

OVERVIEW

Specialized Academic Instruction (SAI)

The California State Department of Education (CDE) has changed how special education services are reported to better align with the federal law. The current descriptor for instructional service is Specialized Academic Instruction

Specialized Academic Instruction (SAI) is defined as: *“Adapting, as appropriate to the needs of the child with a disability to content, methodology, or delivery of instruction to ensure access of the child to the general curriculum, so that he or she can meet the educational standards within the jurisdiction of the public agency that apply to all children.”* (34 CFR 300.26(b)(3)).

A student’s IEP will continue to be developed based on individual needs. Teams will determine the appropriate level of SAI required to support the student. IEP teams will decide if the services are provided in general education, in a separate class, in a separate facility, or the community. Additionally, related services will be listed as they have been previously.



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Specialized Academic Instruction (SAI)



Instructional Services

Department of

Special Education

Capistrano Unified School District

Special education is not defined as a place, such as a special education classroom. It is the services that define special education.

Special education is a set of services determined by the IEP team to be appropriate for the student. These services may be implemented in a variety of environments. The IEP team will determine the most appropriate environment or environments in which the student will receive services. Specialized Academic Instruction is the instructional service provided for the student by the special education teacher.



Environments for SAI

General education class - No direct special education staff support. Students may receive accommodations and will be graded using general education standards

General Education class with SAI - Special education staff support in general education classroom. Staff support may include Education Specialist or program support staff. Students may receive accommodations and will be graded using general education standards. Some students may receive modifications which will indicate that standards have been modified.



Separate classroom with SAI –(accommodated) Student requires slower pace, small group instruction, and the use of specialized strategies that target specific skills development (academic, language, behavior) in order to access the general education curriculum and make progress toward goals.

Class taught by Education Specialist credentialed to work with mild/moderate students. Curriculum focused on grade level standards. Students may receive accommodations and will be graded using general education standards.

Separate classroom with SAI- (modified) Student requires slower pacing, small group instruction, and the use of core curriculum adaptations and modifications that target significant academic, language, and /or behavior needs in order to make progress toward goals.

Class taught by Education Specialist credentialed to work with mild/moderate students Curriculum accesses standards, but is fundamentally lowered or altered.



Separate classroom with SAI- (BIC*, Bridges) Student requires small group setting. Focus is on academics, behavior and social emotional development. Class taught by

Education Specialist. Accommodations and modifications in place as determined appropriate by the IEP team. Modifications will indicate that standards have been modified.

Separate classroom with SAI- (SAC*, STEPS*, ATP*) Student requires slower pacing, small group instruction, and the use of core curriculum adaptations and modifications that target significant academic, language, functional skills and/or behavior needs in order to make progress toward goals. Class taught by Education Specialist credentialed to work with moderate /severe students. Focus on functional curriculum which is fundamentally lowered or altered to address student needs. Structured teaching may be utilized to address student needs.

*BIC – Behavior Intervention Class

*SAC – Structured Autism Class

*STEPS – Structured Teaching, Educationally based, Promoting independence & Student-centered instruction

*ATP – Adult Transition Program

