

## **Instruction**

### **Special Education**

#### **Pre-School Special Education**

The Board of Education (Board) recognizes the value of special education and its responsibility in ensuring that all resident preschool children with disabilities have the opportunity to participate in special programs and services from which they may benefit. The Board shall maintain an early intervention program for preschool-aged children identified through the "Birth to Age Three" screening process under regulations imposed by the Individuals with Disabilities Act (IDEA) which identifies children with special education needs or developmental delays.

The District's program shall be based upon the "reverse mainstreaming model" which maintains a significant number of non-disabled (regular education) students who serve as role models for the students with identified special needs. The Director/Supervisor of Special Education is responsible to coordinate and evaluate the program annually to make recommendation to the Superintendent of Schools or his/her designee.

The Board authorizes the Superintendent of Schools to establish administrative practices and procedures to carry out this responsibility. Such administrative practices and procedures shall include:

1. Locating and identifying all preschool children, between the ages of three and five, with disabilities pursuant to the relevant provisions of the Individuals with Disabilities Act (IDEA). The register of children eligible to receive preschool special education services is to be maintained and revised annually by the Director/Supervisor of Special Education;
2. Ensuring that the parents of preschool age children with disabilities have received and understand the request for consent for evaluation of their child;
3. Developing an individualized education program (IEP) for each preschool age child with a disability requiring services;
4. Appointing and training appropriately qualified personnel;
5. Providing transportation to children found eligible for special education services and are enrolled in the program;
6. Maintaining lists as required by the State Education Department pertaining to the number of children with disabilities who are being served, as well as those identified disabled students not served; and

7. Reporting as required to the State Education Department; and
8. Ensuring the smooth transition from infant to preschool programs.

The Planning and Placement Team's responsibilities will include the evaluation and recommendation for placement in appropriate approved programs and the provision of appropriate special education programs and services for each preschool child with a disability. Children recommended for an educational program may enter at various points throughout the school year. Students referred through the Birth to Three system are to begin by their third birthday.

It is ultimately the responsibility of the Board to provide the appropriate approved preschool program and services for the District children. Should the PPT's determination and recommendations differ from parent or guardian preference, placement may be appealed by a parent or guardian through the procedures outlined in IDEA.

The Board directs the Superintendent or his/her designee to ensure that the District considers that adequate and appropriate space and personnel are made available for such programs and services.

### **Tuition**

Identified students attend the program at no charge. Non-disabled (regular education) students enrolled in the "reverse mainstreaming" preschool program will be required to pay tuition for the program. The Superintendent and Director of Special Education will annually establish the tuition rate for the following school year. The Superintendent or his/her designee, and Director of Special Education will establish a monthly payment plan. Failure to make such tuition payment may result in discontinuation of enrollment in the program.

Legal Reference: Connecticut General Statutes

[10](#) 76a Definitions.

[10](#) 76b State supervision of special education programs and services.

[10](#) 76c Receipt and use of money and personal property.

[10](#) 76d Duties and powers of boards of education to provide special education programs and services. (as amended by PA 97-114)

[10](#) 76e School construction grant for cooperative regional special education facilities.

[10](#) 76f Definition of terms used in formula for state aid for special education.

[10 76g](#) State aid for special education.

[10 76h](#) Special education hearing and review procedure. Mediation of disputes.

[10 76i](#) Advisory council for special education.

[10 76j](#) Five year plan for special education.

[10 76k](#) Development of experimental educational programs.

State Board of Education Regulations.

[10 76m](#) Auditing claims for special education assistance.

[10 76a 1](#) et seq. Definitions.

[10 76b 1](#) through [10 76b 4](#) Supervision and administration.

[10 76d 1](#) through [10 76d 19](#) Conditions of instruction.

[10 76h 1](#) through [10 76h 2](#) Due process.

[10 76l 1](#) Program Evaluation.

[10 145a 24](#) through [10 145a 31](#) Special Education (re teacher certification).

34 C.F.R. 3000 Assistance to States for Education for Handicapped Children.

American with Disabilities Act, 42 U.S.C. §12101 et seq.

Individuals with Disabilities Education Act, 20 U.S.C. §1400 et seq. as amended by P.L. 105-17.

Rehabilitation Act of 1973, Section 504, 29 U.S.C. §794.

Policy adopted: 04/23/2018