

Students

Westhill Central School District**NUMBER****STUDENTS WITH DISABILITIES**

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SUBJECT: SPECIAL EDUCATION: DISTRICT PLAN

A District plan shall be developed describing the Special Education program in the Westhill Central School District. The District plan shall include the following:

- a) A description of the nature and scope of special education programs and services currently available to students (including preschool students) residing in the District, including but not limited to descriptions of the District's resource room programs and each special class program provided by the District in terms of group size and composition.
- b) Identification of the number and age span of students (school age and preschool) to be served by type of disability and recommended setting.
- c) The method to be used to evaluate the extent to which the objectives of the program have been achieved.
- d) A description of the policies and practices of the Board of Education to ensure the allocation of appropriate space within the District for special education programs that meet the needs of students and preschool children with disabilities.
- e) A description of the policies and practices of the Board of Education to ensure that appropriate space will be continually available to meet the needs of resident students and preschool students with disabilities who attend special education programs provided by Boards of Cooperative Educational Services.
- f) A description of how the District intends to ensure that all instructional materials to be used in the schools of the District will be made available in a usable alternative format for each student with a disability at the same time as such instructional materials are available to non-disabled students. The alternative format must meet the National Instructional Materials Accessibility Standard defined in federal law.
- g) The estimated budget to support such plan.
- h) The date on which such plan was adopted by the Board of Education.
- i) A description of how the District plan is consistent with the special education space requirements plan for the region as developed by the Board of Cooperative Educational Services.

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Adopted 11.10.2014

SUBJECT: SPECIAL EDUCATION: DISTRICT PLAN (Cont'd)

The District plan, with personally identifiable student information deleted, shall be filed and available for public inspection and review by the Commissioner.0 USC Section 1474(e)(3)(B)
8 NYCRR Part 155 and Section 200.2(c)(1)

Adoption Date 11/10/2014

POLICY

Students 7611
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Adopted 11.10.2014

SUBJECT: CHILDREN WITH DISABILITIES

A child with a disability means a student under the age of twenty-one 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 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 children attending school in the District. In recognizing these differences the Board supports a system of services offered in the least restrictive environment for children 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. Utilize established procedures for publication of all potential job openings;
 - 2. Check credentials and requirements listed on applications;
 - 3. Provide training sessions for interview committee;

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Adopted 11.10.2014

SUBJECT: 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 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;
 5. Special education teachers and administrators are encouraged to complete enhanced training in the needs of autistic children.
- 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.
- 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;
 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;

(Continued)

SUBJECT: CHILDREN WITH DISABILITIES (Cont'd.)

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.
- 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 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 children 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.

The actual cost for Committee on Special Education (CSE) administration, evaluations and special education services provided to a student with a disability who is a resident of New York State, but a nonresident to the district of location, may be recovered from the student's school district of residence. Because federal regulations require parental consent before any personally identifiable information about the student relating to special education is shared between officials in the public school district of location and officials in the public school district of residence, parent consent to share special education

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Adopted 11.10.2014

SUBJECT: CHILDREN WITH DISABILITIES (Cont'd.)

information between the two public school districts is required before billing a district of residence for the cost of special education services provided to the student by the district of location.

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.

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 child 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*

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Adopted 11.10.2014

SUBJECT: CHILDREN WITH DISABILITIES (Cont'd.)

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 USC Section 1400 et seq.

20 USC Section 9101(23)

21 USC Section 812(c)

34 CFR Part 300

Education Law Sections 3004(4), 3004(5), 3208, 3242, 3602-c, 4401-4407 and 4410-6

8 NYCRR Sections 52.21, 57-3, 100.5, 100.9, 177.2, 200.2(b), 200.2(c)(2)(v), 200.4(e)(9) and 200.6(a)(1)

NOTE: Refer also to Policy #7615 -- Least Restrictive Environment

Adoption Date 11/10/2014

POLICY

Students 7612
1 of 1

Adopted 11.24.2014

SUBJECT: GROUPING BY SIMILARITY OF NEEDS

The Board of Education will provide appropriate special education and related services to students with disabilities. For those students for whom an appropriate education requires that they be placed together for purposes of special education, the following guidelines shall apply:

- a) That each student with a disability shall be identified, evaluated and placed as determined by the Committee on Special Education (CSE).
- b) The CSE shall determine written goals, including academic and functional goals, for each student with a disability by considering the special and individual needs of each student with a disability. Short-term instructional objectives and/or benchmarks will be created for each preschool student with a disability and for students who take New York State alternate assessments.
- c) The CSE shall recommend to the Board of Education appropriate educational programs and services for each student with a disability based upon the CSE evaluation.
- d) The CSE shall provide information to those teachers and professionals who arrange instructional groups for students with disabilities. Information shall include physical, psychological and social information as well as achievement test results.
- e) The curriculum and instruction provided to students with disabilities who are grouped by similarity of needs shall be consistent with the individual needs of each student in the group.
- f) Students with disabilities may be grouped according to:
 1. Academic achievement, functional performance and learning characteristics;
 2. Social development;
 3. Physical development; and
 4. Management needs.
- g) When grouping students by similarity of needs, the social needs or physical development of a student shall not be the sole determinant for placement of a student in a special education program.
- h) The management needs of such students may vary, provided that environmental modifications, adaptations, or human or material resources required to meet the needs of any one student in the group are provided and do not consistently detract from the opportunities of other students in the group to benefit from instruction.

8 NYCRR Sections 200.1(w), 200.2(b)(3), 200.4(d) and 200.6(a)(3)

Adoption Date 11/24/2014

POLICY

Students 7613
1 of 3

Adopted 11.24.2014

SUBJECT: THE ROLE OF THE BOARD IN IMPLEMENTING A STUDENT'S INDIVIDUALIZED EDUCATION PROGRAM

The Board of Education shall establish at least one Committee on Special Education (CSE) and one Committee on Preschool Special Education (CPSE). The Board shall also establish, as necessary, Subcommittees on Special Education to ensure timely evaluation and placement of students with disabilities.

Committee on Special Education

The Board of Education shall, upon completion of its review of the recommendations of the CSE, arrange for the appropriate special education programs and services to be provided to a student with a disability. The Board shall notify the parent/guardian of its action in accordance with federal and state law and regulations.

For a student not previously identified as having a disability, the CSE shall provide a recommendation to the Board which shall arrange for the appropriate special education programs and services to be provided within sixty (60) school days of the date of receipt of consent to evaluate. For a student with a disability referred for review, a recommendation shall be provided to the Board which shall arrange for the appropriate special education programs and services to be provided within sixty (60) school days of the referral for review. However, if such recommendation of the CSE is for placement in an approved in-state or out-of-state private school, the Board shall arrange for such special education programs and services for students with disabilities within thirty (30) school days of the Board's receipt of the recommendation of the CSE.

If on review of the recommendation of the CSE, the Board of Education disagrees with such recommendation, the Board shall follow one of the following procedures:

- a) The Board may remand the recommendation to the CSE with a statement of the Board's objections or concerns and a request that a timely meeting be held to review and consider such objections or concerns. The CSE shall consider the Board's objections or concerns, revise the individualized education program (IEP) where appropriate, and resubmit a recommendation to the Board. If the Board continues to disagree with the recommendation of the CSE, the Board may continue to remand the recommendation to the original committee for additional reviews of its objections or concerns, or establish a second CSE to develop a new recommendation in accordance with the following paragraph, provided that the Board arranges for the programs and services in accordance with the student's IEP within the timelines as outlined above; or, in the alternative,

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Students 7613
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Adopted 11.24.2014

**SUBJECT: THE ROLE OF THE BOARD IN IMPLEMENTING A STUDENT'S
INDIVIDUALIZED EDUCATION PROGRAM (Cont'd.)**

- b) The Board may establish a second CSE to develop a new recommendation for the student. If the Board disagrees with such new recommendation, the Board may remand the recommendation to the second CSE with a statement of the Board's objections or concerns and a request that a timely meeting be held to review and consider such objections or concerns. The second CSE shall consider the Board's objections or concerns, revise the IEP where appropriate, and resubmit a recommendation to the Board. If the Board continues to disagree with the recommendation of the second CSE, the Board may continue to remand the recommendation for additional reviews of its objections or concerns by the second CSE, provided that the Board arranges for the programs and services in accordance with the student's IEP, as developed by the second CSE, within the timelines as outlined above.

Pursuant to Commissioner's Regulations, the Board may not select the recommendation of the original CSE once it has established a second CSE.

The Board shall provide the student's parents/guardians with written notice and a copy of the statement of its objections or concerns and notice of due process rights in accordance with Section 200.5 of the Regulations of the Commissioner.

