

Autism

FACT SHEET

What is autism?

Autism is a complex neurodevelopmental disorder that effects brain development. Autism is characterized in varying degrees: by difficulty in social interaction, verbal and non-verbal communication, and repetitive behaviors.

Academic, social and behavioral support services

An educational team includes a special education teacher, speech/ language therapist, occupational therapist, certified para-educator, and instructional assistants. Fresno Unified's autism special day classes provide academic, social, and behavioral interventions. These interventions are based upon evidence based practices and are delivered systematically to increase the likelihood of success in a less restrictive learning environment.

Available staff support

Teachers receive professional learning and coaching on evidence based practices, curriculum, behavioral supports, interventions, assessments and data analysis. The autism support team supports student success and independence through maintaining fidelity of evidence based practices for students with autism. Classified staff may complete the autism certification training program, which is designed to support evidence based practices.

Current Autism Programs

Autism Special Day Class	Autism Inclusion Supports	Autism Intensive Behavior
Prek/TK/K	Elementary	Elementary
1 st -3 rd	Middle School	Middle School
4 th -6 th	High School	High School

FOR MORE INFORMATION:

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At-a-Glance Statistics:

- 1 in 68 children are diagnosed with autism.
- Males are 3-4 times more likely to be diagnosed with autism.
- More than 3.5 million Americans live with autism.
- Prevalence of autism has increased by 6-15% each year from 2002 to 2010.

2015-2016 improvements in services for autism students:

- Continue emphasis on evidence based practices (EBP).
- Focus EBP for autism special day class was pivotal response training (PRT) and discrete trial (DT).
- Continue coaching and support for Rethink implementation.

2016-2017 plans include:

- Continue emphasis on EBP.
- Focus EBP for autism special day class is antecedent based intervention.
- Focus EBP for autism inclusion is social skills training and self-management.
- Continue coaching and support for Rethink..