

Special Education Services

Admission to the Program: Admission is based upon the recommendation of a multi-disciplinary team composed of the student, parents, teachers, counselors, social worker, psychologist, and administration. The team meets annually to determine appropriate goals, to construct an Individual Education Plan (IEP), and to decide the least restrictive environment in which the student will succeed.

Curriculum Overview: The curriculum consists of a series of courses in the areas of Math, Social Sciences, English, Science, Health, Consumer Economics, and STEP (Vocational Program). Also, available to qualified students are Target classes in which both academics and electives are taught on an as needed basis and a Basic Life Skills curriculum, which includes survival skill classes. All other areas of the school's curriculum are available to the student.

Program Overview: The purpose of this program is to make meaningful and functional education available to all students. Services and support are organized into 3 levels: (1) students who earn the majority of their credits within the instructional curriculum, (2) students who earn the majority of their credits within the regular program, and, (3) students who need assistance but earn all credits within the regular program.

Inclusion Classes: Inclusion classes are offered at DeKalb High School in specific classes for those students who could be successful in a regular education classroom with the additional support of a special education teacher.

Instructional Program: This program has been established to meet the needs of those students whose educational disabilities prohibit them from functioning effectively in the regular program.

Functional Program: This program has been established to meet the needs of those students whose disabilities prohibit them from functioning effectively in the instructional program. Courses offered within the Functional Program are: Functional Academic Reading, Math, Communication/Writing, Vocational Community Training I and II, Independent Living Skills I, II, and III, and Related Services I and II.

Target Program: This program has been established to meet the needs of those students whose emotional/behavioral/educational disabilities prohibit them from functioning effectively in the regular classroom or in the instructional program. Courses offered within the Target Program are:

Target English 100,200,300,400
Target Speech
Target Math 100,200,300,400
Target Pre-Algebra

Target Geography
Target Phys. Ed. 100,200,300,400
Target U.S. History
Target Soc. Seminar 100,200,300,400

Target Consumer Education
Target Science I & II
Target Health
Target U.S. Government

Life Skills English

Semesters: 2 1 Credit
Grade Placement: 9,10,11,12
Prerequisite: IEP

This course helps students to master everyday English skills needed to function successfully in today's society. Some units included are grammar, filling out job applications, and other forms, ordering procedures, catalogues, newspapers, reading schedules, and a variety of other functional skills.

Reading I, II

Semesters: 2 1 Credit each year
Grade Placement: 9, 10
Prerequisite: IEP

This class can be taken for 2 years. It emphasizes further development of the student's knowledge and skills in the areas of reading, grammar, and language. This course is designed to improve reading comprehension skills, build vocabulary, improve language, and grammar skills, and further develop spelling and writing skills. Writing skills development will include a 3 to 5 paragraph essay and journal writing.

Freshmen English

Semesters: 2 1 Credit
Grade Placement: 9
Prerequisite: IEP

This course is for freshmen that may have organizational and/or academic needs and are not quite ready for an inclusion General Humanities class. This course emphasizes further development of the student's knowledge and skills in the areas of reading, grammar, and language. It is designed to improve reading comprehension skills, build vocabulary, improve language and grammar skills, and further develop spelling and writing skills. Writing skills development will include a 5-paragraph essay and journal writing. Writing emphasis will be in the areas of: expository, narrative, persuasive, and descriptive writing.

Sophomore English

Semesters: 1 .5 Credit
Grade Placement: 10
Prerequisite: IEP

This course builds upon the basic English skills developed during freshman year. It is designed to further improve reading comprehension skills, build vocabulary, improve language and grammar skills, and further develop spelling and writing skills. Other skill areas emphasized are: identifying story elements, main ideas, sequencing, and recalling facts from a story. Students will continue their development of a 5-paragraph essay and journal writing. Students will also incorporate vocabulary words in writing activities. This course will focus on writing in the area of life skills.

