

FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

My child has a learning disability – can they be successful at DCTS?

Students with disabilities are provided services and supports that afford them the opportunity for success at DCTS. Thus, it is so important to make sure that your child's special education paperwork is completed and forwarded to DCTS when he or she applies. If we have the information, we can create a plan to support your child.

What if my child has an emotional disability?

Students with emotional disabilities are provided the same opportunities for success at DCTS. We have one Itinerant Emotional Support teacher who works closely with these students, sometimes supporting them in their classes and sometimes meeting with the students 1:1. We also offer Adventure Based Education, which is a group approach to enhancing self-esteem, teamwork, confidence and trust within peer groups. A social worker comes to DCTS monthly for either in-house group meetings or outside group adventures. These activities include canoeing, rock climbing, and hiking – just to name a few.

What are some of the accommodations my child can receive in class at DCTS?

DCTS is obligated to provide the accommodations/modifications listed on your child's IEP. All of your child's teachers will be provided with the necessary information regarding accommodations and modifications. Your child will have a case manager who will monitor the IEP and its implementation. We can modify tests, read material aloud, provide access to a computer for written assignments, etc. Your child will always know where to find his/her case manager in case a problem arises with accommodations/modifications being implemented. DCTS also has a resource room in one location open every period of the day to provide support to students. A certified teacher and a paraeducator are assigned to the offer assistance in the resource room each period. Students may leave the class they are in to report to the resource room for additional assistance and/or to take a test.

What about accommodations in the Career Tech area?

Your child's IEP follows him/her to their Career Tech program. Whether completing theory work or hands-on activities, the IEP will be implemented. One exception to this in a career and technical setting is the NOCTI (National Occupational Competency Testing Institute) certification exam. Students take these exams in their C/T area during their senior year. This certification signifies the students as completed the program. This exam cannot be modified. It can be read aloud, but no portion of the test may be changed. For that reason, we encourage students to rely less and less on their accommodations/modifications in their C/T areas as they progress towards their senior year as practice and preparation for the NOCTI testing. Each student with an IEP is assigned to a vocational facilitator that assists the teachers in implementing the IEP in the career program and works with the student on transition activities.

What types of special education classes are available at DCTS?

Implementing the student's IEP in the least restrictive environment in which the student is

capable of being successful is always our priority. We offer two levels of learning support classes at DCTS. At the itinerant level, a student would take regular education classes and could either simply be monitored by a case manager or receive inclusion support from a special education teacher within the regular education classroom. At the supplemental level, a student would be in direct instruction classes or a combination of direct instruction and inclusion classes. Direct Instruction classes follow the general education curriculum but are taught by a learning support teacher. These are offered in all core academic areas. We also have a special education course called Life Management that is offered every other day for students. This teacher works with the Positive Action Curriculum and focuses on the individual needs and goals of the students in the course and could include social skills, conflict resolution skills, organizational skills, among other skills.

My child, who has an IEP, has a sincere interest in one of the vocational programs at DCTS. Should he/she apply?

Yes. There is a process whereby students are accepted into vocational programs. An IEP does not prohibit a student from being accepted into a vocational program. Grades, behavior, attendance, safety, teamwork, teacher recommendations, and other criteria are considered in the application process.