



NSSEO

Building a Promising Future for Students

ACADEMIC HANDBOOK

Elementary Courses - Adapted

This document is intended to aid administrators in selecting courses appropriate for students.

All policies, procedures and courses described in this document are subject to change without notice.



Northwest Suburban Special Education Organization
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As our educational systems continue to grow and evolve in response to the needs of students and expectations for our students as they graduate from school, it is imperative that as an organization we implement quality practices that provide the educational opportunities, services and supports that best equip our students for the futures. NSSEO has embraced the importance of life-long learning by developing organizational goals and measurable objectives that blend required changes with high standards and expectations established for ourselves, our staff and our students.

We believe that the strong partnerships between our schools/programs, families and communities will continue to enhance opportunities that result in greater student success. While we continue to face significant funding challenges, it is equally important that we continue to embrace a philosophy that unites stakeholders around a common purpose reflected in our mission statement – to build a promising future for our students

The NSSEO special education cooperative is a legal district founded over 43 years ago with a commitment to serve students with disabilities and their families. This year we have again set strong, measurable goals for our organization around the following four areas that also reflect the priority areas of our eight member districts:

- *Student achievement – Increase student growth in academics, social-emotional learning and independence*
- *Continuous improvement – Engage in a systemic process to enhance NSSEO programs and services*
- *Collaborative partnerships – Influencing change at the local, state and federal levels through partnerships to improve student outcomes*
- *Fiscal responsibility – Support organizational goals through a fiscally responsible allocation of resources*

This is a critical time in education to rise to the expectations and challenges by answering the question of why we do what we do convincingly. Carol Ann Tomlinson, a strong educational researcher and presenter has said, “*Excellence in education is when we do everything that we can to make sure they become everything that they can.*” We will continue to strive for excellence at NSSEO, reflective of the important role we all play in assisting all students to become everything that they can possibly be.

Judy Hackett, Ed.D.

Superintendent

OVERARCHING GOAL

Provide visionary leadership that focuses on improved outcomes for students with special needs" recognizes the individual needs of each child and the belief that all children can learn and be contributing members of society.

MISSION

NSSEO seeks to build and strengthen home/school/community partnerships to enable students with special needs to become participating members of society.

VISION

"Building a promising future for students" supports the following Board goals and we incorporate them into our program goals:

- **Student Achievement:** Increase student growth/progress in the areas of academics, social/emotional learning and independence
- **Continuous Improvement:** Engage in a systemic process to enhance programs and services
- **Collaborative Partnerships:** Influence change at the local, state, and federal levels through partnerships to improve student outcomes
- **Fiscal Responsibility:** Support organizational goals through a fiscally responsible allocation of resources

WE VALUE

- **Partnerships:** School, family and community focused on continuous improvement
- **Leadership:** Looking beyond what is, to what is possible
- **Collaboration:** Working together to share knowledge
- **Lifelong learning:** Engaged professional learning communities
- **Communication:** Active process

WE BELIEVE

- All students can learn with appropriately defined learning objectives
- Curricula and instructional strategies reflective of best practice research that meet the diversity of individual student needs
- Learning is a shared responsibility among students, families, staff and community
- A positive, safe learning environment encourages and supports student and staff wellness, safety, diversity, creativity, and collaboration
- Clearly defined goals shared by all stakeholders.

