

Structured Transition Education Program STEP

Washington County Public Schools' STEP Program is designed to address the educational programming of K-2 students with developmental delays in the areas of cognition or cognition with impacting behavior. Each STEP Program is located in a classroom within a public school. With the assistance of special education staff, students participate in general education classrooms with their non-disabled peers utilizing a gradual release of support based on individual student progress. An array of instructional strategies based on the individual needs and learning styles of the students are employed such as modeling, breaking tasks into smaller components, errorless learning, discrete trial training, visual supports, social/emotional curriculum, and use of an individual reward system.

Through participation in the STEP Program, students are comprehensively assessed with formal assessments and classroom observations. Prior to the transition to the third grade, a student's IEP team convenes to review student data and progress to determine appropriate instruction for the third grade. This review may include consideration for eligibility to participate in the alternate education framework.