

Liberty Academy Special Education Department Analysis

1. **How are the department's curriculum and instructional strategies aligned with the school's desired results for student learning (DRSLs)?** The Liberty Academy Special Education Department provides quality support for all special education students in all curriculum areas. This allows the special education students to be successful in both their special education classes and also their general education classes.
2. **How does each course offering align with the state's Core Curriculum, which prescribes content and course-specific intended learning outcomes?** Liberty Academy's Special Education Department provides each special education student with individualized instruction in the curriculum areas of concern. The individual education plan goals are aligned with the Utah State Core Curriculum in each grade level and also addresses the specific needs of each student.
3. **To what extent does the department utilize a variety of assessments to monitor student achievement and adjust instructional practices?** Our department assesses each student regularly. These assessments include student quizzes, unit tests, observations, benchmarks, and assignments. Each teacher adjusts their teaching strategies based on the outcome of the assessments.
4. **How does the department collaborate with other departments to create integrated, relevant, and authentic learning opportunities for students?** The Special Education Department collaborates with general education teachers on a regular basis to discuss students with current IEP's. The Special Education team have active participants on the Student Success Team, the Faculty Council, and the ACT Assessment Team.
5. **To what extent do department members utilize inclusionary teaching strategies to meet the needs of ALL students (ESL, special education, gifted, etc.)?** The Special Education Department gives assistance to general education teachers by providing a list of each student's accommodations, participating in co-teaching settings, and meeting with teachers and students on a regular basis to discuss student progress and if any modifications that need to be made.
6. **To what degree are the department's policies, operational procedures, and allocation and use of resources aligned with the educational agenda of the school?** The Special Education Department gives students the individualized support that is required by their IEP's in order for them to be successful in their general education classes.

7. **How does the department collaborate and engage in ongoing professional development growth for the purpose of improving student performance?** The Special Education Department collaborates on a regular basis so that we can provide the best instruction possible. We discuss the most current best practices and review teaching ideas and strategies that can be implemented.
8. **How do students have access to additional support beyond the classroom?** The Special Education Department provides regular support to students within their regular education setting. We also provide extended school year services to those who qualify.
9. **How do students have access to and utilize technology as a regular part of the instructional program?** The Special Education Department currently has laptops and Kindles for use in the special education classroom as well as in their general education classroom. We allow students to use technology to complete class assignments, do research projects, and make presentations.
10. **How does current staffing and certification meet current program needs?** The Special Education Department currently has 4 licensed special education teachers. We also have 5 full-time and part-time para-educators.
11. **How is the department collectively addressing the school's current school improvement goals?** The Special Education Department welcomes input from parents and teachers as to how to make our program a success for all involved. Teachers are a part of the Student Success Team and Faculty Council. Each of these teams discuss and implement improvements for the school.

Areas of Strength: The Special Education Department does a great job giving each student the educational support they need to be successful in both their general education classroom and their special education classroom.

Recommendations for Growth: The Special Education Department needs better collaboration with general education teachers to ensure that students are getting the accommodations they need in the general education classroom. We also need better collaboration with general education teachers to identify students who might need special education services.