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COURSE CATALOG



ENGLISH LANGUAGE ARTS AND LITERATURE PROGRAM



ENGLISH LANGUAGE ARTS AND LITERATURE PROGRAMS
Elementary - Adapted

NSSEO Course Number	ISBE Course Code	NSSEO Course Description / ISBE Title	Grade Level
51190A	51067A000	<p><u>Basic Reading / Assisted Reading</u></p> <p>Basic literacy skills are taught in this course to students who need intensive work in the English language arts with an emphasis on communication (both verbal and non-verbal) and listening skill. This course will target skills in the areas of word recognition, vocabulary development, and reading comprehension. Students are given specific and individualized instruction to improve their reading skills.</p>	K - 8
51200A	51068A000	<p><u>Corrective Reading / Corrective Reading</u></p> <p>Corrective Reading courses are taught to students who need intensive work in reading and writing. Activities are chosen to increase or improve students' who possess basic literacy skills and need further instruction in reading comprehension, reading technique, and general literacy skills. Students are given specific and individualized instruction.</p>	K - 8
51300A	51155A000	<p><u>Communication Skills / Communications</u></p> <p>Communications courses focus on the application of written and oral communication skills through a variety of formal and informal experiences. The courses are performance based and emphasize effective interpersonal and team-building skills. Communications courses may also involve the study of how interpersonal communications are affected by stereotypes, nonverbal cues, vocabulary, and stylistic choices.</p>	K - 8
51310A	51037A000	<p><u>Language Arts / Language Arts (Non grade-specific)</u></p> <p>Language Arts includes the four aspects of language use: reading, writing, speaking and listening. Emphasis may also focus on communication skills, specific content, is age appropriate and depends on common core standards for Language Arts.</p>	K - 8

MATHEMATICS PROGRAM

MATHEMATICS PROGRAMS
Elementary - Adapted

NSSEO Course Number	ISBE Course Code	NSSEO Course Description / ISBE Title	Grade Level
52110A	52002A000	<p><u>Basic Math / General Math</u> Basic math expands the students' foundational math skills. In this course students will cover such topics as ordering numbers, patterns and units, making predictions, identifying geometric shapes and figures, and basic addition and subtraction. Instruction is individualized to meet each student's needs.</p>	K - 8
52120A	52157A000	<p><u>Daily Living Math / Consumer Math</u> Consumer Math courses reinforce general math topics and apply these skills to consumer problems and situations. Emphasis is placed on using mathematics within the community and real-life situations. Foundational mathematic skills include number writing/recognition, money skills, ordinal counting, calculator skills, basic operations and measurement skills. In this course students will apply these skills in the area of home living, recreation and entertainment, social skills, community involvement and vocational skills</p>	K - 8
52130A	52003A000	<p><u>Adapted Math / Particular Topics in Foundational Mathematics</u> This course is designed for students who need intensive work in mathematics. In this course students will work on attending and exploring, matching and sorting, identifying patterns, counting to ten, and recognizing zero, more, equal, and less. Instruction is individualized to meet each student's needs.</p>	K - 8

LIFE AND PHYSICAL SCIENCES PROGRAM

LIFE AND PHYSICAL SCIENCES PROGRAMS
Elementary - Adapted

NSSEO Course Number	ISBE Course Code	NSSEO Course Description / ISBE Title	Grade Level
53100A	53202A000	<u>Basic Science / Unified Science</u> Unified Science courses combine more than one branch of science into a cohesive study or may integrate science with another discipline. This course places an emphasis on inquiry based learning. General scientific concepts are explored, as are the principles underlying the scientific method and experimentation techniques.	K - 8

SOCIAL SCIENCE AND HISTORY PROGRAM



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SOCIAL SCIENCES AND HISTORY PROGRAMS
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NSSEO Course Number	ISBE Course Code	NSSEO Course Description / ISBE Title	Grade Level
54120A	54999A000	<p><u>Basic Social Studies / Social Sciences and History – Other</u> Basic Social Studies provides an overview of a variety of subjects. This course will focus on such topics as an introduction to authority figures and rules we have at school, the roles of school authority figures, a comparison of city life and rural living, understanding of how people earn money at a job, and a basic review of family units and activities.</p>	K - 8
54130A	54151A000	<p><u>Basic U. S. Constitution / U.S. Government – Comprehensive</u> U.S. Government-Comprehensive courses provide an overview of the structure and functions of the U.S. government. Through this course students will gain a basic understanding of the community and political institutions, an understanding of traits for cooperative work and play, a basic understanding of diversity by comparing similarities and differences in people, and an understanding of our country by comparing past with present.</p>	7

FINE AND PERFORMING ARTS PROGRAM

FINE AND PERFORMING ARTS PROGRAMS
Elementary - Adapted

NSSEO Course Number	ISBE Course Code	NSSEO Course Description / ISBE Title	Grade Level
55010A	55201A000	<u>Fine Arts / Integrated Fine Arts</u> Integrated Fine Arts courses explore self-expression across the fine arts. This course is designed to teach students in the areas of art, music, dance and drama through participation in realistic, hands-on experiences. Skills will be met through appropriate activities designed for the student's level of capability.	K - 8

