



## **Introduction**

The Dothan City Schools (DCS) Special Education and Procedures and Guidelines Manual provides staff with the guidelines and procedures governing special education and related services. In part, this manual demonstrates that the DCS has established policies, procedures, and programs for students with disabilities that are consistent with federal and State policies and procedures. Adherence to the guidelines and procedures set forth in this document ensures that students residing in Dothan City, including students attending private/religious schools and who are home schooled, ages birth through 21 years old have access to a free appropriate public education (FAPE) and that students with disabilities and their parents are provided all the educational rights and procedural safeguards described in the federal and State regulations.

## **Mission**

The mission of the Dothan City Schools System Department of Special Education is to support each school in addressing the learning needs of students with disabilities, and to close achievement gaps using inclusive, least restrictive means in partnerships with school-based staff, parents and families.