



## **National School Psychology Awareness Week Was November 9-14<sup>th</sup>, 2015. This Year's Theme was THRIVE**

### **Helping Staff and Families Support Students to Thrive in School and Beyond**

Each year, a week in November is dedicated to promoting school psychology awareness. A theme is picked and focused upon to help build awareness of how school psychologists work in the educational environment to support children. This year's theme was all about how school psychologists partner with others to support children and help them successfully thrive in their environments.

As parents and educators, we share the goal to help our children thrive in school, at home, and in life. This includes ensuring their safety and well-being, helping them build positive relationships, providing opportunities to gain new knowledge and skills, and encouraging them to take on challenges and persevere when things get tough. Working together, we can promote their competence, achievement, and resiliency.

With that in mind, we want to take this opportunity to make sure that parents know what their school psychologists do to help support their children.

#### **Your Silver Valley School Psychologists are:**

### **Maxine Huntington and Cheri Rigdon**

Both are nationally certified school psychologists and both have specific training in autism assessment, crisis management and mental health supports. Additionally, they have training in behavior supports, small group counseling and multiple other skills.

#### **Some of the ways that we work with the schools include:**

- Provide trainings to parents at back to school nights including topics such as bully prevention, suicide prevention, homework skills and how to ask for help for your child.
- Provide special education trainings to special education teachers.
- Work with teachers in the classroom by providing behavioral supports and intervention plans, and helping with environmental changes to the classrooms.
- Work with district personnel to develop and implement crisis response services
- Assess students for possible special needs services.

#### **Additionally, we also work with kids, teachers and parents through:**

- **Psych Corner-** Newsletters go out on a regular basis and provide fun tips, ideas and projects for parents to use with their kids, as well as provide parents and teachers with useful information! Our psych corner news blog is available on the districts website!
- **School Small Groups-** held 8x's per year at the schools- and include topics such as: anger management, social skills, classroom survival skills, motivation techniques and more.
- **Leadership Camp-** held the first 3 days of summer school for kids Grade 7-11: Leadership camp provides an opportunity for kids to learn ways they can make a positive impact on their schools and communities.

And this year, we will be starting:

- **Love and Logic Parenting Classes-** This will be a 6 week course offered both on Ft. Irwin and in the Valley. Watch for information on when and where!

We look forward to working with all of our parents, teachers and students to help them THRIVE! Enjoy this month's information on the varieties of ways our district works with your students to help them succeed!

# Silver Valley Unified School District- Educational Supports Facts Sheet



## MULTI TIERED AND INTERCONNECTED SUPPORTS.

Silver Valley Unified School District uses an interconnected, multi-tiered system of support to meet children's needs. Our general education curriculum includes access to educational supports in the form of RtI (Response to Interventions), behavioral supports in the form of PBIS (Positive Behaviors and Intervention Supports) and counseling supports or ERMS (Educationally Related Mental-Health Services).

Silver Valley offers RtI to students for both English and Math supports. RtI is a general education function for all students who show a need for supports in either reading or math. RtI supports in the form of reading and math programs include, but are not limited to, Read 180, System 44, and Waterford training programs.

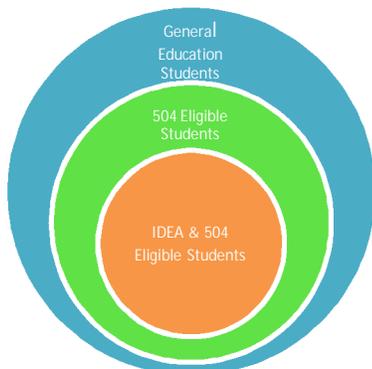
PBIS is implemented in all of Silver Valley's schools. Clear expectations and rules are posted throughout all of our schools. Reinforcement and rewarding of positive behaviors occurs on all school sites. Additional behavioral supports may include check in- check out, and behavioral contracts. Behavioral support plans and goals are available when needed.

Children's emotional and social needs are addressed in multiple ways at each school. Counseling services are available upon request for students struggling with problems such as anxiety, or depression. Small groups are offered throughout the school year at various times by school counselors and school psychologists.

If a student does not respond to these general education level supports, it may be time to request some extra help. To request extra help, use the school district's referral process .

## Referral Process

- 1) When there is a concern shared by teachers, counselors, parents or students, the first step is to talk to the teacher or principal.
- 2) Ask questions about the current RtI levels that the student is receiving. If child is still struggling with RtI, parent or teachers may refer the student to a Student Study Team (SST).
- 3) SSTs are composed of general education teachers and other educational specialists who work together with parents, to develop intervention strategies that are effective with children.
- 4) If the SST process is ineffective, talk to the SST team about when to ask for a referral for an educational psychological evaluation or consideration of a 504 plan.
- 5) A 504 plan may be available if the student meets the requirements, and if their disability substantially limits them in performing one or more major life activity. 504 plans are covered under federal ADA (Americans with Disabilities Act) law and can provide accommodations and modifications.
- 6) If an educational psychological evaluation determines student qualifies and needs specialized academic instruction, the student may be qualified to receive an IEP. IEPs are covered under federal IDEA (Individuals with Disabilities in Education Act) law. An IEP will provide students with accommodations, modifications and an individualized educational plan in the form of specialized academic instruction.



**Silver Valley Unified School District**

**SST Process and IDEA- IEPs or 504 Plans: REFERRAL/ IDENTIFICATION STEPS**

Student Needs/ Concerns shared by teacher, parent, counselor or student

Principal and teacher confer and determine preliminary action plan and data collection. Parent consulted.

Watch & Consult

Yes

Resolved

Yes, Continue with supports- modify if needed

Referral to SST is made. Referring teacher or counselor prepares data and completes the necessary forms. Parents and appropriate participants are notified and prepared.

SST meets:  
Clarifies problem, develops and agrees upon interventions: action plan defines who does what and when and who sets a follow up date to determine effectiveness of interventions.

Are interventions working?

Refer to Special Programs

NO

Consideration of IDEA Eligibility

Consideration of Section 504 Eligibility

Student has a qualifying disability, and who educational evaluation determines a need for special education and related services

NO

Not Eligible, Refer back to SST

YES

IDEA Eligible

IEP developed to ensure that Education is reasonably designed to confer some educational benefit

Specially designed instruction and related services

Individualized Education Program

Student has a physical or mental impairment that substantially limits one or more major life activities and that is affecting student's access to education; but does not require specialized academic instruction

NO

Not Eligible, but if regarded as, or has a record of, having a physical or mental impairment, then entitled to non-discrimination. Refer back to SST.

YES

Section 504 Eligible

Education meets the needs of disabled students as adequately as the needs of non-disabled

Reasonable Accommodation Plan

Physical

Instructional

Related Aides & Services

Section 504 Plan

**FREE APPROPRIATE PUBLIC EDUCATION  
In the Least Restrictive Environment**