

### Academic Life Skills (ALS)

The ALS Program is a self-contained program designed for students qualifying for special education due to delays in academic, cognitive, life skills, and /or adaptive behaviors. Students being served in this program would be eligible under categories of cognitive delays, emotional disturbance, autism, specific learning disabilities (moderate to severe needs) and/or sensory impairments. Students with only a delay in speech or language would not be appropriate, nor would students with emotional disturbance or specific learning disabilities unless they additionally had significant delays in obtaining and /or retaining new information. Qualified students would have delays that adversely affect the student's ability to be educated fully in a general education classroom setting. The ALS program is offered at both middle school and secondary levels. The purpose of the program is to provide appropriate academic instruction to enable students to function as independently as possible and as close to possible to the standards of the grade level curriculum. This program emphasizes presenting the core curriculum in a language based format. At the secondary level the students may receive community-based instruction for skills of independence such as grocery shopping, banking, and ordering in restaurants. Students will begin the program spending all, or most, of their time in the self contained classroom. As the student is able, based on curricular and behavioral intervention needs, he or she may begin receiving instruction within the general education classroom and/or electives, with additional support from the program staff. The decision as to the specifics of the student's participation in the general education environment is decided by the student's IEP team. Currently programs are located at Simonton Elementary, JO Combs Middle School and Combs High School.

In general, prior to entering the academic life skills program the student has been provided structured interventions, accommodations, and modifications in both the general education and resource environments. The progress in those environments demonstrated insufficient progress. In general, a student that requires instruction in the ALS program will, or may:

- Need significant adaptations or modifications in the general education curriculum
- Require additional structure and support for maintenance of appropriate behavior
- Have a modified or individual grading system different than the "typical" general education student
- Need support with self-care skills (toileting or eating)
- Does not have the intellectual capacity to grasp on age-level curriculum
- Be 2+ grade levels behind their same-aged peers in academic core subjects
- Need increased adult support
- Need support with adaptive behavior skills (i.e. communication, socialization)