



MINISTRY of EDUCATION YOUTH & INFORMATION

Special Education Unit

The Special Education Unit supervises Special Education has responsibility for educational provisions for students with special needs. The Unit provides technical support which encompasses education for students aged 3–21 years with various special needs including students who are Deaf or Hard of Hearing, students who are blind or have visual Impairment, students with Learning Disabilities, Intellectual Disability, Emotional and Behavioural Disorders, Autism, and students who are Gifted and Talented.

The objectives of the unit are:

1. To secure teaching/learning opportunities for students with special needs throughout the education system.
2. To plan, implement and monitor Special Education programmes.
3. To secure access, equity and quality education for students with special needs.

Student Support

- Each Region is assigned a **Regional Special Needs Coordinator** who provides support to schools in meeting the needs of students with special needs in the general education setting.
- **Regional Student Support Teams** are engaged to provide assessment services to ensure that students are identified earlier and services provided. These teams are comprised of Clinical Psychologists, Child and Adolescent Psychologists and Diagnosticians.
- The Special Education Unit facilitates referral of students for educational assessments, and placement of students in appropriate schools.
- Where there are no appropriate places in the public school system, students may be placed in private schools with financial support provided by the Ministry.
- Students who require additional support to function in the general education setting may be provided with support for a Shadows/Caregivers contracted by the Ministry, to assist them in school.
- Students with special needs may be granted accommodations when they sit national examinations

For further information parents may contact the Special Education Unit at (876) 967-2312/ email: specialedu@moey.gov.jm or speak to the Special Education Officer in your Region.



Regional Special Needs Coordinators

Mrs Natalie Beckford

Region 1—Kingston & St. Andrew

(876) 612-6024

Mrs Tashika Sinclair

Region 4—St. James, Hanover &
Westmoreland (876) 953-6928-30

Mrs Avarine Bradshaw

Region 2—St. Thomas, Portland & St. Mary

(876) 993-5603

Mrs Janet Shaw-Gooden

Region 5—Manchester & St. Elizabeth

(876) 962-1753

Mrs Renae Blake

Region 3—St. Ann & Trelawny

(876) 975-2703/ 2716

Mrs Daphne Brown-Mundle

Region 6—St. Catherine & Clarendon

(876) 983-1567 or 754-4203

