



## **Plano Independent School District Special Education Services Department 2015-2016**

The leadership and support teams of the Special Education Services Department of Plano Independent School District are dedicated to a Purpose and a Mission Statement affirmed by shared beliefs. The purpose of special education is best described as minimizing the impact of disability and maximizing the opportunities for students with disabilities to participate in schooling and the community.

### **Mission Statement**

The mission of the Special Education Services Department of the Plano Independent School District is to provide an excellent education for students with identified needs.

Plano ISD has approximately 5,445 (10%) students who receive special education services. They are students who have a disability such as Specific Learning Disability, Visual Impairment, Auditory Impairment, Orthopedic Impairment, Speech Impairment, Intellectual Disability, Autism, Other Health Impairment, or Traumatic Brain Injury and demonstrate a need for specially designed instruction.

Special education students are served by campus staff that includes speech pathologists, highly qualified teachers and teaching assistants. These services are individualized based on student need and are facilitated by district instructional specialists, evaluators, related service providers and the special education leadership team.

### **Philosophical Belief**

It is our philosophical belief that supported education is implemented within a continuum of both natural and established classroom supports providing an educational experience where all students learn and achieve. Equal in importance are the provision of differentiated instruction, varied approaches to learning, and curricular modifications and/or accommodations along with consideration for the complexity of various instructional settings and the degree of instructional support based on individual student needs. A commitment to consistent practices and procedures assures access to the continuum of services district-wide.

### **We believe that:**

- The purpose of special education is for students to achieve learning that leads to life success such as: academic achievement, meeting basic needs, self-determination, career attainment, and social and emotional well-being.
- A quality education occurs in an environment where communication and collaboration are the shared responsibility among students, families, staff, and the community.
- Respect and dignity for students and families and a demonstrated understanding of their diversity is essential to a quality education.
- Learning is a life-long process for all, driven by individual student needs.
- Individually designed educational programs developed to meet identified student needs lead to meaningful participation and maximum growth.

