SAN JOAQUIN COUNTY
OFFICE OF EDUCATION
SPECIAL EDUCATION PROGRAMS
OUR PROGRAMS
We offer two special center sites at McFall School and Redwood School, and many classes on satellite sites located on Banta, Escalon, Jefferson, Lammersville, Lincoln, Linden, Manteca, Ripon, and Tracy school district campuses.

MCFALL SCHOOL
McFall is a specialized center serving preschool students beginning at age 3. Guided by the child’s Individualized Education Program (IEP), all classes focus on self-help, communication, social, motor, and cognitive skills. Thematic teaching is a common thread throughout classes, as is an emphasis on language development. Head Start is an integral part of the school with children mainstreamed as appropriate to provide regular preschool integration.

REDWOOD SCHOOL
Redwood is a specialized center serving students ages six to 22. Program emphasizes functional curriculum with an independent living, vocational education, and community-based instructional delivery system. For the youngest students, motor development and communications skills are also emphasized. A variety of vocational education opportunities are also offered.

SPECIAL SERVICES
- Itinerant Teachers for Visually Handicapped and Deaf/Hard of Hearing
- Adapted Physical Education
- Autism Specialists
- Board Certified Behavior Analysts
- Occupational Therapy
- Language, Speech, and Hearing Specialists
- Psychologists
- Nurse Consultants
- Social Workers

WE SERVE CHILDREN AND YOUNG ADULTS AGES BIRTH TO 22 YEARS
BELIEVE!
The BELIEVE! program is based on the TIERS (Tiers of Intensive and Educationally Responsive Services) model. The program provides a positive collaborative learning environment with mental health and behavioral intervention services to individuals who experience challenges prohibiting them from being successful in an academic environment due to academic, behavioral, emotional, and social issues. We focus on social communication, cognitive, and behaviorally-based processing of intervention.

CONNECTIONS!
Classes emphasize communication, social, and adaptive living skills utilizing evidence-based practice with a foundation in Applied Behavior Analysis (ABA) as well as integration into the general education curriculum as appropriate.

DEAF AND HARD OF HEARING
Total Communication: Classes follow a developmental model and regular core curriculum with appropriate modifications as well as adaptive and assistive devices to enhance learning. There is an overall emphasis on communication and language development with a total communication approach is utilized.

Aural and Oral Preschool: Classes follow a developmental model with appropriate modifications as well as adaptive and assistive devices to enhance learning. There is an emphasis on auditory training, oral communication, and language development.

ORTHOPEDICALLY HANDICAPPED
Emphasis is on the regular core curriculum. Materials and instructional methodologies are modified as appropriate to meet individual student needs.

EXTENSIVE SUPPORT NEEDS
Classes emphasize functional skills curriculum in the areas of academics, communication, independent living, social/adaptive skills, and vocational training. All classes use community based instructions as well as integration on the regular campus.
Connections! is designed for preschool students with specialized needs. Classrooms provide students with a comprehensive program based on Applied Behavior Analysis (ABA) and utilize evidence-based practices. These classrooms are highly structured and incorporate a variety of techniques, including discrete trial training, pivotal response training, and visual communication systems. Within the structure of the class, student needs are targeted based on individualized education plans. Student progress toward goals is measured and monitored through data tracking and analysis.

A Typical Day

The Connections! program operates similarly to a general education preschool. The goal is to provide students with the foundational skills needed to be independent learners. Students participate in individualized instruction, small-group learning activities, circle time, independence with self-care, development of functional communication, appropriate behavior, and play and social-skills opportunities. Learning is promoted through structured teaching and naturalistic play. Social opportunities are provided daily among peers in the class, as well as with general education peers on campus.

Staff Training

Teachers and staff working in Connections! programs receive monthly training on a variety of evidence-based practices used in the classrooms. Training is provided by educational behavior analysts, speech and language pathologists, occupational therapists, mentor teachers, and experts in the field of Applied Behavior Analysis (ABA). Treatment integrity is consistently monitored using a consultative coaching model. For more information regarding evidence-based practices, please visit http://autismpdc.fpg.unc.edu/.

Our Approach

Students benefit from an interdisciplinary approach where educators collaborate to provide a comprehensive program.

Teams may include:

- Parents/Caregivers
- Teachers
- Educational Behavior Analysts
- Speech and Language Pathologists
- Occupational Therapists
- Instructional Assistants
- School Psychologists
- School Registered Nurses
- Licensed Vocational Nurses

Sites are located throughout San Joaquin County in Manteca, Mountain House, Stockton, and Tracy.
BELIEVE! BUILDS EXCELLENCE THROUGH LIFE SKILLS, INTERVENTIONS, EDUCATION, AND VALUABLE EXPERIENCES

The Believe! Program is based on the Tiers of Intensive and Educationally Responsive Services (TIERS) model. The program provides a positive collaborative learning environment with mental health and behavior intervention services to individuals who experience challenges prohibiting them from being successful in an academic environment due to academic, behavioral, emotional, and social issues. We focus on social communication, cognitive, and behaviorally-based processing of intervention. Our goal is for students to gain the necessary insights, strategies, and coping skills that result in successful transition back to a lesser restrictive setting in the school district of residence.

LEARNING ENVIRONMENT
We strive to create a positive and collaborative learning environment for students experiencing social, academic, emotional, and behavioral challenges. We provide focused teaching to strengthen social emotional development assisting students in regulating their emotions and reaching their full potential. Evidence based strategies include counseling, trauma informed care, mindfulness based interventions, and Positive Behavior Interventions and Supports (PBIS).

STAFF & COMMUNITY TRAINING
Individual classrooms hold weekly treatment team meetings with all staff members. Staff members are provided professional development training on various topics once per month. Our staff receive specialized training in recognizing and understanding mental health symptoms, building positive relationships, de-escalation strategies, evasion techniques, and Management of Assaultive Behavior (MAB). Community trainings are held with local agencies (i.e. police departments and school districts) about our treatment program.

Mental Health
Conditions seen in the BELIEVE! program:

- Major Depression
- Anxiety Disorder
- ADHD
- Bipolar Disorder
- Mood Disorder due to a general medical condition
- Substance-Induced Mood Disorder
- Psychotic Disorders
- Borderline Personality Disorder and Traits

SITES ARE LOCATED THROUGHOUT SAN JOAQUIN COUNTY IN STOCKTON AND MANTECA