Committee on Preschool Special Education

Upon receipt of the recommendation of the Committee on Preschool Special Education (CPSE), the Board of Education shall arrange for the preschool student with a disability to receive such appropriate programs and services in accordance with the student's IEP, commencing with the July, September or January starting date for the approved program, unless such services are recommended by the CPSE less than thirty (30) school days prior to, or after, the appropriate starting date selected for the preschool student with a disability; in that case, such services shall be provided no later than thirty (30) days from the recommendation of the CPSE.

If the Board disagrees with the recommendation of the CPSE, the Board shall send the recommendation back to the CPSE with notice of the need to schedule a timely meeting to review the Board's concerns and to revise the IEP as deemed appropriate. The Board of Education shall provide such notice as required by federal and state law and regulations.

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POLICY

Students 7613
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Adopted 11.24.2014

**SUBJECT: THE ROLE OF THE BOARD IN IMPLEMENTING A STUDENT'S
INDIVIDUALIZED EDUCATION PROGRAM (Cont'd.)**

Subcommittee on Special Education

The number of Subcommittees on Special Education will be determined by the CSE and the CSE will be responsible for the oversight and monitoring of the activities of each subcommittee to assure compliance with the requirements of applicable state and federal laws and regulations.

Each Subcommittee may perform the functions for which the CSE is responsible, except:

- a) When a student is considered for initial placement in a special class; or
- b) When a student is considered for initial placement in a special class outside of the student's school of attendance; or
- c) When a student is considered for placements in a school primarily serving students with disabilities or a school outside the District.

Subcommittees shall report annually to the CSE regarding the status of each student with a disability within its jurisdiction. Upon receipt of a written request from the parent or person in parental relation to a student, the Subcommittee shall refer to the CSE any matter in which the parent disagrees with the Subcommittee's recommendation concerning a modification or change in the identification, evaluation, educational placement or provision of a free appropriate education to the student.

Education Law Sections 4402 and 4410

8 NYCRR Sections 200.2(d)(1), 200.4(c), 200.4(d), 200.5 and 200.16(e)

NOTE: Refer also to Policies #7631 -- Appointment and Training of Committee on Special Education (CSE)/Subcommittee on Special Education Members
#7632 -- Appointment and Training of Committee on Preschool Special Education (CPSE) Members

Adoption Date 11/24/2014

SUBJECT: PRESCHOOL SPECIAL EDUCATION PROGRAM

The Board recognizes the need for educational programs for three (3) and four (4) year old children with disabilities and directs that administrative practices and procedures be developed to:

- a) Ensure the timely evaluation and placement of each preschool child with a disability residing in the District so the child has the opportunity to participate in preschool programs.
- b) Establish a Committee on Preschool Special Education (CPSE) which shall be comprised in accordance with applicable federal and state law and regulation.
- c) Ensure that parents have received and understand the request for consent for evaluation and re-evaluation of a preschool aged child.

Evaluations for Preschool Children with Disabilities

The District is required to collect entry assessment data in the three (3) outcome areas on all preschool children who receive an initial evaluation. As currently required by Commissioner's Regulation Section 200.5, a parent must be fully informed about the proposed initial evaluation and must provide consent for an initial evaluation. This would include a description of the proposed evaluation.

The CPSE will receive entry-level assessment results in the three (3) outcome areas from approved preschool evaluators conducting initial evaluations on all preschool children suspected of having disabilities. The CPSE will then meet to determine the child's eligibility for preschool education programs and/or services and complete the Child Outcomes Summary Form to determine the child's entry level of functioning in the three (3) outcome areas for all preschool children evaluated and found to be eligible. The form is kept in the student's record until the exit assessment information is due as a way to summarize complex assessment information in a format so that the data can be aggregated and reported to the State Education Department (SED).

Individuals with Disabilities Act (IDEA), 20 USC Section 1400 et seq.
Education Law Section 4410
8 NYCRR Sections 200.2(b)(2), 200.2(b)(5) and 200.5

NOTE: Refer also to Policy #7632 -- Appointment and Training of Committee on Preschool Special Education (CPSE) Members

Adoption Date 10/6/2014

POLICY

Students 7615
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Adopted 11.24.2014

SUBJECT: LEAST RESTRICTIVE ENVIRONMENT

Least restrictive environment means that placement of students with disabilities in special classes, separate schools or other removal from the regular educational environment occurs only when the nature or severity of the disability is such that even with use of supplementary aids and services, education in regular classes cannot be satisfactorily achieved. The placement of an individual student with a disability in the least restrictive environment shall:

- a) Provide the special education and related services, as well as supplementary aids and services, needed by the student. The term "related services" does not include a medical device that is surgically implanted, the optimization of the device's functioning (e.g., mapping), maintenance of, or the replacement of such device;
- b) Provide for education of the student to the maximum extent appropriate to the needs of the student with other students who do not have disabilities; and
- c) Be as close as possible to the student's home.

The District has an obligation, pursuant to law and regulation, to educate students with disabilities in the least restrictive environment. The School District shall ensure that:

- a) Placement is based on the student's individualized education program and determined at least annually;
- b) Placement is as close as possible to the student's home, and unless the student's individualized education program requires some other arrangement, the student shall be educated in the school he/she would have attended if not disabled;
- c) In selecting the least restrictive environment, consideration will be given to any potential harmful effect on the student or on the quality of services that he/she needs; and
- d) A student with a disability will not be removed from education in age-appropriate regular classrooms solely because of needed modifications in the general education curriculum.

The District shall ensure that a continuum of alternative placements, in accordance with law and/or regulation, will be available to meet the needs of students with disabilities. To enable students with disabilities to be educated with nondisabled students to the maximum extent appropriate, specially designed instruction and supplementary services may be provided in the regular class, including, as appropriate, related services, consultant teacher services, paraprofessional support, resource room services, integrated co-teaching, and special class programs within the general education classroom.

Individuals with Disabilities Education Act (IDEA) 20 USC Section 1400 et seq.
34 CFR Part 300

Education Law Sections 4401-4410-a

8 NYCRR Sections 100.5, 100.9, 200.1(cc), 200.1(qq), 200.2(b), 200.4 and 200.6

Adoption Date 11/24/2014

POLICY

Students 7616
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Adopted 12.15.2014

**SUBJECT: PREREFERRAL INTERVENTION STRATEGIES IN GENERAL EDUCATION
(PRIOR TO A REFERRAL FOR SPECIAL EDUCATION)**

The School District shall establish a plan for implementing schoolwide approaches and prereferral interventions in order to remediate a student's performance *prior to referral* for special education. This plan may include a Response to Intervention (RtI) process.

The provision of programs and/or services for students starts with consideration/implementation of instruction in the general education curriculum, with appropriate supports and/or modifications as may be necessary. In implementing prereferral intervention strategies, the District may utilize resources/strategies already in place for qualified students including, but not limited to, services available through Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973, and Educationally Related Support Services and Academic Intervention Services as defined in Education Law and/or Commissioner's Regulations. All of these programs may be considered as possible components of Prereferral/Intervention Instructional Support Plans. The District will ensure that there is a system in place, with appropriate personnel, for developing, implementing and evaluating prereferral intervention strategies.

The District will provide general education support services, instructional modifications, alternative instructional approaches, or alternative program options to address a student's performance prior to a referral to a Committee on Special Education (CSE). Formal Instructional Support Teams (IST) will be formed in accordance with law and/or regulations as may be applicable as well as District guidelines. The IST will include representatives from general and special education as well as other disciplines and include individuals with classroom experience. Parents/persons in parental relation to students will be involved in developing prereferral strategies to address the educational needs of their child. Additionally, the District will seek collaboration between outside agencies and the school prior to a referral of the student to the CSE in order to address necessary student support services.

Administration shall ensure that appropriate opportunities exist for collaboration between general educators and special educators, and that consultation and support are available to teachers and other school personnel to assist parents/persons in parental relation to students and teachers in exploring alternative approaches for meeting the individual needs of any student prior to formal referral for special education.

The determination of prevention and prereferral intervention strategies/services shall consider the student's strengths, environment, social history, language and cultural diversity in addition to the teacher's concerns. The building administrator will further ensure that all staff are familiar with intervention procedures and procedures for operating an IST.

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**SUBJECT: PREREFERRAL INTERVENTION STRATEGIES IN GENERAL EDUCATION
(PRIOR TO A REFERRAL FOR SPECIAL EDUCATION) (Cont'd.)**

Prereferral/Intervention Instructional Support Plans shall be proactive in their strategies to meet the broad range of student needs and to improve student performance. Prereferral/Intervention strategies and/or Instructional Support Plans are to be reviewed and evaluated to determine their effectiveness, and modified as may be appropriate. Appropriate documentation of the prevention and/or intervention strategies implemented shall be maintained.

However, should a referral be made to the CSE during the course of implementing prereferral/intervention instructional support services, the CSE is obligated in accordance with law to continue its duties and functions, and must meet mandatory timelines in evaluating the student for special education services and implementation of an individualized education program, if applicable.

