

The Capistrano Unified District's Elementary Structured Teaching Educating Prepared Students (STEPS) program classroom model is based on the premise that early intervention is effective in remediating learning deficits and/or identifying strategies to offset the impact of educational disabilities on young children.

The belief that high expectations can lead to greater successes underlies the program planning and teaching activities. All of the staff members working with a child share techniques to address each student's Individual Education Program (IEP) goals and objectives. These are integrated into the learning environment.



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Education Support Services  
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Capistrano Unified School  
District  
Structured Teaching Educating  
Prepared Students  
(STEPS)  
Elementary Program



## **CUSD Mission Statement**

CUSD's mission is to challenge each student to reach their highest potential. Meaningful instruction should always be individually appropriate, and have real-life application. In secondary education, autonomy is key in the areas of life skills, social skills and job skills. At CUSD, we embrace collaborative partnerships with the student, parents, community and IEP team.

## **Curriculum and Components**

- Modified Core Curriculum
- Provides functional academic curriculum and instruction
- Classes utilize a variety of strategies such as: Structured Teaching and Positive Behavioral Interventions
- Provides students with daily living and recreation/leisure skills
- Direct instruction in all skill domains
- Language and social skills emphasis across all activities
- Instructional adaptations and accommodations
- Building pre-vocational skills

## **The Program is Academic and Language based with an emphasis on**

- Academic or readiness skills
- Communication
- Language and literacy
- Fine and gross motor development
- Self-help skills
- Self-regulatory and sensory motor skills
- Attending skills
- Social emotional skills



## **Location**

Programs are located regionally throughout the district. Current locations are available through IEP teams and on the CUSD website.

## **Small Class Structure**

Small classes and low student teacher ratios allow for personalized instruction and supports that foster success and independence.

## **Family Perspective**

Families are at the core of the program, building strong relationships with students, staff and family members for the benefit of each student.

## **Staff**

Certificated teachers, expertly trained in special education, with the assistance of trained instructional support staff, combine research based teaching, technology, and therapeutic and medical supports tailored to meet each student's unique needs.

## **Each Site has access to the following support personnel:**

- Special Education Coordinator
- Speech-Language Pathologist
- Occupational Therapist
- Physical Therapist
- Assistive Technology Specialist
- Behavior Support Services Team