PHYSICAL, HEALTH, AND SAFETY EDUCATION PROGRAM



PHYSICAL / HEALTH / SAFETY EDUCATION PROGRAMS
Elementary - Adapted

NSSEO Course Number	ISBE Course Code	NSSEO Course Description / ISBE Title	Grade Level
58010A	58001A000	<p><u>Adapted P. E. / Physical Education</u> Physical Education courses provide to students the knowledge, experience, and opportunity to develop skills in more than one of the following sports or activities: team sports, individual/dual sports, recreational sports, and fitness/conditioning activities.</p>	K - 8
58020A	58051A000	<p><u>Health / Health Education</u> Topics covered within Health Education courses may vary widely, but typically include personal health and consumer health issues. The courses may also include brief studies of environmental health, personal development, and/or community resources.</p>	K - 8
58030A	58016A000	<p><u>Adventure P. E. / Lifetime Fitness Education</u> Lifetime Fitness Education courses emphasize acquiring knowledge and skills regarding lifetime physical fitness; content may include related topics such as nutrition, stress management, and consumer issues. Students may develop and implement a personal fitness plan.</p>	K - 8

COMPUTER AND INFORMATION SCIENCES PROGRAM



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COMPUTER AND INFORMATION SCIENCES PROGRAMS
Elementary - Adapted

NSSEO Course Number	ISBE Course Code	NSSEO Course Description / ISBE Title	Grade Level
60020A	60999A000	<p><u>Basic Computers / Computer and Information Sciences – Other</u> This course will provide students with an introduction to the basic operation and use of computers and information technology. Students will be introduced to such skills as how to login to the computer, navigate the computer and internet, open and save files and basic keyboarding. Instruction may include the use of adapted equipment such as switches and adapted keyboards. An emphasis will be placed on the role of the tool to communicate more effectively, support the curriculum, conduct research more efficiently, and increase productivity.</p>	K - 8
60030A	60002A000	<p><u>STEM Library / Computing Systems</u> Computing Systems courses offer a broad exploration of the use of computers in a variety of fields. These courses have a considerable range of content, but typically include the introduction of robotics and control systems, computer-assisted design, computer-aided manufacturing systems, and other computer technologies as they relate to industry applications.</p>	K - 8

ACADEMIC ENRICHMENT PROGRAM



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ACADEMIC ENRICHMENT PROGRAMS
Elementary - Adapted

NSSEO Course Number	ISBE Course Code	NSSEO Course Description / ISBE Title	Grade Level
72010A	72206A000	<p><u>Life Skills / Life Skills</u></p> <p>Life Skills courses provide information about a wide range of topics. This course emphasizes understanding self, getting along with others, personal safety, clothing care, leisure skills, home-living and self-care skills. Students will learn to generalize skills learned in the classroom to the community environment.</p>	K - 8
72020A	72207A000	<p><u>Self-Management / Self-Management</u></p> <p>Self-Management courses introduce students to the skills and strategies helpful in becoming more focused, productive individuals. This course will emphasize goal setting, decision making, and management of time, energy and stress, and identification of coping strategies.</p>	K - 8
72030A	72250A000	<p><u>Exploratory / Exploratory</u></p> <p>Exploratory courses provide a brief introduction to a variety of topics, typically elective subject areas, often in the form of discrete units or modules. Students may choose to take courses later that allow them to pursue the topics introduced in more depth. Topics may vary widely and span multiple subject areas within one course.</p>	K - 8
72040A	72152A000	<p><u>Pre-vocational Skills / Employability Skills</u></p> <p>Pre-vocational skills courses introduce students to skills and strategies helpful in completing simple tasks in classroom jobs. Students will focus on attending to a task, following single and multi-step directions and increasing fine motor skills. This course may incorporate the use of adaptive devices which include switches, task strips, and AAC devices.</p>	5 - 8

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