

Medical & Education Support (MES) Program

Students Served: Students with complex medical conditions and cognitive impairments

Grades: PK3-2

Program Lead: Manager, Paraprofessional Support

The Medical & Education Support (MES) program is designed to meet the individual needs of students who have complex medical conditions and severe cognitive impairments. Students in MES program classrooms have self-contained IEPs (20 or more hours of specialized instruction outside of general education) and frequently require a range of related services, such as speech and language therapy, occupational therapy, and physical therapy. Some students with medical complexities and cognitive impairments may be candidates for a separate school such as River Terrace Education Campus.

Academic Programming

The MES program features services and supports to address students' intellectual, physical, social-emotional, and medical conditions. Students in the MES program receive instruction in literacy, numeracy, life skills and activities of daily living, which are aligned to the Common Core State Standards and scaffolded to individual student needs.

Academic Component	DSI Program Elements and Guidance
Student to Staff Ratio	<ul style="list-style-type: none">PK3 – 2: 8 students: 1 special education teacher: 1 instructional paraprofessional: 1 nurse
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.MES classroom instruction is aligned to the Common Core State Standards and scaffolded to meet the needs of individual students.
Interventions	<ul style="list-style-type: none">AEPS® The Assessment, Evaluation, and Programming System for Infants and Children (AEPS®), Second Edition is used in MES classrooms. The assessment, intervention, and programming system assess children across six major developmental areas—fine motor, gross motor, cognitive, adaptive, social-communication, and social. The assessment encompasses pre-academic content areas such as pre-literacy, numeracy, and pre-writing.
Transition	<ul style="list-style-type: none">Grades PK3-2: Foundational Skills Course, Elementary Transition Activities (ETAs)
Assessments	Students in the MES program may take the MSAA alternate assessment or the PARCC assessment with accommodations as determined by the IEP team upon reaching 3 rd grade.

Student Profile

Students identified as having a complex medical diagnosis (i.e. has a nursing plan requiring direct intervention or monitoring by a nurse throughout the day) and require intensive support relating to communication, functional skills, adaptive behavior, and academic support are eligible for the MES program.

Student Profile	
Most common primary disability served	Other Health Impaired or Multiple Disabilities
Hours of specialized instruction outside general education	20+ (related service hours are not factored)
Related Services	Per IEP. MES students tend to require communication, social-emotional and adaptive support.

Staff Profile

Teacher certification and experience

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

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. MES 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. Paraprofessionals in the MES program also assist in the daily care of students in the MES classroom who lack functional/life skills. For example, MES paraprofessionals assist with toileting, feeding, and changing of students, when appropriate.

A strong MES teacher or paraprofessional candidate has experience in the following areas:

- Caring for and addressing the needs of individuals with medical complexities
- Instruction of individuals with profound disabilities
- Functional communication instruction
- Culturally responsive pedagogy
- Engagement with family and community members

Nurses

MES programs include classroom nurses, in addition to the school. Students in the MES program have a wide range of medical complexities that may require the regular support of a nurse. Classroom nurses implement students' nursing plans as needed and ensure that the nursing plans are up-to-date. They collaborate with the school nurse, individual student health teams, paraprofessionals and the IEP team.

Medical & Education Support Program Classroom Locations (SY 21-22)

Grades PS/PK	Grades K-2	Grades 3-C8
School-Within-School @ Goding	School-Within-School @ Goding	River Terrace Education Campus
Turner	Turner	