Educational Related Support Services

Educational related support services (ERSS) means curriculum and instructional modification services; direct student support team services; assessment and non-career counseling services; special instruction to eligible students with disabilities as defined in Education Law Section 4401, which does not generate excess cost aid including related services but excluding transportation and transition services; and to eligible, qualified students pursuant to Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973. These services are provided to eligible students, individually or in groups, and may include those related consultation services provided to their families and related school personnel in order to enhance the academic achievement and attendance of such students. Educational related support services shall also mean speech and language improvement services as defined in Commissioner's Regulations.

ERSS may be utilized as a component of any Prereferral/Intervention Instructional Support Plan.

Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973

For students who are qualified for services pursuant to Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act, but are not classified as students with disabilities as defined in Education Law Section 4401, Section 504 Accommodation Plans may address instructional support services that can be utilized as components of any prereferral/intervention strategies as deemed necessary and/or appropriate.

Academic Intervention Services

Academic intervention services means additional instruction which supplements the instruction provided in the general education curriculum and assists students in meeting the State learning standards as defined in Commissioner's Regulations and/or student support services which may include guidance, counseling, attendance, and study skills which are needed to support improved academic performance.

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Adopted 12.15.2014

**SUBJECT: PREREFERRAL INTERVENTION STRATEGIES IN GENERAL EDUCATION
(PRIOR TO A REFERRAL FOR SPECIAL EDUCATION) (Cont'd.)**

However, such services shall not include services provided to students with limited English proficiency pursuant to Commissioner's Regulations or special education services and programs as defined in Education Law Section 4401. Academic intervention services are intended to assist students who are at risk of not achieving the State learning standards in English language arts, mathematics, social studies and/or science, or who are at risk of not gaining the knowledge and skills needed to meet or exceed designated performance levels on State assessments.

The District has developed a description of the academic intervention services offered to grades K through 12 students in need of such services. The District will review and revise this description every two (2) years based on student performance results.

Parental notification of students who have been determined to need academic intervention services will be provided as per Commissioner's Regulations.

In implementing prevention and/or prereferral intervention support strategies in order to remediate a student's performance prior to referral for special education, the utilization of academic intervention services, as enumerated in Commissioner's Regulations, may be included as a component of any such Prereferral/Intervention Instructional Support Plan.

Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973, 29 USC Section 794 et seq.

Education Law Sections 3602(32), 4401 and 4401-a

8 NYCRR Sections 100.1(g), 100.1(p), 100.1(r), 100.1(s), 100.1(t), 100.2(v), 100.2(dd)(4), 100.2(ee), 200.2(b)(7), 200.4(a)(2), 200.4(a)(9); 200.4(c) and Part 154

NOTE: Refer also to Policy #7212 -- Response to Intervention (RtI) Process

Adoption Date: 12/15/2014

SUBJECT: DECLASSIFICATION OF STUDENTS WITH DISABILITIES

The School District shall establish and implement a plan for the appropriate declassification of students with disabilities which must include:

- a) The regular consideration for declassifying students when appropriate;
- b) A reevaluation of the student prior to declassification; and
- c) The provision of educational and support services to the student upon declassification.

Eligibility Determinations

The School District must evaluate a student with a disability prior to determining that a student is no longer a student with a disability as defined in accordance with Commissioner's Regulations, and the District shall provide a copy of the evaluation report and the documentation of eligibility to the student's parent at no cost to the parent. The results of any reevaluations must be addressed by the Committee on Special Education (CSE) in a meeting to review and, as appropriate, revise the student's individualized education program (IEP).

Prior to the reevaluation, the School District shall obtain informed written parental consent unless otherwise authorized pursuant to law and/or regulation. Parental consent need not be obtained if the District can demonstrate that it has taken reasonable measures to obtain that consent, and the student's parents fail to respond. The District must have a record of its attempts to obtain parental consent. Should the student's parents refuse consent for the reevaluation, the District may continue to pursue the reevaluation by using mediation and/or due process procedures.

The District shall take whatever action is necessary to ensure that the parent understands the proceedings at the meeting of the CSE, including arranging for an interpreter for parents with deafness or whose native language is other than English.

Graduation/Aging Out

The District is not required to conduct a reevaluation of a student before the termination of a student's eligibility due to graduation with a local high school or Regents diploma or exceeding the age eligibility for a free appropriate public education. However, the District must provide the student with a summary (Student Exit Summary see website: <http://www.p12.nysed.gov/specialed/idea/studentexit.htm>) of the student's academic achievement and functional performance, including recommendations on how to assist the student in meeting his/her post-secondary goals. In addition, parents must receive prior written notice indicating that the student is not

SUBJECT: DECLASSIFICATION OF STUDENTS WITH DISABILITIES (Cont'd.)

eligible to receive a free appropriate public education after graduation with the receipt of the local high school or Regents diploma.

In accordance with Commissioner's Regulations, before a student's graduation from high school with a Skills and Achievement (SA) Commencement Credential or Career Development and Occupational Studies Commencement Credential (CDOS), parents must receive prior written notice indicating that the student continues to be eligible for a free appropriate public education until the end of the school year in which the student turns twenty-one (21) or until receipt of a regular high school diploma. However, New York State Law does not grant a child who has reached the age of majority all rights previously granted to parents under IDEA.

Recommendation for Declassification

If the student has been receiving special education services, but it is determined by CSE that the student no longer needs special education services and can be placed in a regular educational program on a full-time basis, the recommendation shall:

- a) Identify the declassification support services, if any, to be provided to the student; and/or the student's teachers; and
- b) Indicate the projected date of initiation of such services, the frequency of provision of such services, and the duration of these services, provided that such services shall not continue for more than one (1) year after the student enters the full-time regular education program.

Declassification Support Services

Declassification support services means those services provided to the student or the student's teacher(s) to aid in the student's transition from special education to full-time regular education. These services are provided by persons certified or licensed in the appropriate area of service pursuant to Commissioner's Regulations Part 80. Such services include:

- a) For the student: psychological services, social work services, speech and language improvement services, non-career counseling, and other appropriate support services; and
- b) For the student's teacher(s): the assistance of supplementary school personnel and consultations with appropriate personnel.

When appropriate, the District shall provide declassification support services to students who have moved from special education to a full-time regular educational program in accordance with the recommendation of the CSE.

POLICY

Students 7617
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Adopted 12.15.2014

SUBJECT: DECLASSIFICATION OF STUDENTS WITH DISABILITIES (Cont'd.)

Procedural Safeguards Notice

The District shall use the procedural safeguards notice prescribed by the Commissioner of Education. The District will further ensure that the procedural safeguards notice is provided in the native language of the parent or other mode of communication used by the parent, unless it is clearly not feasible to do so. If the native language or other mode of communication of the parent is not a written language, the District shall take steps to ensure that the notice is translated orally or by other means to the parent in his/her native language or other mode of communication; that the parent understands the content of the notice; and that there is written evidence that all due process procedures, pursuant to law and/or regulation, have been met.

Individuals with Disabilities Education Improvement Act of 2004 [Public Law 108-446]

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

34 CFR Part 300

Education Law Sections 4401-4410-a

8 NYCRR Sections 100.2(u), 200.1(ooo), 200.2(b)(8), 200.4(b)(4), 200.4(b)(5), 200.4(c)(3), 200.4(c)(4), 200.4(d)(1) and 200.5(a)

NOTE: Refer also to Policy #7641 -- Transition Services

Adoption Date: 12/15/2014

POLICY

Students 7620
1 of 1

Adopted 12.15.2014

SUBJECT: STUDENTS WITH DISABILITIES PARTICIPATING IN SCHOOL DISTRICT PROGRAMS

All students with disabilities residing in the District, including those of preschool age, shall be provided with full access and opportunity to participate in School District programs, including nonacademic and extracurricular programs and activities, that are available to all other students enrolled in the public schools of the District. Nonacademic and extracurricular programs and activities may include counseling services, athletics, transportation, health services, recreational activities, special interest groups or clubs sponsored by the School District, referrals to agencies that provide assistance to individuals with disabilities and employment of students (both by the School District and assistance in making outside employment available).

Parents/guardians of students with disabilities, including those students placed in out-of-District programs, shall receive timely notice of such District programs and activities.

Community Resources

The School District may compile a list of community resources (appropriate and/or helpful services that may be available outside of the school setting) and provide this information to parents or persons in parental relation of a child with a disability. Such a list shall clearly state that these services are in addition to programs and services provided by the School District and will not be paid for by the School District. Any member of the School District's committees or subcommittees on special education, or the School District, who, acting reasonably and in good faith, provides this information shall not be liable for such action.

Education Law Sections 4402(1)(b)(3-a) and 4410 (5)(b)(IV)
8 NYCRR Sections 200.2(b)(1) and 200.2(b)(2)

Adoption Date: 12/15/2014

SUBJECT: SECTION 504 OF THE REHABILITATION ACT OF 1973

The Board of Education affirms its compliance with those sections of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973 dealing with program accessibility.

Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act prohibits discrimination against qualified individuals with disabilities in federally assisted programs or activities solely on the basis of disability. The District shall make its program and facilities accessible to all its students with disabilities.

The District shall also identify, evaluate and extend to every qualified student with a disability under Section 504 a free, appropriate public education, including modifications, accommodations, specialized instruction or related aids and services, as deemed necessary to meet their educational needs as adequately as the needs of non-disabled students are met.

The District official responsible for coordination of activities relating to compliance with Section 504 is the Superintendent of Schools. This official shall provide information, including complaint procedures, to any person who feels his/her rights under Section 504 have been violated by the District or its officials.

Prohibition Against Disability-Based Discrimination in Accelerated Programs

The practice of denying, on the basis of disability, a qualified student with a disability the opportunity to participate in an accelerated program violates both Section 504 and Title II. A school district may not impose or apply eligibility criteria that screens out or tends to screen out a student with a disability from fully and equally enjoying any service, program, or activity, unless such criteria can be shown to be necessary.

It is also unlawful to deny a student with a disability admission to an accelerated class or program solely because of his/her need for special education or related aids or services (i.e., related services, supplementary aids and services, program modification and supports for school personnel) or because the student has an Individualized Education Program (IEP) or a plan under Section 504.

Schools may employ appropriate eligibility requirements or criteria in determining whether to admit students, including students with disabilities, into accelerated classes or programs. Additionally, nothing in Section 504 or Title II requires schools to admit into accelerated classes or programs students with disabilities who would not otherwise be qualified for these classes or programs.

Americans With Disabilities Act, 42 USC Section 12101 et seq.

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

Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973, 29 USC Section 794 et seq.

28 CFR Part 35

34 CFR Parts 104 and 300

NOTE: Refer also to Policy #6121 -- Non-Discrimination and Anti-Harassment in the School District

Adoption Date: 12/15/2014

**SUBJECT: APPOINTMENT AND TRAINING OF COMMITTEE ON SPECIAL
EDUCATION (CSE)/SUBCOMMITTEE ON SPECIAL EDUCATION MEMBERS**

Committee on Special Education (CSE) Membership

The Board of Education shall appoint a Committee on Special Education (CSE) whose membership shall include, but not be limited to, the following members:

- a) The parent(s) or persons in parental relation of the student. To ensure that one or both parents are present at each CSE meeting, the District and the parent(s) may agree to use alternative means of participation such as videoconferences or conference phone calls;
- b) Not less than one (1) regular education teacher of such student (if the student is, or may be, participating in the regular education environment);
- c) Not less than one (1) special education teacher of the student, or, where appropriate, not less than one (1) special education provider (i.e., related service provider) of such student;
- d) A representative of the School District who is qualified to provide or administer or supervise special education and who is knowledgeable about the general education curriculum and about the availability of resources of the District. An individual who meets these qualifications may be the same individual appointed as the special education teacher or provider in c) above or the school psychologist in i) below. The representative of the District will serve as the chairperson of the Committee;
- e) An individual who can interpret the instructional implications of evaluation results, who may be a CSE member selected from the regular education teacher, the special education teacher or provider, the school psychologist, or the School District representative described above, or a person having knowledge or special expertise regarding the student as determined by the District;
- f) A member as described in letters b) through e) of this subheading is not required to attend the CSE meeting, in whole or in part, if the parent/person in parental relation to the student with a disability and the School District agree, in writing not less than five (5) calendar days prior to the meeting date, that the attendance of the member is not necessary because:
 1. The member's area of the curriculum or related services is not being modified or discussed in the meeting; or
 2. The member's area of the curriculum or related services is being modified or discussed in the meeting but, not less than five (5) calendar days prior to the meeting, the excused

(Continued)

SUBJECT: APPOINTMENT AND TRAINING OF COMMITTEE ON SPECIAL EDUCATION (CSE)/SUBCOMMITTEE ON SPECIAL EDUCATION MEMBERS (Cont'd.)

member has submitted to the parents/persons in parental relation and the CSE written input into the development of the IEP, particularly with respect to their area of curriculum or related services; or

3. The committee member is unable to attend due to an emergency or unavoidable scheduling conflict and the District submits the written input listed in 2. above to the parents/persons in parental relation within a reasonable time prior to the meeting and prior to obtaining written consent to the excusal by the parents/persons in parental relation;
- g) At the discretion of the parent or the District, other individuals who have knowledge or special expertise regarding the student, including related services personnel as appropriate. The determination of knowledge or special expertise shall be made by the party (parents or School District) who invited the individual to be a member of the committee;
- h) The student with a disability, as appropriate. The District must invite the student with a disability to attend the student's CSE meeting if a purpose of the meeting will be the consideration of the postsecondary goals for the student and the transition services needed to assist the student in reaching those goals. If the student does not attend the CSE meeting, the District must take other steps to ensure that the student's preference and interests are considered. To the extent appropriate, with the consent of the parent or a student eighteen (18) years or older, the District must also invite a representative of any participating agency that is likely to be responsible for providing or paying for transition services;
- i) A school psychologist;
- j) A school physician, if requested in writing at least seventy-two (72) hours prior to the meeting by the parents of the student or the School District; and
- k) An additional parent, residing in the District or a neighboring school district who is a parent of a student with a disability, of a student who has been declassified and is no longer eligible for an individualized education program (IEP), or a parent of a disabled student who has graduated. This parent member may serve for a period of five (5) years beyond the student's declassification or graduation provided such parent shall not be employed by or under contract with the School District. Such parent shall not be a required member unless the parents or other person in parental relation to the student, the student, or a member of the CSE request in writing at least seventy-two (72) hours prior to such meeting, that the additional parent

(Continued)

SUBJECT: APPOINTMENT AND TRAINING OF COMMITTEE ON SPECIAL EDUCATION (CSE)/SUBCOMMITTEE ON SPECIAL EDUCATION MEMBERS (Cont'd.)

member participate in the meeting. The parents or persons in parental relation of the student in question shall receive proper written notice of their right to have an additional parent attend any meeting of the committee regarding the student, along with a prepared statement from NYSED explaining the role of having the additional parent attend the meeting.

Subcommittee on Special Education Membership

The Board of Education shall appoint, as necessary, a Subcommittee on Special Education whose membership shall include, but not be limited to, the following members:

- a) The parent(s) of the student;
- b) Not less than one (1) regular education teacher of such student (if the student is, or may be, participating in the regular education environment);
- c) Not less than one (1) special education teacher, of the student, or where appropriate, not less than one (1) special education provider (i.e., related service provider) of such student;
- d) A representative of the School District who is qualified to provide or administer or supervise special education and who is knowledgeable about the general education curriculum and about the availability of resources of the District. This individual may also fulfill the requirements of c) or e) of this section. The representative of the District will serve as the chairperson of the Subcommittee;
- e) A school psychologist, whenever a new psychological evaluation is reviewed or a change to a program option with a more intensive staff/student ratio, as set forth in Section 200.6(f)(4) of the Regulations of the Commissioner, is considered;
- f) A member as described in letters b) through e) of this subheading is not required to attend the subcommittee meeting, in whole or in part, if the parent/person in parental relation to the student with a disability and the School District agree, in writing not less than five (5) calendar days prior to the meeting date, that the attendance of the member is not necessary because:
 1. The member's area of the curriculum or related services is not being modified or discussed in the meeting; or

(Continued)

SUBJECT: APPOINTMENT AND TRAINING OF COMMITTEE ON SPECIAL EDUCATION (CSE)/SUBCOMMITTEE ON SPECIAL EDUCATION MEMBERS (Cont'd.)

2. The member's area of the curriculum or related services is being modified or discussed in the meeting but, not less than five (5) calendar days prior to the meeting, the excused member has submitted to the parents/persons in parental relation and the CSE written input into the development of the IEP, particularly with respect to their area of curriculum or related services; or
 3. The committee member is unable to attend due to an emergency or unavoidable scheduling conflict and the District submits the written input listed in 2. above to the parents/persons in parental relation within a reasonable time prior to the meeting and prior to obtaining written consent to the excusal by the parents/persons in parental relation;
- g) At the discretion of the parent or the Committee, other individuals who have knowledge or special expertise regarding the student, including related services personnel as appropriate. The determination of knowledge or special expertise shall be made by the party (parents or School District) who invited the individual to be a member of the subcommittee;
 - h) An individual who can interpret the instructional implications of evaluation results, who may be a member described in letters "b" through "g" of this subheading; and
 - i) Whenever appropriate, the student with a disability.

Training

The training of qualified personnel is essential to the effective implementation of the Regulations of the Commissioner of Education regarding the education of all students with disabilities.

The Director of Special Education shall be responsible to the Superintendent for establishing administrative practices and procedures for training all District personnel responsible for carrying out the provisions of Part 200 of the Commissioner's Regulations as well as members of the Committee on Special Education.

