

MORE INFORMATION

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AcCEL

ACADEMIC COLLABORATIVE
FOR EXCEPTIONAL LEARNERS



Tulare County
Office of Education

Jim Vidak, County Superintendent of Schools

WHAT IS AcCEL?



The Tulare County Office of Education (TCOE) offers educational services for students with moderate to severe disabilities ages 3 through 22 throughout Tulare County in our Academic Collaborative for Exceptional Learners (AcCEL) program. Students attend school in special day classes located on school campuses throughout the county or in special centers located in Visalia, Tulare, Porterville and Yettem.

There are over 60 “satellite” classes located on comprehensive elementary, middle and high school campuses throughout the county. Instruction in these special day classes is specially designed and takes place in the classroom, in other locations on the school campus and in various locations in the community. Curriculum is aligned to California State Standards but is significantly modified to meet the individual needs of students with moderate to severe disabilities. Technology plays a significant role in our classrooms, giving students access to curriculum that might otherwise be inaccessible to them. Students interact with their typically developing peers to the maximum extent possible.

COMMUNITY BASED INSTRUCTION CLASSES

In addition to the satellite classes, there are 11 Community Based Instruction (CBI) classes for adult students ages 18-22. CBI classes are located at various community sites in each of our four program areas. These classes focus on further developing skills in the areas of academics, independent living, functional and vocational skills. Students spend portions of their day in an array of environments, including classroom, various employment locations and in the community. Vocational education focuses on teaching career awareness, planning vocational objectives, assessing and building upon job skills as necessary steps toward transition into competitive or sheltered employment. Some students participate in on-site job training in order to move them towards these goals.



CENTER-BASED CLASSES

Center-based classes are designed to meet the needs of students who require more intensive care or instruction. AcCEL offers Specialized Health Care classes at each of our centers for preschool and school age students who have complex medical needs. These classes follow the Mobility Opportunities Via Education (MOVE)[®] curriculum which is a program focused on increasing independence in all facets of mobility including sitting, standing and walking.

In order to meet the varied needs of students in our AcCEL Program, classroom staff consult regularly with Designated Instructional Service Providers. These can include but are not limited to; Speech and Language/Communication, Audiological and Hearing, Physical and Occupational Therapy, Vision, Assistive Technology, Psychological and Counseling service providers.

