



Special Education Policies & Procedures

Ann Jerkins Harris Academy of Excellence (AJHAE) is committed to identifying, evaluating, and supporting students with disabilities in accordance with all applicable federal and Ohio laws and regulations.

AJHAE follows requirements established by:

- Individuals with Disabilities Education Act (IDEA)
- Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act
- Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA)
- Ohio Revised Code (ORC)
- Ohio Administrative Code (OAC)
- Ohio Department of Education and Workforce (ODEW)
- Applicable community school sponsor standards and requirements

The school is committed to ensuring eligible students receive a Free Appropriate Public Education (FAPE) in the Least Restrictive Environment (LRE).

Child Find

AJHAE participates in Child Find activities to identify, locate, and evaluate children who may have disabilities and may require special education services.

Referrals may be initiated by:

- Parents or guardians
- Teachers or school staff
- Healthcare providers or agencies
- Intervention teams
- Community members

The school encourages families to contact administration if they believe their child may need additional educational supports or services.

Evaluation & Eligibility

When a disability is suspected, the school may begin the evaluation process with parent or guardian consent.

Evaluations are conducted by qualified personnel and may include:

- Academic assessments
- Classroom observations

- Behavioral evaluations
- Speech and language assessments
- Occupational or physical therapy evaluations
- Parent and teacher input
- Review of educational records and interventions

Eligibility for services is determined by a team of qualified professionals and the student's parent or guardian in accordance with state and federal criteria.

Individualized Education Program (IEP)

Students who qualify for special education services receive an Individualized Education Program (IEP).

The IEP outlines:

- Present levels of academic and functional performance
- Annual goals
- Accommodations and modifications
- Special education and related services
- Participation in assessments
- Service delivery and progress monitoring

IEPs are reviewed at least annually and updated as needed.

Least Restrictive Environment (LRE)

AJHAE educates students with disabilities alongside nondisabled peers to the maximum extent appropriate.

The school strives to provide supports and services that allow students to access the general education curriculum while meeting individualized learning needs.

Related Services & Supports

Related services may be provided when determined necessary through the IEP process.

Services may include:

- Speech-language services
- Occupational therapy
- Physical therapy
- Counseling services
- Behavioral supports
- Assistive technology
- Transportation
- Other educational supports as appropriate

Parent Participation & Procedural Safeguards

Parents and guardians are important partners in the educational process.

Families have the right to:

- Participate in meetings and educational decisions
- Review educational records
- Receive prior written notice
- Provide consent when required
- Request evaluations
- Receive procedural safeguards notices
- Access dispute resolution procedures when applicable

AJHAE encourages ongoing communication and collaboration with families.

Section 504 Accommodations

Students who may not qualify for an IEP may still be eligible for accommodations and protections under Section 504.

AJHAE provides reasonable accommodations and supports to eligible students to ensure equal access to educational opportunities and school-related activities.

Discipline & Behavioral Supports

Students with disabilities remain subject to the school's code of conduct. Disciplinary procedures involving students with disabilities are handled in accordance with IDEA, Section 504, and applicable Ohio requirements.

Behavioral supports and interventions may be provided to support student success and school safety.

Confidentiality of Records

AJHAE maintains confidentiality of student educational records in accordance with:

- FERPA
- IDEA confidentiality requirements
- State and federal privacy laws

Student information is protected and shared only as permitted by law.

Transition Services

When required by law, transition planning and services are provided to help students prepare for postsecondary education, employment, independent living, and future opportunities.