Alternative Means of Meeting

When conducting a meeting of the Committee on Special Education (CSE), the parent and the representative of the District appointed to the CSE may agree to use alternative means of meeting participation, such as videoconferences and conference calls.

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POLICY

Students 7631
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Adopted 11.10.2014

**SUBJECT: APPOINTMENT AND TRAINING OF COMMITTEE ON SPECIAL
EDUCATION (CSE)/SUBCOMMITTEE ON SPECIAL EDUCATION MEMBERS
(Cont'd.)**

Individuals with Disabilities Education Act (IDEA) 20 USC Section 1400 et seq.
34 CFR Part 300 and Section 300.321
Education Law Section 4402
8 NYCRR Sections 200.2(b)(3), 200.3, and 200.4(d)(4)(i)(d)

NOTE: Refer also to Policies #7613 -- The Role of the Board in Implementing a Student's
Individualized Education Program
#7632 -- Appointment and Training of Committee on Preschool
Special Education Members

Adoption Date 11/10/2014

SUBJECT: APPOINTMENT AND TRAINING OF COMMITTEE ON PRESCHOOL SPECIAL EDUCATION (CPSE) MEMBERS

Committee on Preschool Special Education (CPSE) Membership

The Board of Education shall appoint a Committee on Preschool Special Education (CPSE) whose membership shall include, but not be limited to, the following members:

- a) The parent(s) of the preschool child. To ensure that one or both parents are present at each CPSE meeting, the District and the parent(s) may agree to use alternative means of participation such as video conferences or conference phone calls;
- b) Not less than one (1) regular education teacher of such child (if the child is, or may be, participating in the regular education environment);
- c) Not less than one (1) special education teacher of the child or, where appropriate, not less than one (1) special education provider (i.e., related service provider) of such child;
- d) A representative of the School District who is qualified to provide, or supervise the provision of, special education and who is knowledgeable about the general education curriculum and about the availability of preschool special education programs and services and other resources of the District and the municipality (who shall serve as Chairperson of the CPSE);
- e) An individual who can interpret the instructional implications of evaluation results, who may be a member of the team selected from the regular education teacher, the special education teacher or provider, the school psychologist, the School District representative described above, or a person having knowledge or special expertise regarding the student as determined by the District;
- f) At the discretion of the parent or the District, other individuals who have knowledge or special expertise regarding the child, including related services personnel as appropriate. The determination of knowledge or special expertise shall be made by the party (parents or School District) who invited the individual to be a member of the committee;
- g) An additional parent of a child with a disability who resides in the School District or a neighboring school district, and whose child is enrolled in a preschool or elementary level education program provided that such parent shall not be employed by or under contract with the School District; and provided further that such parent shall not be a required member unless the parents of the child or a member of the CPSE request, in writing at least seventy-two (72) hours prior to such meeting, that the additional parent member participate in the

(Continued)

POLICY

Students 7632
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Adopted 11.10.2014

SUBJECT: APPOINTMENT AND TRAINING OF COMMITTEE ON PRESCHOOL SPECIAL EDUCATION (CPSE) MEMBERS (Cont'd.)

meeting. The parents or other person in parental relation shall receive proper written notice of their right to have an additional parent attend any meeting of the committee regarding the student along with a statement, prepared by NYSED, explaining the role of having the additional parent attend the meeting;

- h) For a child's smooth transition from early intervention programs and services (Infant and Toddler Programs), at the request of the parent/person in parental relation, the appropriate professional designated by the agency that has been charged with the responsibility for the preschool child; and
- i) A representative from the municipality of the preschool child's residence. Attendance of the appointee of the municipality is not required for a quorum.

However, except for the parents/persons in parental relation and the appointee from the municipality (a) and i) above) a member of the CPSE is not required to attend a meeting of the team in whole or in part if the parent/person in parental relation and the District agree in writing that the attendance is not necessary because the member's area of the curriculum or related services is not being modified or discussed at that meeting.

Additionally, a member as described in letters b) through h) of this subheading may be excused from attending the CPSE meeting, in whole or in part, if the parent/person in parental relation to the student with a disability and the School District agree, in writing to the excusal not less than five (5) calendar days prior to the meeting date, that the attendance of the member is not necessary because:

- a) The member's area of the curriculum or related services is being modified or discussed in the meeting but, not less than five (5) calendar days prior to the meeting, the excused member has submitted to the parents/persons in parental relation and the CSE written input into the development of the IEP, particularly with respect to their area of curriculum or related services; or
- b) The committee member is unable to attend due to an emergency or unavoidable scheduling conflict and the District submits the written input listed in a) above to the parents/persons in parental relation within a reasonable time prior to the meeting and prior to obtaining written consent to the excusal by the parents/persons in parental relation.

(Continued)

POLICY

Students 7632
3 of 3

Adopted 11.10.2014

**SUBJECT: APPOINTMENT AND TRAINING OF COMMITTEE ON PRESCHOOL
SPECIAL EDUCATION (CPSE) MEMBERS (Cont'd.)**

Training

The training of qualified personnel is essential to the effective implementation of the Regulations of the Commissioner of Education regarding the education of all students with disabilities.

The Director of Special Education shall be responsible to the Superintendent for establishing administrative practices and procedures for training all District personnel responsible for carrying out the provisions of Part 200 of the Commissioner's Regulations as well as members of the Committee on Preschool Special Education.

When conducting a meeting of the Committee on Preschool Special Education (CPSE), the parent and the representative of the District appointed to the CPSE may agree to use alternative means of meeting participation, such as videoconferences and conference calls.

Individuals with Disabilities Education Act (IDEA) 20 USC Section 1400 et seq.
34 CFR Part 300
Education Law Section 4410
8 NYCRR Sections 200.2(b)(3) and 200.3

NOTE: Refer also to Policies #7613 -- The Role of the Board in Implementing a Student's Individualized Education Program
#7614 -- Preschool Special Education Program
#7631 -- Committee on Special Education/Subcommittee on Special Education Members

Adoption Date 11/10/2014

**SUBJECT: STUDENT INDIVIDUALIZED EDUCATION PROGRAM (IEP):
DEVELOPMENT AND PROVISION**

Development of Individualized Education Program

The Board of Education directs that the Committee on Special Education (CSE) or Committee on Preschool Special Education (CPSE) shall have prepared a written statement (program) for each child with a disability.

Such an Individualized Education Program (IEP) will be developed by the CSE or CPSE upon referral, and reviewed or revised, whichever is appropriate, for every child with a disability at least annually or in the event that the program no longer appears to be appropriate to meet the student's needs and ability level.

The District shall ensure that each student with a disability has an IEP in effect at the beginning of each school year.

Functional Behavioral Assessments/Behavioral Intervention Plans

A functional behavioral assessment (FBA) is an integral part of the evaluation and reevaluation of a student with a disability which should be used throughout the process of developing, reviewing and revising a student's IEP when the student's behavior impedes learning of the child or others. The FBA is the process of determining why a student engages in challenging behavior and how the student's behavior relates to the environment. An FBA for a student with a disability is an evaluation requiring parental consent, pursuant to Commissioner's Regulation 200.5(b).

The FBA provides a baseline of the student's problem behaviors with regard to frequency, duration, intensity and/or latency across activities, settings, people and times of the day and includes:

- a) The identification of the problem behavior,
- b) The definition of the behavior in concrete terms,
- c) The identification of the contextual factors that contribute to the behavior (including cognitive and affective factors), and
- d) The formulation of a hypothesis regarding the general conditions under which a behavior usually occurs and probable consequences that serve to maintain it.

The FBA must, as appropriate, be based on multiple sources of data such as structured interviews, behavior ratings scales, standardized assessments and checklists. It must include, but is not limited to:

(Continued)

**SUBJECT: STUDENT INDIVIDUALIZED EDUCATION PROGRAM (IEP):
DEVELOPMENT AND PROVISION (Cont'd.)**

- a) Information obtained from direct observation of the student;
- b) Information from the student, the student's teacher(s) and/or related service providers; and
- c) A review of available data and information from the student's record and other sources including any relevant information provided by the student's parent.

The FBA cannot be based solely on the student's history of presenting problem behavior.

The CSE/CPSE will ensure that functional behavioral assessments, when appropriate, are conducted and reviewed to:

- a) Identify supplementary aids and services, modifications and/or related services appropriate to address the identified behaviors to promote the student's involvement and progress in the general curriculum;
- b) Determine a student's eligibility for special education services;
- c) Develop the IEP which includes behavioral goals and objectives and positive behavioral supports and strategies.

In the case of a student whose behavior impedes his/her learning or that of others, the CSE/CPSE shall consider strategies, including positive behavioral interventions and supports and other strategies to address that behavior. The need for a behavioral intervention plan (BIP) shall be documented on the IEP and such plan shall be reviewed at least annually by the CSE/CPSE. In addition, regular progress monitoring of the frequency, duration and intensity of the behavioral interventions shall be conducted at scheduled intervals, documented and reported to the parents and CSE/CPSE.

