

Twin Lakes Educational Cooperative

The Individual with Disabilities Education Improvement Act of 2004 was signed by President Bush on December 3, 2004, This act reauthorized Public Law 105-17 that was signed by President Clinton on June 7, 1997. Special education categorical areas still include autism, deaf-blindness, developmentally delayed, hearing impairment, emotional disturbance, specific learning disability/dyslexia, speech or language impairment, traumatic brain injury, visual impairment and early childhood disabilities.

The Individuals with Disabilities Education Improvement Act provides for a free, appropriate public education for all disabled students. The foundation of IDEA is its requirement that schools develop an Individual Education Program (IEP) for each disabled student. The IEP requirement combines the evaluation of the disabled students with the achievement of specific goals. These goals are set by the student's parents, school administrators, regular education teachers, and special education teachers working together.

The Twin Lakes Educational Cooperative will continue to provide special education programs and services to all exceptional children during the 2024-2025 school year. USD 379 will remain as the sponsoring district with USD 223, Barnes-Hanover-Linn; USD 334, Miltonvale-Glasco; USD 378, Riley County; and USD 384, Randolph-Olsburg serving as cooperative districts.

The TLEC will employ approximately 50 certified special education personnel and more than 90 paraeducators working within the five school districts if all positions are filled. Since special education programs and services are mandatory for the disabled and intellectually gifted school-aged students in Kansas, TLEC personnel will provide mandated services along with: pre-school screening programs, school psychological, school social work services and a special educational instructional material center. The Early Childhood Disabilities program for children between the ages of three through five will be located within your community, please call for more information.

The purpose of the TLEC is to identify all students in the five cooperating districts who are eligible for and need special education services. Special programs and services are then provided to assist these students in reaching their potential. All these services must meet the requirements and specifications stated in federal and state statutes and further clarified in the Kansas Special Education Process Handbook. Additionally, the TLEC must make assurances in the provision of students' and parents' due process rights, nondiscriminatory and multidisciplinary evaluations and provision of services in the least restrictive environment or most normal setting to the maximum extent appropriate.

If anyone believes that a child may qualify for and need any of these services, please contact any building administrator in any of the five districts or Anita Breen, Director of Special Education, Twin Lakes Cooperative, PO Box 97, Clay Center, KS 67432 (785-632-3176).