Sophomore Speech

Semesters: 1 .5 Credit
Grade Placement: 10
Prerequisite: IEP

The purpose of Sophomore Speech is to help each student improve his/her speaking ability and learn the fundamentals of communication. Oral expression is further developed through activities such as: giving directions, making telephone calls, and interviews. Listening and thinking are stressed, as well as planning and delivering speeches to inform, persuade, and demonstrate.

Junior English

Semesters: 2 1 Credit
Grade Placement: 11
Prerequisite: IEP

This course introduces various fiction and non-fiction types of literature, biographies, autobiographies, folk tales, short stories, plays, and novels. Vocabulary development, reading comprehension skills, listening skills, and enjoyment of reading are included. Using texts and workbooks incorporates further development of writing skills.

Senior English

Semesters: 2 1 Credit
Grade Placement: 12
Prerequisite: IEP

This class is designed to provide students who read below grade level with grammatical rules and concepts through sufficient opportunities for practice. Areas covered in this class include, but are not limited to, understanding parts of speech, subjects and predicates, sentence patterns, complex sentences, and verbal phrases. There is also a writing section where students can apply their new skills. The class includes a literature section where students are introduced to current high school reading materials. Several books will be chosen by the teacher and read as a group to develop comprehension skills to increase the student's appreciation of reading. Students will be tested after each chapter for comprehension through teacher developed tests. This is achieved through applying word analysis and vocabulary skills to comprehend selections.

Pre-STEP

Semesters: 2 1 Credit
Grade Placement: 9
Prerequisite: IEP

This course is designed to teach students job preparation and work study habits necessary for job success in a Work Experience Program.

Orientation to Home Economics

Semesters: 1 .5 Credit
Grade Placement: 9,10,11,12
Prerequisite: IEP
Additional course fee required

This is a course that introduces students to a wide variety of topics falling under the heading of Home Economics. Emphasis will be on daily living skills and personal care. Basic subject matter presented may include interpersonal and family relationships, time management, budgeting, foods, and nutrition. Introduction to basic sewing techniques may be included.

Life Skills Math

Semesters: 2 1 Credit each year
Grade Placement: 9,10,11,12
Prerequisite: IEP

This course can be taken for 2 years to fulfill the math requirement for graduation. This course maintains a focus on the practical skills needed for the tasks of daily life. All computation is directly related to life tasks such as computing prices or figuring measurements. Some of the units covered are money, shopping, budgeting, banking, measuring, etc. Basic computational skills continue to be taught and reviewed throughout the class. The main goal of this course is to properly prepare the student with essential math skills necessary for post graduation.

Resource Math

Semesters: 2 1 Credit each year
Grade Placement: 9,10,11,12
Prerequisite: IEP & placement test

This is a comprehensive, incremental course which can be taken up to 3 years to fulfill the math requirement for graduation. It begins with the remediation of basic computational skills of whole numbers, decimals, and fractions. Students also learn and/or further develop their skills working with integers, percents, and averages, and apply these skills to daily living applications. This curriculum provides the opportunity to build a solid foundation in beginning mathematics to help students prepare for more advanced traditional coursework in Pre-Algebra.

Instructional Pre-Algebra

Semesters: 2 1 Credit
Grade Placement: 9,10,11,12

Prerequisite: IEP

This course is designed to further develop math computational skills and applies these to basic algebraic principles of working with number expressions, variable expressions and equations, working with ratios and proportions, as well as integers and rational numbers. Algebraic and geometric principles are introduced and practiced to help prepare student for further Algebra courses offered in the regular education curriculum.

General Science I

Semesters: 2 1 Credit
Grade Placement: 9,10,11,12
Prerequisite: IEP

This course deals with four main branches of Science. Life Science covers the basic principles of biology, including the study of plants and animals. Physical Science covers the basic principles of Chemistry, including the study of matter and energy. Earth Science, which deals with the Earth, its rocks, oceans, and weather, as well as the surrounding sun, moon, stars, and planets. Environmental Science focuses on the interrelationships of living organisms with their environment and environmental problems in relationship to mankind.