A behavioral intervention plan may not include the use of aversive interventions or time out rooms except in accordance with specific Board policy regulating these techniques.

Individual Evaluations

Parental consent must be provided for an initial evaluation. If such consent is not received within thirty (30) calendar days of receipt of the referral, the CSE/CPSE Chairperson will document all attempts made to obtain the consent and, if appropriate, advise the Board of its right to utilize the due process procedures to conduct an evaluation without parental consent.

POLICY

Students 7640
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Adopted 12.15.2014

**SUBJECT: STUDENT INDIVIDUALIZED EDUCATION PROGRAM (IEP):
DEVELOPMENT AND PROVISION (Cont'd.)**

Unless a referral is withdrawn, an individual evaluation at no cost to the parent will be completed by the CSE/CPSE within sixty (60) calendar days after written parental consent has been obtained or a parental refusal to consent is overridden, unless:

- a) An extension is mutually agreed to by the parent and the CSE/CPSE for the following situations:
 - 1. Transfer students: A student enrolls in the District after sixty (60) days and prior to a determination by the student's previous school district as to whether the student has a disability, but only if the new school district is making sufficient progress to ensure a prompt completion of the evaluation and the parent and the new district agree in writing to a specific timeframe for completion; or
 - 2. Students suspected of having learning disabilities; or
- b) The parent or student repeatedly fails or refuses to produce the student for evaluation.

No student shall be required 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 an evaluation.

The individual evaluation will include a variety of assessment tools and strategies, including information provided by the parent. The purpose of the evaluation is to gather relevant functional, developmental and academic information that may assist in determining whether the student is a student with a disability and the content of the student's IEP. This shall include information relating to enabling the student to participate and progress in the general education curriculum (or for a preschool child, to participate in appropriate activities).

As part of any evaluation, a group that includes the CSE/CPSE and other qualified professionals, as appropriate, shall review existing evaluation data on the student including evaluations and information provided by the parents of the student, current classroom-based assessments, local or state assessments, classroom-based observations, and observations by teachers and related services providers. In addition, the group will consider information about the student's physical condition, social or cultural background, and adaptive behavior.

On the basis of that review, and input from the student's parents, the group shall identify what additional data, if any, are needed to determine:

- a) Whether the student has or continues to have a disability;

(Continued)

**SUBJECT: STUDENT INDIVIDUALIZED EDUCATION PROGRAM (IEP):
DEVELOPMENT AND PROVISION (Cont'd.)**

- b) The present levels of academic achievement and related developmental needs of the student, including:
 - 1. Academic achievement, functional performance, and learning characteristics;
 - 2. Social development;
 - 3. Physical development; and
 - 4. Management needs.
- c) In the case of a reevaluation of a student, whether the student continues to need special education; and
- d) Whether any additions or modifications to the special education services are needed to enable the student to meet the measurable annual goals set out in the IEP of the student and to participate, as appropriate, in the general education curriculum.

If additional data are not needed, the District must notify the parents of that determination and the reasons for it and of the right of the parents to request an assessment to determine whether, for purposes of services provided in accordance with law and Commissioner's Regulations, the student continues to be a student with a disability and to determine the student's educational needs. The District is not required to conduct the assessment unless requested to do so by the student's parents.

The determination that a student has a learning disability will be made in accordance with the procedures outlined in Section 200.4(j) of Commissioner's Regulations.

Individual Re-evaluations

A CSE/CPSE shall arrange for an appropriate re-evaluation of each student with a disability:

- a) If the District determines that the educational or related services needs, including improved academic achievement and functional performance of the student warrant re-evaluation;
- b) If the student's parent or teacher request a re-evaluation;
- c) At least once every three (3) years, unless the District and the parent/person in parental relation agree in writing that such re-evaluation is unnecessary.

(Continued)

**SUBJECT: STUDENT INDIVIDUALIZED EDUCATION PROGRAM (IEP):
DEVELOPMENT AND PROVISION (Cont'd.)**

A re-evaluation shall not be conducted more frequently than once a year unless the parent and the District representative appointed to the CSE/CPSE agree otherwise.

The re-evaluation will be conducted by a multi-disciplinary team or group of persons, including at least one teacher or other specialist with knowledge in the area of the student's disability. The re-evaluation shall be sufficient to determine the student's individual needs, educational progress and achievement, the student's ability to participate in instructional programs in regular education and the student's continuing eligibility for special education. The results of any re-evaluations must be addressed by the CSE/CPSE in reviewing, and as appropriate, revising the student's IEP.

To the extent possible, the District shall encourage the consolidation of re-evaluation meetings for the student and other CSE/CPSE meetings for the student.

Amendments to the IEP

Amendments to the IEP made after the annual review by the CSE/CPSE may be made by reconvening the CSE/CPSE and rewriting the IEP or by developing a written document to amend or modify the student's current IEP, provided that:

- a) The parents/persons in parental relation request an amendment to the IEP and the District and parents/persons in parental relation agree to the amendment in writing; or
- b) The District provides the parents/persons in parental relation a written proposal to amend a provision or provisions of the IEP conveyed in language understandable to the parents/persons in parental relation in their native language or other dominant mode of communication, informs and allows the parents/persons in parental relation the opportunity to consult with the appropriate personnel or related service providers concerning the proposed changes, and the parents/persons in parental relation agree in writing to the amendments.

If the parents/persons in parental relation agree to amend the IEP without a meeting, they shall be provided prior written notice (notice of recommendation) of the changes to the IEP and the Committee notified of the changes. If the changes are made by rewriting the entire IEP, the District shall provide the parents/persons in parental relation a copy of the rewritten IEP. If the amendment is made without rewriting the entire document, the District shall provide a copy of the document that amends the IEP or, upon request, a revised copy of the entire IEP with the amendments incorporated.

POLICY

Students 7640
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Adopted 12.15.2014

SUBJECT: STUDENT INDIVIDUALIZED EDUCATION PROGRAM (IEP): DEVELOPMENT AND PROVISION (Cont'd.)

Use of Recording Equipment at IEP Meetings

The Board of Education shall allow recording equipment to be used at meetings regarding individualized education programs for students with disabilities. However, the parent may forfeit the right to record future proceedings if there are circumstances that indicate this right is being abused.

Provision of Individualized Education Program

The Board of Education directs that the Superintendent/designee(s) establish administrative practices and procedures to ensure that each regular education teacher, special education teacher, related service provider and/or other service provider who is responsible for the implementation of a student's IEP is *provided with either a paper copy of the IEP or is able to access a student's IEP electronically (including amendments to the IEP) prior to the implementation of such program*. Such individuals responsible for the implementation of a student's IEP shall be notified and trained on how to access such IEP electronically. For purposes of this policy, "other service provider" means a representative of another public school district, charter school, Board of Cooperative Educational Services (BOCES) or school enumerated in Education Law Articles 81, 85 or 89 where the student receives or will receive IEP services. Further, the District will designate at least one school official who shall be responsible for maintaining a record of the personnel who have received IEP copies for each student.

Any copy of a student's IEP shall remain confidential in compliance with the Individuals with Disabilities Education Act, the Family Educational Rights and Privacy Act, and District policy regarding confidentiality of student records; and shall not be disclosed to any other person other than the parent of such student, except in accordance with federal and state laws and/or regulations. Appropriate training and information will be provided to designated school personnel, as applicable, to ensure the confidentiality of such information. Procedures will be established to ensure that copies of students' IEPs are stored in secure locations and retrieved or destroyed when such professionals are no longer responsible for implementing a student's IEP.

The Chairperson of the CSE, CSE subcommittee, or CPSE *shall designate* for each student one or, as appropriate, more than one professional employee of the School District with knowledge of the student's disability and education program *who will be responsible to, prior to the implementation of the IEP, inform* each regular education teacher, special education teacher, related service provider, other service provider, supplementary school personnel (i.e., a teaching assistant or a teacher aide as defined in Commissioner's Regulations), and other provider and support staff person of his/her responsibility to implement the recommendations on a student's IEP, including the responsibility to provide specific accommodations, program modifications, supports and/or services for the student in accordance with the IEP. In selecting the professional staff person(s), the Chairperson could select him/herself for this

(Continued)

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Adopted 12.15.2014

**SUBJECT: STUDENT INDIVIDUALIZED EDUCATION PROGRAM (IEP):
DEVELOPMENT AND PROVISION (Cont'd.)**

responsibility, another administrator, or a teacher, related service provider or other professional based on the particular circumstances of the student's disability and education program.

The School District shall also ensure that each teaching assistant, teacher aide and each other provider responsible for assisting in the implementation of a student's IEP has *the opportunity to review* a copy of the student's IEP (including amendments) prior to the implementation of such program. Further, each teaching assistant, teacher aide and such other provider responsible for assisting in the implementation of a student's IEP shall have *ongoing access* to a copy of the IEP, which may be the copy provided to the student's special education teacher or the teacher or related service provider under whose direction the supplementary school personnel or other provider works. However, the District may, at its discretion, provide a copy of the IEP to teaching assistants and/or teacher aides.

