

# Frost-Woodson Special Services

## What are “special services”?

**Special education** comprises a continuum of services to support the full range of students’ educational needs—from students with physical disabilities, to those with intellectual and cognitive challenges, to those with behavioral or learning disabilities, to meeting the needs of “twice-exceptional” students. Basically, any student who requires an adapted or adjusted curriculum, or who needs accommodations in the classroom or testing environment, is the beneficiary of special education.

How do middle-school services differ from elementary school?

Students at Frost receive **special services** either through an individualized education plan (**IEP**) or Section **504 plan** accommodations.

- **IEPs** are governed by the regulations of the Individuals with Disabilities Education Act (IDEA), which ensures access to a free appropriate public education to students who fall within one or more specific categories of qualifying conditions, and students must meet certain criteria to qualify for an IEP.
- **Section 504**, part of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973, supports students who might not qualify for an IEP or need adapted curriculum, but require some classroom accommodations in order to access the curriculum. Section 504 also offers protections to students pursuing postsecondary education.

How can my daughter be sure her 504 accommodations are being implemented?

## Where can I find information and resources?

The Frost PTA is committed to supporting parents and students by offering resources and information relating to education, disabilities that impact students and their families, and planning for the transition to high school and beyond. The PTA supports the full inclusion of all Frost students in its activities and events.

Frost parents, teachers, and administrators are invited to join the WoodsonSpecEd Yahoo! group listserv, which provides resources, information, and support to parents and students. To join, visit <http://groups.yahoo.com/group/WoodsonSpecEd> or send an e-mail to [woodsonspeced@yahoo.com](mailto:woodsonspeced@yahoo.com)

Who can I invite to attend my child's IEP meeting?


  
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## Did you know...

 **Fairfax County Public Schools' Parent Resource Center** provides a wealth of information and resources to parents and students. Their upcoming workshops and conferences include:

Tuesday, November 10, 2009	What Are Related Services?
Thursday, November 12, 2009	A New Look at ADHD
Friday, November 13, 2009	Good Behavior Made Easy — 1 ... 2 ... 3
Saturday, November 14, 2009	Moving on to Life in the Community
Tuesday, November 17, 2009	Coping with Feelings
Saturday, November 21, 2009	Future Quest 2009
Tuesday, December 1, 2009	Help Your Struggling Reader: Strategies for Fluency
Saturday, December 5, 2009	Virginia Special Education Regulations
Saturday, December 5, 2009	What U Need 2 Know: Strategies for School Success
Tuesday, December 15, 2009	Social Success Made Easy!

For more information and to register, visit <http://www.fcps.edu/cco/prc/>

 **New to the IEP/Section 504 process?** The Internet offers a wealth of resources, but it's often difficult to sift through search results to find the most reliable and helpful information. Our group of parents has compiled, over the years, lists of reliable sources of information, including:

- LDOnline covers many issues, including IEPs (at <http://www.ldonline.org/indepth/iep>), an overview of IEPs and Section 504 (at <http://www.ldonline.org/article/6086>), learning disabilities (<http://www.ldonline.org/indepth/aboutld>), and twice-exceptional students (<http://www.ldonline.org/indepth/gifted>).
- POAC of Northern Virginia has a huge alphabetical listing of educational Web resources at [http://www.poac-nova.org/base.cgim?template=education\\_web\\_links](http://www.poac-nova.org/base.cgim?template=education_web_links).
- The Fairfax County Council of PTAs offers information specific to Fairfax County at [http://www.fcpta.org/special\\_ed/special\\_ed\\_menu.htm](http://www.fcpta.org/special_ed/special_ed_menu.htm).
- The National Dissemination Center for Children with Disabilities (<http://www.nichcy.org/>) acts as a resource clearinghouse for information on disabilities, special education law, and research-based educational practices.
- The Virginia Department of Education's Training and Technical Assistance Center (the closest one to us is at George Mason) publishes a quarterly newsletter in addition to its work with schools and the public. See <http://ttac.gmu.edu/newsletters/>

**Have questions?**

**Join us to help find the answers**

**<http://groups.yahoo.com/group/WoodsonSpecEd/>**