

## **Specialized Academic Instruction (SAI)**

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 is developed based on individual needs. IEP Teams determine the appropriate level of SAI required to support the student’s unique needs.



Capistrano Unified School District

Education Support Services

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## **Capistrano Unified School District**

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Special education is not defined as a place, such as a special education classroom. It is the services and supports 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 Education Specialist and support staff.



### 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 a 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.

The class is taught by an Education Specialist credentialed to work with mild/moderate students. The curriculum is focused on grade level standards and/or IEP goals. 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.

Classes are taught by an Education Specialist Teacher, credentialed to work with mild/moderate students.

The curriculum accesses standards, but may be fundamentally lowered or altered based on individual student needs.

Classes are throughout the District

at



Elementary Schools



Middle Schools and



High Schools