

SUBJECT: STUDENTS ~~CHILDREN~~ WITH DISABILITIES

A student ~~child~~ with a disability means a student under the age of twenty-one (21) who is entitled to attend public schools and who, because of mental, physical or emotional reasons can only receive appropriate educational opportunities from a program of special education. A student ~~child~~ is not considered as having a disability if his/her educational needs are due primarily to unfamiliarity with the English language; environmental, cultural or economic factors; or lack of appropriate instruction in reading or mathematics.

If the State Education Department finds that the District has inappropriate policies, procedures or practices resulting in a significant disproportionality by race/ethnicity in the suspension, identification, classification and/or placement of students with disabilities, the District will ensure that it publicly reports on the subsequent revisions to those policies, procedures or practices.

The Board of Education recognizes the existence of individual differences in the intellectual, social, emotional and physical development of students attending school in the District. In recognizing these differences the Board supports a system of services offered in the least restrictive environment for students with disabilities which includes:

- a) Not requiring any student to obtain a prescription for a drug or other substance identified as a controlled substance by the federal Controlled Substances Act as a condition of receiving services.
- b) Education in regular classes with or without support services, education in a resource room, education for part of the day in a special class, full time education in a special class, home instruction and education in a residential setting.
- c) Providing for the education of students with disabilities with non-disabled peers to the extent appropriate.
- d) Taking the following measurable steps to recruit, hire, train and retain highly qualified personnel to provide special education programs and services:
 1. The District will recruit suitable Special Education Staff by posting all positions in area newspapers and at area teacher training colleges.
 2. District administration will hire suitable Special Education Staff by screening and interviewing all candidates to ensure that we hire the best qualified individuals available.
 3. District administration will train all Special Education Staff through ongoing Special Education Department staff meetings, District staff development, and various workshops and professional development offered in the local area.

(Continued)

SUBJECT: STUDENTS ~~CHILDREN~~ WITH DISABILITIES (Cont'd.)

4. Special Education teachers are required to have subject matter knowledge appropriate to the level of instruction being provided; when teaching two (2) or more core academic subjects exclusively to students ~~children~~ with disabilities, the teacher will meet the requirements of "highly qualified" per the No Child Left Behind Act (NCLB) and the Individuals with Disabilities Education Improvement Act of 2004 (IDEA) or demonstrate competence in all the core academic subjects taught per state regulations.
- e) Establishing the following guidelines for the provision of appropriate accommodations necessary to measure the academic achievement and functional performance of the student in the administration of District-wide assessments:
1. Ensure that necessary accommodations are specified on individualized education program (IEP) and implemented in accordance with the IEP;
 2. Review the need for accommodations at Committee on Special Education (CSE) evaluations/re-evaluations;
 3. District administration will train all staff that provides test accommodations on District-wide assessments to insure that they understand how to appropriately provide test accommodations to those students that qualify.
- f) To the extent feasible, using universal design principles (defined as a concept or philosophy for designing and delivering products and services that are usable by people with the widest range of functional capabilities, which include products and services that are directly usable without requiring assistive technologies and products and services that are made usable with assistive technologies) in developing and administering District-wide assessment programs by:
1. Addressing appropriate universal design principles in IEP; ensuring that students with disabilities have access to instructional materials that are provided in alternate formats under Chapter 377 when adding and purchasing textbooks and instructional materials.
 2. Having the Library Media Specialist and/or Curriculum Coordinator keep Committee on Special Education (CSE)/Committee on Preschool Special Education (CPSE) apprised of available products and services utilizing universal design principles;
 3. Ensuring that instructional materials and activities allow learning goals to be achievable by individuals with wide differences in abilities;
 4. Ensuring that flexible curricular materials and activities are built into the instructional design and operating systems;
 5. Ensuring that instruction is diversified to deliver the general education curriculum to every student and diversify ways students may respond to that curriculum.

(Continued)

Instruction

SUBJECT: STUDENTS ~~CHILDREN~~ WITH DISABILITIES (Cont'd.)

- g) Consideration of the location of a school program(s) to a student's residence, before placement into an educational program.
- h) Adoption of written policies and procedures ensuring that students with disabilities are provided appropriate opportunities to earn a high school diploma in accordance with Commissioner's Regulations.
- i) Allocation of appropriate space within the District for special education programs that meet the needs of students with disabilities.
- j) Assurance that appropriate space will be available to meet the needs of resident students with disabilities who attend special education programs provided by BOCES.

Provision of Special Education Services to Nonpublic School Students with Disabilities who are Parentally Placed

The **district of location** is responsible for child find, including individual evaluations, Committee on Special Education (CSE) meetings, provision of special education services, and due process to parentally placed nonpublic school students attending nonpublic schools located within ~~in~~ the geographic region of the public school district.

These requirements only pertain to students with disabilities parentally placed in elementary and secondary nonpublic schools, not to parental placements of preschool students with disabilities in private day care or preschool programs; or to CSE placements of students with disabilities in approved private schools, Special Act School Districts, State-supported or State-operated schools or to Charter schools.

Parental consent must be obtained by the school district of location before any personally identifiable information about the student is shared between officials in the public school district of residence and officials in the public school district of location.

The school district of location must consult with nonpublic school representatives and representatives of parents of parentally placed nonpublic school students with disabilities enrolled in nonpublic elementary and secondary schools located within the boundaries of the school district. The school district must engage in consultation regarding the child find process and services generally; consultation is not specific to individual students. Individual services are determined by the CSE.

The consultation process must be timely and meaningful and include discussion of:

- a) Child Find;
- b) Provision of Special Education Services; and
- c) Use of Federal Funds.

(Continued)

SUBJECT: STUDENTS ~~CHILDREN~~ WITH DISABILITIES (Cont'd.)

The school district of location must provide, as appropriate, special education services to an eligible student who legally resides in another state and who is parentally placed in a nonpublic school located in New York State. The services to be provided to out-of state students must be documented on a services plan that is developed by the CSE of the district of location. The services plan is the written plan that describes the specific special education and related service that the district of location will provide to the student consistent with the services that the school district of location has determined through the consultation process and in relation to the proportionate shares of federal IDEA Part B dollars, to be provided to the student.

Tuition Reimbursement Claims for Disabled Nonpublic School Students

The parent must comply with the IDEA's pre-hearing notice requirement for tuition reimbursement claims. Specifically, the IDEA directs that at least ten (10) business days before submitting a request for an impartial due process hearing for tuition reimbursement, the parent must give the district written notice of intent to enroll the student in private school at public expense. The purpose of this requirement is to give the public school district's CSE the opportunity to meet and develop a new IEP for the student that addresses the parent's concerns. *A parent who does not provide such written notice within ten (10) days may have his request for reimbursement reduced or denied. In most cases, a parent's failure to satisfy these notice requirements is a complete bar to recovery.*

Individuals with Disabilities Education Improvement Act of 2004, Public Law 108-446 Sections 612 and 614

Individuals with Disabilities Education Act (IDEA), 20 United States Code (USC) Section 1400 et seq.

20 United States Code (USC) Section 9101(23)

21 United States Code (USC) Section 812(c)

34 Code of Federal Regulations (CFR) Part 300

Education Law Sections 3208, 3242, 3602-c, 4401-4407 and 4410-6

8 New York Code of Rules and Regulations (NYCRR) Sections 100.5, 100.9, 200.2(b), 200.2(c)(2)(v), 200.4(e)(9) and 200.6(a)(1)

NOTE: Refer also to Policy #8505 -- Least Restrictive Environment

Adopted: 6/27/06

Revised: 10/14/10;

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