The Daily Living Skills (DLS) program is a self-contained instructional setting that provides services to students ages 5 to 21 years of age who have been identified with a disability and demonstrate a need for Special Education supports and services to access the general curriculum. The DLS program is designed to serve students with severe to profound cognitive impairments and significant deficits in adaptive or self help skills that interfere with activities of daily living.

Students who receive supports or services from the DLS program are typically pre-linguistic and may often have developmental disabilities or severe chronic conditions that are due to mental and/or physical impairments including an anatomical loss or musculoskeletal, neurological, respiratory, or cardiovascular impairment. Students who demonstrate a need for the DLS program require direct, extensive instruction to acquire, maintain, generalize, and transfer adaptive or functional living skills and need maximum adult supervision and assistance to carry out activities in his/her daily routine (i.e., feeding, toileting, positioning). Students in this program typically demonstrate an actual incapacity to perform routine tasks, and many require suctioning, catheterization, or diapering throughout the day.

The curriculum in the DLS program is aligned with grade level TEKS but is significantly modified based on student need as indicated in his/her IEP. In addition to developmental/pre-academic skills, the DLS program also focuses on developing student’s functional, adaptive, communication, and vocational skills.