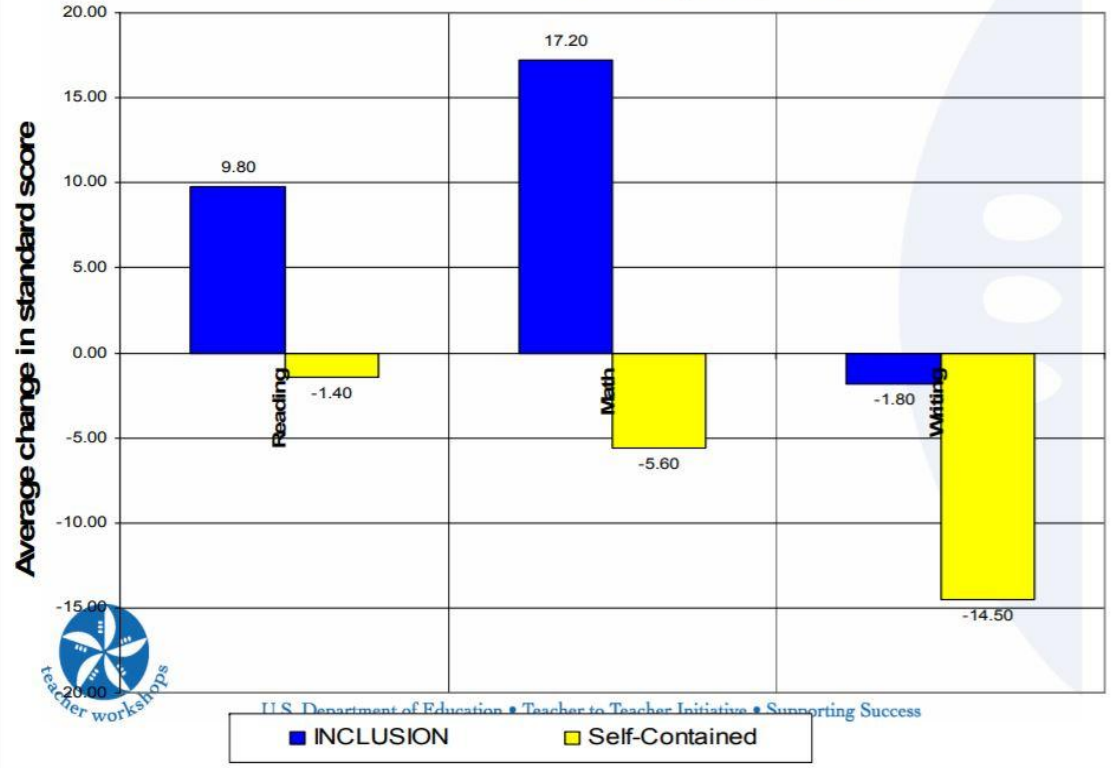
- General Education Teacher and Special Education teacher collaborate to design, plan and deliver instruction that meets the needs of all students.
- Both teachers work with ALL students.
- Teachers work in a multitude of ways (called collaborative models) to support everyone.
- Co-teaching will look different at every grade level and in every classroom.

# Why Inclusion?

This study shows that students that are fully included and receiving the instructional supports from both a content educator and a special educator continue to make achievement gains, while their non-included classmates tend to plateau if not show declines in achievement.

This graph shows average change in standard scores between initial and subsequent administrations of the Woodcock-Johnson achievement tests given between 1st and 6th grades for students in an inclusive school and students in self-contained schools.

D. Miller, 2004, unpublished Masters Thesis



Students with disabilities at Mariposa Elementary, Brea, including those with autism and who were formerly excluded to special classes, are fully included. • All special education teacher co-teach with general education teachers.



# Growth in Least Restrictive Environment

| <b>Number of Students with IEPs<br/>Receiving Services Outside of the General Education Setting</b> |  |                                |                           |
|---|--|--------------------------------|---------------------------|
|   | 20% or less of the<br>school day                                     | 21 to 60% of the<br>school day | 60%+ of the school<br>day |
| June 2017   | 93   | 29                             | 0                         |
| June 2018   | 96   | 30                             | 1                         |
| June 2019   | 106  | 31                             | 0                         |
| June 2020   | 113  | 22                             | 0                         |
| June 2021   | 115  | 20                             | 0                         |
| June 2022   | 137  | 15                             | 0                         |
| June 2023   | 181<br>*increase includes<br>expansion to 3 PK Blended<br>classrooms | 14                             | 1                         |

# Where is Co-Teaching happening?

The following classrooms have a Special Education Teacher co-teaching with a General Education Teacher for all or part of the day:

Pre-K 3 year old: Ms. Darland and Ms. Lowenstein

Pre-K 4 year old: Ms. Guerrero and Ms. Nguyen

Pre-K 4 year old: Ms. Salgado and Ms. O'Malley

1st: Ms. Zaander/Ms. Ostry & Ms. Zaander/ Ms. Sanchez

2nd: Ms. Kurtovic and Ms. Youngbauer

3rd: Ms. Wagner and Ms. Porter

3rd: Ms. Schaefer (Zubair) & Ms. Makowski

4th: Ms. Sweeney and Mr. Trad & Ms. Buscaglia and Mr. Rivera

5th-8th are departmental and have co-teaching partnerships across all core content areas

# What if I have concerns about my student?

## **Multi-Tiered Systems of Support (MTSS)**

- Classroom based interventions for all learners. Speak with your student's teacher about this.

## **Referral**

- Teachers or parents can make a referral to consider an evaluation for Special Education. Contact the Case Manager.

## **Evaluation Process**

- Evaluations continue to be conducted in person within a 60 school day window



# Resources and Contacts

Resources:

[Understanding Special Education -CPS](#)

Many more based on needs, please contact the Case Manager for more information.

Contact:

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