

Focus on Inclusion

Yulee Primary School – Nassau County

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Yulee Primary is a Title 1 school serving students in pre-kindergarten through second grade with a total of 945 students. There are 50 general education classrooms with two support facilitation teachers serving each grade level. In addition, there are four self-contained classrooms as well as a K-2 Access Points classroom.

The K-2 varying exceptionalities classroom and the K-2 Access Points classroom are district units, which mean the ESE Director places those students in the units to serve the special needs of students in the entire district. Nassau County uses a small group instruction format for all students in reading and math. For example, during the reading block, students rotate through the general education teacher, a paraprofessional, and a technology center (Lexia Core 5) for approximately 20 minutes each. The students receiving support facilitation services have an ESE teacher added to their reading and math small group rotations (based on their IEP) for approximately 30 minutes in each subject. The teachers have built in additional “flex times” to their schedules to serve students with greater needs.

This school model of inclusion has proved to be successful. The overall school results were for the Stanford 10 (2014 to 2015) –

- 1st Grade Reading = increased 15% (60% - 75%)
- 1st Grade Math = increased 15% (67% - 82%)
- 2nd Grade Reading = increased 18% (71% - 89%)
- 2nd Grade Math = increased 10% (81% - 91%)

Qualitative Results –

- Teacher Surveys showed an increase in buy-in, more accountability toward “their” ESE students, and an increase in collaboration between the regular education and ESE teachers.
- Parents reported that their children had more friends and showed more confidence in their academics because their children were not isolated, singled out, or made to feel different.