

SPECIAL EDUCATION SERVICES

The Special Education Department at Ridgewood High School provides a full continuum of services to students found eligible to receive special education services. The Ridgewood Special Education Department is committed to providing a supportive environment in which our students with special needs can develop academic, social, emotional, vocational, and life skills. The department strives to assist each student to access a variety of learning opportunities by offering modified academic classes, support for general education classes, co-taught classes in the core curriculum areas, and related services. In addition, assisting our students in becoming effective self-advocates remains a significant goal of the Special Education Department at Ridgewood High School.

Ridgewood Community High School District 234 is a member of LASEC (Leyden Area Special Education Cooperative). Procedures for referral, placement, and program development are coordinated by the Special Education Team. Ridgewood High School and its associated districts in LASEC provide programs for students ages 3 through 21. Students under the following classifications are eligible to receive special education services.

- Learning Disabled
- Hearing Impaired
- Social/Emotional Disability
- Other Health Impaired
- Autistic Spectrum Disorder
- Physical Disabilities
- Visually Impaired
- Deaf-Blind
- Mentally Impaired
- Traumatic Brain Injury

Special Education settings offered at Ridgewood High School are listed below. Placement is determined at a multi-disciplinary conference where an individual education program (IEP) is developed and appropriate placement is determined.

Consultation: The students with disabilities receive instruction within the general education classroom. Special education services are provided indirectly. A special educator provides consultation on the needs of the students mainstreamed in the classroom. The goal is to assist the general education teacher in gaining access to appropriate materials and developing the skills and confidence required to meet the students' educational needs.

Co-taught setting: A general educator and special educator co-teach a class composed of students with and without disabilities. The teachers share responsibilities for all the students in the class with the special educator providing specialized interventions for students with special needs, as required. Cooperative planning and instruction are emphasized.

Self-Contained (PEERS): The PEERS program is designed for special education students whose unique needs require more restrictive environment. These self-contained classrooms are aligned with regular education curriculum. PEERS classes are designed to accommodate the individual students' ability/disability, skills, learning rate, and learning style in a smaller group setting.

^PEERS courses include:

PEERS English 1	PEERS Algebra 1	PEERS Chemistry
PEERS English 2	PEERS Geometry	PEERS Biology
PEERS English 3	PEERS Algebra 2	PEERS U.S. History
PEERS English 4	PEERS Algebra 1-2	PEERS Am. Government
PEERS English 1-4	PEERS Physics	

When appropriate, courses may be combined.

You have the right to receive a copy of § 226.50 of ISBE regulations upon request.

SOCIAL COMMUNICATION STRATEGIES & LIFE SKILLS

1.0 Cr.

- Prereq: Recommendation by IEP Team

Description: Social Communication Strategies and Life Strategies is a year-long course offered to special education students by recommendation of the special education team. Students will develop strategies to increase effective skills of self-determination. Students will earn 0.5 credit per semester. The curriculum will emphasize individualized instruction in communication and socialization strategies related to daily problem solving. The main goal of the course is to ensure that students are able to independently analyze and successfully solve problems in social, personal, academic, and work situations. The curriculum will include activities and exercises in the areas of responsibility, values, problem solving, motivation, commitment and self-determination. It encompasses not only imperative social skills instruction, but also daily life skills and school to work skills.

STRATEGIC STUDY SKILLS

1.0 Cr.

- Prereq: Recommendation from Case Manager, approval by IEP Team

Description: Strategic Study Skills is a two-semester course offered to Special Education students. Students will receive advocacy, general academic and organizational assistance to support their success within the general curriculum. The course specifically emphasizes various study skill strategies, note-taking, and vocabulary development. The course will also provide additional test-taking strategies preparing for the PSAE/ACT test.

STRATEGIC STUDY SKILLS 2

1.0 Cr.

- Prereq: Recommendation from Case Manager, approval of IEP Team, completion of Strategic Study Skills Part 1, approval of the Special Education Division Head

Description: Strategic Study Skills 2 is a two-semester course offered to Special Education students. Students will receive advocacy, general academic and organizational assistance to support their success within the general curriculum. The course specifically emphasizes various study skill strategies, executive functioning strategies, note-taking, and vocabulary development. The course will also provide additional time for progress monitoring and other special education related activities.