

Approach to Teaching Students with Disabilities (SWDs)

At Equality Charter School, we serve a higher percentage of students with disabilities (SWDs) than our comparison district schools—an intentional reflection of our commitment to supporting this population well. Our SWD Program provides individualized supports within the mainstream classroom, along with targeted remediation services to meet diverse learning needs.

At Equality, **SWDs receive admissions lottery preference.**

Each grade consists of 20-30% special education students.

Service Settings & Support Structures

We offer two service models to support our Students with Disabilities (SWDs):

Integrated Co-Teaching (ICT)

- ICT is provided in all core classes, as we believe this is the most effective setting for the vast majority of SWDs.
- Students benefit from two teachers in the mainstream classroom:
 - A general education teacher (content specialist)
 - A special education teacher (learning specialist)
- This collaborative approach ensures that all scholars receive the necessary support while learning together in an inclusive environment.

Special Education Teacher Support Services (SETSS)

- SETSS provides specially designed instruction tailored to individual student needs.
- Instruction may be delivered in two ways:
 - Direct Support – Individual or small-group instruction focused on targeted skills.
 - Indirect Support – Consultation with the classroom teacher to adjust instruction and accommodations for SWDs.

Additional Support Services

- **Counseling Services** – Provided by an in-house social worker and includes individual counseling, group counseling, and social-emotional support groups.
- **At-Risk Counseling** – Offered by a social worker and/or guidance counselor for students who need additional emotional or behavioral support.
- **Case Manager Support System** – Each SWD is paired with a special education teacher who serves as their case manager, providing additional support and monitoring IEP progress.
- **Rise Reading Intervention Program** – A small-group reading intervention program for students below grade level in reading.
- **Math Remediation Program** – A small-group intervention program for students below grade level in math, designed to support foundational math skills and promote progress toward grade-level proficiency.
- **Writing Intervention Program at HS** – A small-group program for high school students performing below grade level in writing.
- **Speech-Language Therapy** – Provided on-site by a DOE speech-language therapist.
- **Additional DOE-Provided Services** – Support for students with vision, hearing, physical therapy, or occupational therapy needs.
- **Bussing:** Collaboration with the DOE for students with a bussing mandate specified in their IEP.