General Science II

Semesters: 2 1 Credit
Grade Placement: 10, 11,12
Prerequisite: General Science I & IEP

This class is designed to increase understanding of the fundamental concepts and principles of life science. This is achieved through knowing and applying concepts that explain how living things function, adapt, and change. Students will also understand and apply concepts that describe how living things interact with each other and with their environment. Some of the areas students will cover are: How living things are alike, classifying and organizing animal and plant groups, understanding systems of the human body, patterns in reproduction, growth, and development, genetics from generation to generation, and tracing cycles in the environment and evolution.

Health

Semesters: 1 .5 Credit
Grade Placement: 9
Prerequisite: IEP

Systems of body, drug, and alcohol abuse, nutrition, smoking, mental health, and sex education will be covered.

Social Seminar

Semesters: 2 1 Credit
Grade Placement: 9,10,11,12
Prerequisite: IEP

Students will practice the use of effective decision-making and problem solving strategies to interact and communicate in socially acceptable ways. Students will learn about obeying laws, taking part in community responsibilities, and exercising constitutional rights and obligations. Students will also discuss current events and issues. (Meets Social Sciences elective requirement.)

World Geography I, II

Semesters: 1 .5 Credit
Grade Placement: 9,10,11,12
Prerequisite: IEP

This course is designed to emphasize physical and economic geography. Names and locations of continents, countries, major cities,

regions, and physical features will be included. Their importance and the effects of the physical geographic characteristics of the countries will be stressed. World Geography I will cover the continents of North and South America. World Geography II will cover the continents of Europe, Asia, Africa, Australia, and Antarctica.

Secondary Transitional Experience Program (S.T.E.P)

Semesters: 2 2 Credits
Grade Placement: 10,11,12 Elective
Prerequisites: Students must be 16 years or older & IEP

S.T.E.P. is an integrated special education program for students with disabilities. S.T.E.P. combines academic studies, vocational evaluation and training, and real work experiences. S.T.E.P. offers vocational counseling, occupational training, independent living instruction, part-time employment, credit towards graduation, and when school is complete, job placement or additional training. S.T.E.P. bridges the gap between school and work. This course meets the Consumer Education requirement when student passes 4 semesters.

United States History

Semesters: 2 1 Credit
Grade Placement: 11
Prerequisite: IEP

This course emphasizes the period before Columbus to present. Students will discuss main lifestyles and trends. They will also review major events and their implications. Emphasis will be placed on gaining a better understanding of our heritage, and a sense of loyalty and citizenship. Students will also discuss current events and issues facing America today.

Consumer Economics

Semesters: 1 .5 Credit
Grade Placement: 11,12
Prerequisite: IEP

This course provides information and practical activities for consumers in our market economy. It teaches the students to understand and apply knowledge of different economical systems and the nature of the U.S. economy. This will include the choices that people make in the production and distribution of goods and services. It also teaches the relationship of different governments trading procedures and how it affects our world and everyday life. This class can be used to meet Economic Education requirements for graduation.

United States Government

Semesters: 1 .5 Credit
Grade Placement: 12
Prerequisite: IEP

The structure of the federal, state, and local governments will be studied. Students will learn the rights and responsibilities of citizens under the American form of government. The U.S. Constitution will be studied and students must pass a Constitution exam. Students will study the basic functions and procedure of the American system of law.

Resource Study Hall

Grade Placement: 9,10,11,12 No Credit
Prerequisite: IEP

This course is designed to give students individual assistance and guidance in completing required work for other classes.

Assisted Studies Class (ASC) I, II

Semesters: 1 .5 Credit

Grade Placement: 9,10

Prerequisites: IEP

Note that preference for placement will be granted to 9th grade students.

The goal of this course is to assist students in developing and applying the skills and learning strategies necessary to function successfully in all high school courses. The course focuses on helping students in the following skill areas: Developing organizational and time-management skills, developing self-advocacy skills, working on areas specifically identified in the IEP, becoming independent learners, identifying strengths and weaknesses, understanding and exploration of post-secondary options, and study, note-taking, and test-taking skills.