

The Special Abilities Cluster at Edison High School

For over 20 years, the Special Abilities Cluster has been an integral part of the Edison High School Campus. The students in SAC have been diagnosed with Autism, Cerebral Palsy, Intellectual Disabilities, and a variety of syndromes. To the students at EHS, they are just that: students! Over the years SAC students have been integrated into many general education classes including Art, Photo, Ceramics, Science, Computers, Chorus, Drama, P.E., Video Production, and Film Appreciation. SAC students have participated in Football, Wrestling, Track and Field, and Swimming.

SAC students contribute to the EHS campus in many ways. SAC students and staff run the EHS "Going Green" Recycling Center and collect cans, bottles, paper, and computer cartridges from every classroom and office. The shredding for all departments is done by SAC students. Both mail and attendance is distributed by SAC students. They even collect compostable products on campus to support their organic garden.



The EHS general education students take advantage of opportunities to share the campus. Every semester 20-40 students receive credit as student aides in SAC classes. Best Buddies, an international organization set up to nurture friendships, has its only chapter in the district at Edison. Most of those students describe their experience as life changing. So much so that student aides often move on and become paid aides in the district.



EHS students often seek out ideas from SAC staff to complete their Eagle Scout, Gold Award or senior project. Students at EHS have built planter boxes, tool sheds, organized recycling efforts, etc. CIBACS students have raised thousands of dollars for SAC through Dodgeball tournaments and the Ms. Huntington Beach Special Needs Pageant.

Specific clubs and teams support the students, build friendships and develop understanding through specific programs. The football team has been sponsoring a summer B.B.Q. for more years than anyone can remember. The Fashion Club has organized fashion shows involving SAC students for the past four years. The Dance team trains SAC students to perform in their spring recital. EHS Cheer now includes 12 SAC cheerleaders for football and basketball games.



After 20 years of sharing the campus, most students at EHS would say , “It’s nothing Special, we are all just Edison students!”