



Office of Student Services/ Special Education

Ridgway Area School District

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August 2026

Dear Parents & Guardians,

Welcome to a new school year! As we begin the 2026–2027 school year, we would like to take a moment to share information about the **Ridgway Area School District Office of Student Services (OSS)** and the ways we can support students and families throughout the school year.

The Office of Student Services works collaboratively with students, families, teachers, administrators, and community partners to support the **academic, social, emotional, behavioral, and developmental needs of our students**. Our goal is to ensure that students have the support and services they need to learn, grow, and participate meaningfully in their school experience.

OSS supports students in grades K–12 through a variety of programs and services, including:

- **School-Age Special Education Services (IEP)**
- **Section 504 Service Agreements**
- **School-Age Gifted Support Services (GIEP)**
- **Homeless Education Services**
- **Services and supports for Foster Care and Incarcerated Youth**
- **Related Services**, including Speech and Language Therapy, Occupational Therapy, Physical Therapy, Vision Support, and Hearing Support

If your child does not currently receive special education services but is experiencing **academic, social, emotional, behavioral, or other difficulties that are affecting their ability to be successful at school**, please reach out to the Office of Student Services. We are happy to listen to your concerns, answer questions, and help you determine what support or next steps may be appropriate.

Likewise, if your child demonstrates exceptional abilities or talents, or if a medical or mental health condition is impacting their ability to access or succeed in school and they do not currently have a 504 Service Agreement or GIEP, we encourage you to contact us. Our team can help explain the process and determine whether a screening or evaluation may be appropriate.

The Office of Student Services provides screenings and evaluations at no cost to parents/guardians. These assessments may provide information about a student's cognitive functioning, academic

achievement, communication, behavior, and/or other areas of development. The results can help the school team better understand a student's strengths and needs and determine whether additional support, services, or programming may be appropriate.

For your reference, **RASD's Annual Public Notice (APN) is attached**. The APN provides important information regarding the District's responsibilities and the rights of students and parents/guardians related to special education, gifted education, Section 504, and other student services. We encourage families to review this information and keep it for future reference.

If your child currently receives services through the Office of Student Services, please remember that parents/guardians are important members of the educational team. You may request a meeting at any time if you have questions or concerns about your child's needs, progress, services, or educational programming.

At RASD, we are proud of the growth and accomplishments of all of our students. We recognize that student success is a team effort, and we greatly appreciate the partnership of our families and staff. We look forward to working together throughout the 2026–2027 school year to support our students and help them discover their purpose for today and their passion for tomorrow.

If you are unsure where to turn with a concern about your child, please reach out to us. You do not need to know exactly what service or program your child may need—we are happy to help you navigate the process and connect you with the appropriate resources.

Please contact the Office of Student Services at (814) 776-4255 and ask to speak with a member of our team.

Sincerely,

Mrs. Erica R. Heindl
RASD Supervisor of Special Education & Student Services

Mrs. Francesca Goodman
RASD School Psychologist

