

SPECIAL EDUCATION

The Board of Education shall provide a free and appropriate public education to the handicapped children resident in this district between the ages of three and twenty-one years who are impaired physically, emotionally, intellectually, or socially to such an extent that without the aid of special education and related services they are educationally disadvantaged.

The Board shall annually adopt a plan for the special education program of this district that shall comply with requirements of the State Board of Education. The plan shall be developed in consultation with professional staff members responsible for the delivery of special education services, members of the community, and, where appropriate, handicapped persons or representatives of the handicapped.

The Board directs the identification, referral, and evaluation of each potentially handicapped child eligible for special education. Referrals for examination may be made by any teaching staff members, the parent of a child referred, a public or private agency recognized by this district and concerned with the welfare of children, or by licensed medical or health professionals. A comprehensive evaluation of each referred child shall proceed promptly, shall be completed within sixty days from the date of referral, and shall be neither racially nor culturally discriminatory. Each classified child shall be re-evaluated at intervals of not more than three years and as frequently as conditions warrant on the request of the parent or district personnel responsible for the pupil's care.

An individualized education program shall be prepared for each child classified as handicapped and shall be implemented, whenever possible, in the facilities provided by the district. The plan shall provide an appropriate education in the least restrictive environment and shall allow the child's participation in the regular educational program as appropriate to his needs.

The parents of identified children and children classified as handicapped shall receive notice and opportunities for consultation and review in accordance with rules of the State Board of Education, and the parents of handicapped children under three years of age shall be informed of available state, county, and local services. Each such parent shall be offered copies of the New Jersey statutes and rules governing special education.

The Board directs that the names and other personally identifiable data concerning identified and handicapped children shall be kept confidential and shall not be included in the public acts or records of this district.

* Such names and data shall be reduced to code for inclusion in the public record.

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- * No pupil classified as handicapped shall be denied, because of his handicap, participation in co-curricular, intramural, or interscholastic activities or any of the services offered or recognitions rendered regularly to the pupils of this district.

The Superintendent shall develop regulations to implement this policy that shall comply fully with all applicable statutes and rules of the State Board of Education.

- * The Board shall annually evaluate the effectiveness of the special education program by reference to numbers of pupils referred and classified, assessments of professional staff members, and such other indicia as the Superintendent may recommend.

20 U.S.C.A. 1401 et seq.

N.J.S.A. 9:14A-1

N.J.S.A. 18A:46-1 et seq.

N.J.A.C. 6:28-1.1 et seq., 6:43-4.1 et seq.

- * optional choice