A copy of a student's IEP shall be provided to the student's parents at no cost to the student's parents.

Individuals with Disabilities Education Improvement Act of 2004, Public Law 108-446 Section 615(k)(l)
Individuals with Disabilities Education Act (IDEA), 20 USC Section 1400 et seq.
21 USC Section 812(c)
Education Law Articles 81, 85 and 89 and Sections 207, 3208 and 4402(7)
8 NYCRR Sections 200.1(hh), 200.2(b)(11), 200.4(b)(4), 200.4(d)(3)(i), 200.4(e)(3), 200.4(f), 200.4(j),
200.16(e)(6) and 200.22

NOTE: Refer also to Policy #7618 -- Use of Time Out Rooms

Adoption Date: 12/15/2014

SUBJECT: TRANSITION SERVICES

Beginning not later than the first IEP to be in effect when the student is age fifteen (15) (and at a younger age, if determined appropriate), and updated annually, the student's IEP must include:

- a) A statement of the student's needs taking into account the student's strengths, preferences and interests as they relate to transition from school to post-school activities;
- b) Appropriate measurable postsecondary goals based upon age appropriate transition assessments relating to training, education, employment and, where appropriate, independent living skills;
- c) A statement of transition service needs that focuses on the student's courses of study, such as participation in advanced-placement courses or a vocational educational program;
- d) Needed activities to facilitate the student's movement from school to post-school activities, including instruction, related services, community experiences, the development of employment and other post-school adult living objectives and, when appropriate, acquisition of daily living skills and functional vocational evaluation; and
- e) A statement of the responsibilities of the District and participating agencies, when applicable, for the provision of such services and activities, before the student leaves the school setting, that promote movement from school to post-school opportunities.

In accordance with the Code of Federal Regulations, the District must invite a student with a disability to attend the student's CSE meeting if a purpose of the meeting will be the consideration of the postsecondary goals for the student and the transition services needed to assist the student in reaching those goals. If the student does not attend the CSE meeting, the District must take other steps to ensure that the student's preference and interests are considered. To the extent appropriate, with the consent of the parent or a student who has reached the age of majority, the District must also invite a representative of any participating agency that is likely to be responsible for providing or paying for transition services.

As defined by the Commissioner's Regulations, transition services means a coordinated set of activities for a student with a disability, designed within a results-oriented process that is focused on improving the academic and functional achievement of the student with a disability to facilitate movement from school to post-school activities. Post-school activities include, but are not limited to, post-secondary education, vocational education, integrated employment (including supported employment), continuing and adult education, adult services, independent living, or community participation. The coordinated set of activities must be based on the student's strengths, preferences and interests and shall include needed activities in the following areas:

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Adopted 2.17.2015

SUBJECT: TRANSITION SERVICES (Cont'd.)

- a) Instruction;
- b) Related services (the term "related services" does not include a medical device that is surgically implanted, the optimization of the device's functioning (e.g., mapping), maintenance of, or the replacement of such device);
- c) Community experiences;
- d) The development of employment and other post-school adult living objectives; and
- e) When appropriate, acquisition of daily living skills and provision of a functional vocational evaluation.

Individuals with Disabilities Education Improvement Act of 2004, Public Law 108-446 Section 614(a)
Individuals with Disabilities Education Act (IDEA), 20 USC Sections 1400 et seq.
34 CFR Sections 300.321, 300.343, 300.347 and 300.348
Education Law Section 4401
8 NYCRR Sections 200.1(qq), 200.1(fff), 200.4(d)(2)(ix), and 200.5(c)(2)(vii)

NOTE: Refer also to Policy #7617 – Declassification of Students with Disabilities

SUBJECT: EXTENDED SCHOOL YEAR (JULY/AUGUST) SERVICES AND/OR PROGRAMS

The School District shall provide, directly or by contract, special services and/or programs during July and August (i.e., extended school year) to those students whose disabilities are severe enough to exhibit the need for a structured learning environment of twelve (12) months duration in order to prevent substantial regression as determined by the Committee on Special Education (CSE)/Committee on Preschool Special Education (CPSE). Written consent of the parent is required prior to initial provision of special education services in a twelve (12) month special service and/or program.

The CSE/CPSE must determine whether a student requires extended school year special education services and/or programs in order to prevent substantial regression. Substantial regression would be indicated by a student's inability to maintain developmental levels due to a loss of skill, set of skill competencies or knowledge during the months of July and August. In accordance with Commissioner's Regulations, students must be considered for twelve (12) month special services and/or programs to prevent substantial regression if they are:

- a) Students whose management needs are determined to be highly intensive and require a high degree of individualized attention and intervention and who are placed in special classes; or

Preschool students whose management needs are determined to be highly intensive and require a high degree of individualized attention and intervention;
- b) Students with severe multiple disabilities, whose programs consist primarily of habilitation and treatment and are placed in special classes; or

Preschool students with severe multiple disabilities, whose programs consist primarily of habilitation and treatment;
- c) Students who are recommended for home and/or hospital instruction whose special education needs are determined to be highly intensive and require a high degree of individualized attention and intervention or who have severe multiple disabilities and require primarily habilitation and treatment; or

Preschool students whose special education needs are determined to be highly intensive and require a high degree of individualized attention and intervention or who have severe multiple disabilities and require primarily habilitation and treatment in the home;
- d) Students, including preschool students, whose needs are so severe that they can be met only in a seven (7) day residential program; or

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Adopted 2.17.2015

SUBJECT: EXTENDED SCHOOL YEAR (JULY/AUGUST) SERVICES AND/OR PROGRAMS (Cont'd.)

- e) Students who are not in programs as described in subparagraphs (a) through (d) above during the period from September through June and who, because of their disabilities, exhibit the need for a twelve (12) month special service and/or program provided in a structured learning environment of up to twelve (12) months duration in order to prevent substantial regression as determined by the CSE; or

Preschool students who are not described in subparagraphs (a) through (d) above whose disabilities are severe enough to exhibit the need for a structured learning environment of twelve (12) months duration to prevent substantial regression as determined by the Preschool Committee on Special Education (CPSE).

For students eligible for twelve (12) month service and/or program, per Commissioner's Regulations Section 200.4(d)(2)(x), the student's Individualized Education Program (IEP) shall indicate the identity of the provider of services during the months of July and August, and, for preschool students determined by the CPSE to require a structured learning environment of twelve (12) months duration to prevent substantial regression, a statement of the reasons for such recommendation.

The IEP shall indicate the projected date of the review of the student's need for such services and shall indicate the recommended placement.

The State Education Department (SED) is authorized to approve programs and to establish State Aid reimbursement rates for all special services and programs provided during July and August, both public and private. Therefore, if the School District plans to operate a July/August program, the District must first apply to SED for approval in accordance with SED guidelines/procedures.

Individuals with Disabilities Education Improvement Act of 2004, Public Law 108-446 Section 614(a)
Individuals with Disabilities Education Act (IDEA), 20 USC Section 1400 et seq.
Education Law Section 4408
8 NYCRR Part 110 and Sections 200.1(qq), 200.4(d)(2)(x), 200.5(b)(1)(iii), 200.6(j), and 200.16(i)(3)(v)

Adoption Date: February 17, 2015

SUBJECT: TRANSFER STUDENTS WITH DISABILITIES

To facilitate the transition of students with disabilities transferring into or out of the District the District shall:

- a) As the district of origin take reasonable steps to promptly respond to all requests from the new school district.
- b) As the new school district take reasonable steps to promptly obtain the student's records from the previous school, including the Individualized Education Program (IEP), supporting documents and any other records relating to the provision of special education services.
- c) Provide to a student with a disability (as defined in Section 200.1(zz) of Commissioner's Regulations) who transfers school districts within the same school year a free appropriate education including services comparable to those described in the student's previous IEP.
 1. For transfers within New York State, the previously held IEP will be followed in consultation with the parents until the District adopts the previously held IEP or develops, adopts and implements a new IEP consistent with federal and State law and regulation.
 2. For transfers from outside New York State, in consultation with the parents the previously held IEP will be followed until the District conducts an evaluation and, if appropriate, develops a new IEP consistent with federal and State law and regulation.

Individuals with Disabilities Education Improvement Act of 2004 [Public Law 108-446 Section 614(a)]
Individuals with Disabilities Education Act (IDEA), 20 USC Section 1400 et seq.
8 NYCRR Sections 200.1(zz) and 200.4(e)(8)

NOTE: Refer also to Policy #7240 -- Student Records: Access and Challenge

Adoption Date: February 17, 2015

**SUBJECT: IDENTIFICATION AND REGISTER OF CHILDREN WITH DISABILITIES
(CHILD FIND)**

The school district of residence is required to locate and identify all students with disabilities who reside in the district, including students who do not attend public school (with the exception of students with disabilities who are parentally placed in nonpublic schools outside the district of residence). Therefore, it is the policy of the Board of Education to conduct a census in order to have all children with disabilities within its jurisdiction under the age of twenty-one (21) identified, located and evaluated, including children of preschool age, homeless children, children who are wards of the State as defined in Commissioner's Regulations and children in all public and private agencies and institutions.

