

Special Instructional Programs and Accommodations

M.S.A.D. #3 staff is responsible for locating, identifying and evaluating all exceptional children. State law requires that all such children be given an equal educational opportunity. It is also the responsibility of the school system to conduct "Child Find" activities.

M.S.A.D. #3 offers a comprehensive program of special educational services, provided by a combination of Federal, State and local funds. All students may be eligible for one or more of these services.

Any staff member, parent of student, may initiate requests for special services. Parents wishing to make referrals should contact their child's Principal or Director of Pupil Services. Parents will be contacted by telephone and in writing if a professional staff member makes a referral for their child.

The following is a list of some of the special programs provided by M.S.A.D. #3:

- Speech therapy services
- Psychological services (diagnostic)
- School Social Worker
- School Nurse
- Resource Programs
- Guidance Counseling
- Tutorial services

Some students require placement outside of M.S.A.D. #3 schools. Private school placement is arranged in rare instances of severe emotional or educational handicaps.

M.S.A.D. #3 does not provide psychological or psychiatric counseling. In instances where it is felt these services are needed, the student could be referred to an appropriate agency.

M.S.A.D. #3 special education services are based on the philosophy that every child is "special" and entitled to an appropriate education, which will develop strengths and compensate for weaknesses. Specific needs and types of exceptionality determine the special services a child receives. All referrals are presented to the appropriate special education personnel for evaluation procedures. The results of the evaluation are reviewed by the Pupil Evaluation Team (PET), which is comprised of the parent(s), classroom teacher, administrator, special education personnel and any others who may contribute to determining the needs of the child. On the recommendation of the PET, placement may be coordinated with other programs in M.S.A.D. #3.

Legal Reference: Title 20-A MRSA Section 7201-7202