

# Special Education Eligibility

## Screening

PALO has established and will implement procedures to locate, identify and evaluate school age students thought to be eligible for special education services.

## Evaluation Process

The evaluation is conducted by a multidisciplinary team comprised of teachers, school psychologist, other qualified professionals who work with the child, and parents. This process is conducted within 60 calendar days of the school's receipt of signed consent from the parent, and it results in a written evaluation report or ER. This report makes recommendations about students' educational programming. Students are eligible for special education services if they need specially designed instruction and have one or more of the following educational disabilities:

- Autism
- Traumatic Brain Injury
- Orthopedic Impairments
- Mental Retardation
- Visual Impairments/Blindness
- Specific Learning Disability
- Serious Emotional Disturbance
- Speech and Language Impairment
- Deafness/Hearing Impairments
- Other Health Impairments

AIU #3  
475 East Waterfront Drive  
Homestead, PA 15120



# PA LEARNERS ONLINE REGIONAL CYBER CHARTER SCHOOL



PALO is a Cyber Charter School designed to meet the needs of a diverse student population.

**412 - 394 - 5875**  
**Special Education**  
**Information**

## Student Expectations

PALO offers “live” instruction throughout the school day. These **live classes** are delivered over the internet and is a place where students can hear the teacher and their classmates as well as see assignments and other materials that the teacher is using. Attendance is mandatory and is where the majority of the students’ specially designed instruction is delivered. All students have access to content area teachers as well as special education teachers to receive small group or 1:1 help sessions via the live class.

**Organization** is crucial in the online learning environment. Students are expected to log into their courses every school day. All teachers provide a weekly outline of what is to be completed in their course, including live class attendance.

**Communication** is very important to a student’s success at PALO. Students need to check their email many times throughout the school day and utilize it as their main tool for communicating with teachers.

## Graduation from PALO

Students are awarded their PALO diploma upon successful completion of credits and/or IEP goals. Completion of graduation requirements can occur at any point, as determined by the IEP, up until the school year the student turns 21 when eligibility ends.

### PALO MINIMUM GRADUATION REQUIREMENTS:

| Course                  | Credits Required |
|-------------------------|------------------|
| English*.....           | 4.00             |
| Social Studies.....     | 4.00             |
| Science.....            | 4.00             |
| Mathematics.....        | 4.00             |
| Physical Education..... | 2.00             |
| Health.....             | 0.50             |
| Electives (up to).....  | 4.50             |
| <b>TOTAL.....</b>       | <b>23.00</b>     |

\*The 12th grade English credit includes a culminating senior project including an evaluation.



## Special Education Services

PALO offers a continuum of special education services. At all levels, students with special needs are educated in the regular education class with accommodations and specially designed instruction provided as outlined in the students’ IEP.

For some courses at the middle and high school levels, students who need more direct support from a special education teacher participate in classes that have both a content area teacher and a special education teacher available during live class.

Finally, at the high school level, students who need more individualized curriculum participate in our learning support curriculum.

**Related services**, such as Speech Therapy or Occupational Therapy, are provided as outlined in the students’ IEP. Some services are available via the internet, while others are provided in through face-to-face interactions.

At the high school level, students will work on **transition** activities that help prepare them for life after graduation. A resource room is available for students to obtain informational materials and resources that focus on these activities.