

Independence & Learning Support (ILS) Program

Students Served: Students with Intellectual Disabilities and other related disorders

Grades: 3- 12

Program Lead: Manager, Low Incidence Disabilities

The Independence & Learning Support (ILS) program is designed to meet the individual needs of students with intellectual disabilities as well as adaptive functioning needs. Students in the ILS program have self-contained IEPs (20+ hours of specialized instruction outside of general education) and frequently require a range of related services such as speech and language, occupational therapy, physical therapy, assistive technology, transportation, and/or adaptive physical education in addition to specialized instruction. Some students with medical complexities and cognitive impairments may be candidates for a separate school such as River Terrace Education Campus.

Academic Programming

Academic Component	DSI Program Elements and Guidance
Student to Staff Ratio	10 students: 1 special education teacher: 1 instructional paraprofessional
Core Content	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Students are scheduled to take classes in ELA, mathematics, science and social studies with instruction aligned to DCPS Scope & Sequence where appropriate.• ILS classroom instruction is aligned to the Common Core State Standards and scaffolded to meet the needs of individual students.• Attainment's Core Curriculum Solutions supplements the curriculum
Interventions	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Edmark Reading Intervention (Grades 3-12)• Failure-free Reading Intervention (Grades 3-12)
Transition	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Grades PK3-5: Foundational Skills Course, Elementary Transition Activities (ETAs)• Grades 6 – HS: Secondary Transition Courses, IEP Transition Plan
Assessment	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• ILS students may take the multi-state alternate assessment (MSAA) or the PARCC assessment with accommodations as determined by the IEP team

Additional Programming

Partners

Special Olympics: This non-profit organization provides year-round sports training and athletic competition in a variety of sports for DCPS students with intellectual disabilities.

RSA: The Rehabilitation Services Administration (RSA) connects people with disabilities to employment opportunities. All students who are interested in working and have a documented disability can apply at their local school through their case manager. RSA will then meet with students to determine eligibility for services to support them in their pursuit of employment.

Facilities

Life Skills Suite (for high school): This instructional space provides students the opportunity to master daily living skills in a real-life setting.

Student Profile

Students with self-contained IEPs (20+ hours specialized instruction outside of general education) and identified as having a primary diagnosis of Intellectual Disability or who exhibit cognitive and adaptive functioning delays may be eligible for the ILS program. An expressed goal of the ILS program is to promote inclusion by transitioning students to the general education setting once they are determined ready by the IEP team.

Student Profile	
Most common primary disability served	Intellectual Disability
Hours of specialized instruction outside general educations	20+ (related service hours are not factored)
Related Services	Per IEP
Graduation	Students in the ILS Program earn a High School Achievement Certificate upon exiting school.

Staff Profile

Teacher certification and experience

ILS program classrooms are staffed with certified special education teachers who are responsible for planning and leading instruction. This includes aligning lessons to individual IEP goals and Common Core State Standards where appropriate.

Paraprofessional certification and experience

Classroom instructional paraprofessionals are consistent, active members of the classroom team and can provide specialized instruction under the direction of the special education teacher. ILS paraprofessionals are also responsible for data collection and small group or individual interventions. They co-plan with classroom teachers and provide additional support to students. Professional development is offered by itinerant DSI specialists and provided during professional development days.

A strong ILS teacher or paraprofessional candidate had experience in the following areas:

- Attainment curriculum
- Edmark or Failure Free reading interventions
- Functional communication instruction
- Independent living skills instruction (secondary grades)
- Culturally responsive pedagogy
- Engagement with family and community members

ILS Specialists

Itinerant DSI ILS Specialists have a range of expertise that includes differentiating instruction and assessment, classroom management, and promoting inclusive school culture.

Independence & Learning Support Program Classroom Locations (SY21-22)

Grades 3-5	Grades 6-8	Grades 9-12
C.W. Harris	Cardozo	Anacostia
Eaton	Eliot-Hine	Ballou
J.O Wilson	Hardy	Cardozo
Lafayette	Johnson	Columbia Heights
Leckie	Kelly Miller	Coolidge
Ludlow-Taylor	Lasalle-Backus	Dunbar
Miner	McKinley	Eastern
School-Without-Walls @ FS	Stuart-Hobson	Roosevelt
Thomas	Johnson	Wilson
West	Sousa	Woodson
Savoy	Ida. B. Wells	
Noyes		
Whittier		