

Kendall County Special Education Cooperative

LIFE SKILLS PROGRAMS

Purpose

The Life Skills Program (LSP) provides instruction within a public school setting to students in kindergarten and up to the age of 22 identified with significant cognitive and/or pervasive developmental disabilities. The needs of these students require a functional curriculum focused on the acquisition of daily living and vocational skills leading to a successful transition to adult life within the community.

Program Goals

- To provide differentiated instruction in a public school setting structured to foster development of practical academic, communication, community, domestic, recreational/leisure, and vocational skills appropriate to each student's cognitive level and ability.
- To provide opportunities for integrated activities with general education peers.
- To offer career exploration, job sampling, and vocational experiences in preparation for adult life.
- To maximize independent functioning in the school, home, community, and work environments.

Entrance Criteria

- Evaluation and special education eligibility indicating a cognitive and/or pervasive developmental disability with commensurate adaptive skills.
- Determination by the school-based IEP team that a functional curriculum and Life Skills services are appropriate.
- The school-based IEP team determines which Life Skills program is appropriate.

Exit Criteria

- A student may exit the Life Skills program based upon the school-based IEP team's determination that another program would better address the student's needs.
- Students will exit the Life Skills program upon acceptance of a high school diploma or reaching the age of 22.

- A student will exit the Life Skills program upon the determination that he/she is no longer eligible for special education services.
- A student may exit the Life Skills program if the parent chooses to discontinue services.

Available Life Skills Programs

- Life Skills Classrooms. These K-12 classrooms provide instruction in practical academics, communication, community, domestic, leisure/recreation, and vocational skills utilizing a functional curriculum in a general education school building. The classrooms emphasize maximum independence and opportunities to generalize skills in natural settings as well as participation in general education activities with typical peers.
- Life Skills Intensive Classroom. This elementary school classroom is designed to provide services to Life Skills students identified with autism spectrum disorders. It specializes in teaching functional skills providing the visual supports; communication and behavioral strategies; and environmental and social supports identified as critical for students with pervasive developmental disabilities.
- Life Skills Communication Classroom. This elementary classroom is designed for students who require the use of a communication modality other than natural speech. It uses Pragmatic Organization of Dynamic Displays (PODD) in either high or low tech formats as a basis to develop a mode of communication that can then be transferred to less restrictive educational, community, and home settings.
- Life Skills Transition Classroom. This classroom provides post-secondary services to Life Skills students in preparation for adult life. It is focused on daily living and vocational activities as well as facilitating connections with adult service agencies.

Related services are provided to Life Skills program students according to their IEP.