



Arlington Archers: New Family Orientation

Module 7: Special Student Services



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Meeting All Children's Needs

Our ability to reach unity in diversity will be the beauty and test of our civilization.

- Mahatma Ghandi

Providing access to a classical education to students with diverse needs is central to Great Hearts' philosophy of education, which seeks to enrich the lives of all of our children. As such, our practice is to provide access for all students to a rich curriculum aimed with the purpose of educating a child's soul, heart and mind.

In order to provide such access, we must first and foremost, focus on the acknowledgement of the diversity within the human race.

In the wise words of Shelley Moore, "We are diverse, all of us. We all have strengths, we all have stretches, and we all need to get better at something. The difference in teaching to diversity, however, is that we don't start with our deficits, we start with our strengths."

Continuum of Services

In the pursuit of goodness, truth, and beauty, for all of our students. Our focus is to help them understand their strengths by the fostering of our student's perseverance through the application of both courage and introspection. In order to understand your strengths, you must also see where you need to grow and the strength and ability of others to help you get there.

It is for this reason that Great Hearts Arlington provides a continuum of services for all of our students, including but not limited too:

- Child Find
- Response to Intervention
- 504
- English Learner
- Special Education Services





Child Find

Child Find's intent is to insure that all children from birth through 21 with delays or disabilities are identified, located, and evaluated with minimal cost to parents.

At Great Hearts Arlington, we encourage our parents and teachers to be diligent observers. There are no bad questions, just unspoken ones. As a parent if you believe your child or another in your household may be struggling or having difficulties, please speak with your child's teacher.

Areas that teachers or parents may see struggles or have questions include but are not limited to: language/speech, hearing, vision, cognitive/mental ability, physical skills, behavior, or self-help skills.

We work closely with local networks and school districts to provide information, supports, and if needed evaluation of children.

Response to Intervention

At Great Hearts Arlington, we provide training for all of our teachers in what to look for and how to identify students who may need additional support.

Through Response to Intervention, general education teachers are able to meet and collaborate with a team of teachers, administrators, and special education faculty to discuss, trial and provide supports for children who are having difficulty in one or many areas. As a parent, you will always be informed if your child is beginning intervention and are an integral part of this process.

By providing interventions within the general education environment, we are better able to access a student's strengths and needs and whether a referral for a 504 or special education evaluation is needed to determine appropriate levels of support.

For questions, regarding Response to Intervention, please contact Vincent Gilbert at vincent.gilbert@greatheartstxschools.org



504: Rehabilitation Act of 1973

To be eligible for services and protections against discrimination on the basis of disability under Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act, a student must be determined, as a result of an evaluation, to have a “physical or mental impairment” that substantially limits one or more major life activities. A 504 evaluation may include: a private doctor’s evaluation, data collected from the classroom teacher, and data given by parents.

A 504 provides accommodations and/or changes to the learning environment to enable students to learn alongside their peers and access our curriculum.

If you would like to know more about 504 services/evaluation or have questions, please contact:

Erin Gilbert, Lower School 504/MTSS Coordinator
Erin.Gilbert@greatheartstxschools.org



English Learners

Great Hearts Arlington offers English Learner (EL Services at all grade levels for English Learners who are limited in their English proficiency. This program assists students by providing linguistic accommodations and/or services to students identified as having limited English proficiency in the areas of listening, speaking, reading, and/or writing. Through these accommodations/services, students are provided access to the curriculum in a manner in which they can understand while building their skills as an English speaker.

Students are assessed with the state-approved oral language proficiency and norm-referenced tests to qualify for placement.

For any questions or about the eligibility of your child for these services, please contact April Tavlian at April.Tavlian@greatheartstxschools.org.



Special Education Services

In pursuit of the education of mind, body, and soul, our Special Education teams develop programs for each eligible student under IDEA (Individuals with Disabilities Education Act) that maximize access to the liberal arts curriculum through the use of accommodations and/or modifications both inside and outside of the classroom during the school day. As such our practice is to include students to the maximum extent possible in the general education classroom while supporting the development of strategies, skills, and self awareness through specialized instruction.

Special Education services are specifically designed to meet the unique needs of each student. Our students will be served through carefully planned Individual Education Plans (IEPs) and collaborative Annual, Review, and Dismissal (ARD) committee meetings. In addition to our inclusive practices, students who are determined to benefit from related services, may also receive the following on campus (not all are listed):

- Speech and Language Services
- Occupational Therapy
- Physical Therapy
- Vision Impairment
- Hearing Services
- Counseling Services



Special Education Services



For more information regarding Special Education Services or if you suspect your child may have a disability, please contact the Lower School SPED Coordinator, Brandon Turner at Brandon.Turner@greathearttxschools.org.



Questions?

Thank you for taking the time to learn more about Great Hearts Arlington! While we have endeavored to provide meaningful information about our **student services**, we recognize that there may be unanswered questions. Please feel free to reach out to us at Arlingtoninfo@greatheartstxschools.org. Go Archers!

In partnership,

Great Hearts Arlington