Any student suspected of having a disability is to be referred to the applicable Committee on Special Education (CSE)/Committee on Preschool Special Education (CPSE) for evaluation and possible identification as a student with disability.

Census data shall be reported by October 1 to the CSE/CPSE as appropriate. The CSE/CPSE will maintain and revise annually a register and related summary reports containing the data requirements indicated in Commissioner's Regulations.

Nonpublic School Students with Disabilities Who are Parentally Placed

If the School District boundaries encompass a nonpublic school, the District, as the district of location, must develop and implement methods to identify, locate and ensure the identification and evaluation of students with disabilities who have been, or are going to be, parentally placed in such nonpublic school.

The child find activities must be similar to activities for students with disabilities in the public schools and must be completed in a time period comparable to that for other students attending public schools in the School District.

As the public school district of location, the District must consult with the nonpublic schools where students are parentally placed to determine an accurate count of students with disabilities attending such schools and receiving special education services.

These requirements only pertain to students with disabilities parentally placed in elementary and secondary nonpublic schools, not to parental placements of preschool children 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.

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Adopted 2.17.2015

**SUBJECT: IDENTIFICATION AND REGISTER OF CHILDREN WITH DISABILITIES
(CHILD FIND) (Cont'd.)**

Provision of Special Education Services for Child under Age Seven

It is the responsibility of the Committee on Special Education (CSE) to provide special education services to a child with a disability under the age of seven who is eligible for school-age services, not subject to compulsory attendance requirements and not on a regular school attendance register. These are children with disabilities who are eligible for school-age special education services that are no longer eligible for preschool special education services, but are not parentally placed in a nonpublic elementary school and not being home schooled.

Individuals with Disabilities Education Improvement Act of 2004, Public Law 108-446 Section 612
Individuals with Disabilities Education Act (IDEA), 20 USC Section 1400 et seq.
34 CFR Part 300
Education Law Sections 3240-3242, 3602-c(2)(a), 4401-a, 4402(1)(a), 4404, 4405 and 4410-6
8 NYCRR Sections 200.2(a), 200.4 and 200.6(m)(3)

NOTE: Refer also to Policies #7130 -- Entitlement to Attend - Age and Residency
#7140 -- School Census

Adoption Date: February 17, 2015

SUBJECT: PARENT INVOLVEMENT FOR CHILDREN WITH DISABILITIES

The Board of Education recognizes the rights of the parent/guardian to be fully informed of all information relevant to the identification, or change in identification, evaluation and educational placement of a child with a disability.

All due process procedures for parents/guardians and children in the Commissioner's Regulations shall be observed by the School District.

Definition of Parent

Parent means a birth or adoptive parent, a legally appointed guardian generally authorized to act as the child's parent or authorized to make educational decisions for the child, a person in parental relation to the child as defined in Education Law Section 3212, an individual designated as a person in parental relation pursuant to General Obligations Law Title 15-A including an individual so designated who is acting in the place of a birth or adoptive parent (including a grandparent, stepparent or other relative with whom the child resides), or a surrogate parent who has been appointed in accordance with Section 200.5(n) of Commissioner's Regulations. The term does not include the State if the student is a ward of the State.

A foster parent may act as a parent unless State law, regulations or contractual obligations with a State or local entity prohibit the foster parent from acting as a parent.

Unless a judicial decree identifies a specific person(s) to act as the parent or make educational decisions for the student, if one or more parties is qualified to act as a parent, the birth or adoptive parent is presumed to be the parent unless they do not have the legal authority to do so.

Surrogate Parents

In the event that no parent or guardian for a child with a disability can be identified; or after reasonable efforts the whereabouts of the parent or guardian cannot be determined; or the student is an unaccompanied homeless youth; or the child with a disability is a ward of the State and does not have a "parent" as defined above; or the rights of the parent to make educational decisions have been subrogated by a judge in accordance with State law; the Board shall assign an individual from a list of willing and eligible persons to act as a surrogate for the parents or guardians. This determination shall be completed within a reasonable time following the receipt of a referral for an initial evaluation or re-evaluation; alternatively, the surrogate parent may be appointed by a judge overseeing the child's case.

The person selected as a surrogate shall have no interest that conflicts with the interest of the child he/she represents, and shall have knowledge and skills that ensure adequate representation of the child.

Prior Written Notice (Notice of Recommendation)

Prior written notice (notice of recommendation) must be given to parents of a student with a disability a reasonable time before the District proposes to, or refuses to, initiate or change the identification, evaluation, educational placement of the student or the provision of a free appropriate public education to the student. Prior written notice must also be provided informing the parents when no additional data is

SUBJECT: PARENT INVOLVEMENT FOR CHILDREN WITH DISABILITIES (Cont'd.)

required to determine the student's educational needs, the reasons for this determination and their right to request an assessment. Prior written notice will also be provided prior to the student's graduation with a local or Regents diploma, stating that such student will no longer be entitled to receive a Free Appropriate Public Education (FAPE) after graduation. Additionally, prior written notice will be provided upon the student's receipt of any other exiting credential, including but not limited to a Skills and Achievement Commencement Credential or a Career Development and Occupational Studies Commencement Credential, provided the student has not already earned a local or Regents diploma. Such notice shall state that the student continues to be eligible for FAPE until the school year in which the student turns age twenty-one (21), or until the receipt of a local or Regents high school diploma, whichever is earlier.

If the prior written notice relates to a proposed action that also requires parental consent, the District must give notice at the same time it requests parental consent. The prior written notice will contain all elements required by Commissioner's Regulations.

A parent may elect to receive prior written notice and other required notifications by electronic mail (email) communication if the District makes this option available.

Parent Participation in Meetings

The School District must take steps to ensure that one or both of the parents of a child with a disability are present at each Committee on Special Education (CSE)/Committee on Preschool Special Education (CPSE) meeting or are afforded the opportunity to participate in a mutually agreed upon time and place. The School District must document its attempts to involve parents, such as:

- a) Detailed records of telephone calls made or attempted and the results of these calls;
- b) Copies of correspondence sent to the parents and any responses received; and
- c) Detailed records of visits made to the parent's home or place of employment and the results of those visits.

A meeting may be conducted without a parent in attendance if the School District is unable to convince the parents that they should attend.

Additionally, the School District must take whatever action is necessary to ensure the parent understands the proceedings of this meeting including arranging for an interpreter for parents with deafness or whose native language is other than English.

Parental Consent

In accordance with due process, a parent (as defined in Commissioner's Regulations Section 200.1(l)) of a special education student or a student suspected of having a disability must provide informed consent before the School District can take certain actions. The District will make reasonable

SUBJECT: PARENT INVOLVEMENT FOR CHILDREN WITH DISABILITIES (Cont'd.)

efforts to obtain written informed consent and will maintain a detailed record of its attempts and the results of the attempts.

In New York State, a noncustodial parent does not have the right to control educational decisions for his/her child. However, a noncustodial parent is afforded this right if, and only if, this right is expressly included in a custody order.

Additionally, absent supporting language in a custody order, a non-custodial parent lacks standing under IDEA to bring a claim to assert control over his/her child's educational program. Until recent revisions to New York law, consent for an initial evaluation, reevaluation, or the provision of special education services needed to be provided by a parent (i.e., the custodial or noncustodial parent). As it now stands, the decision to provide consent for a CSE- or CPSE-related activity is considered an education-related decision designated exclusively to custodial parents unless a court order specifically states the contrary.

Consent for Evaluations

The parent or guardian must provide informed consent to the initial evaluation, or reevaluations in accordance with law and/or regulations. If a parent does not provide consent for an initial evaluation, the School District *may* pursue the evaluation by commencing a due process hearing to override the refusal to provide consent.

Parental consent for a reevaluation is not needed if the District can demonstrate that it has taken reasonable measures to obtain consent, but the parents or guardians have failed to respond.

Consent for the Initial Provision of Services

Parental consent is also required for the initial provision of special education services. Consent for an initial evaluation does not constitute consent for the initial provision of services. If a parent does not provide consent for the initial provision of services, the School District *shall not* provide the special education programs and services to the student and shall not use the due process procedures to challenge the parent's refusal to consent. The School District shall not be considered to be in violation of the requirements to provide a free appropriate public education (FAPE), shall not be required to convene a meeting of the committee on special education or develop an individualized education program (IEP).

SUBJECT: PARENT INVOLVEMENT FOR CHILDREN WITH DISABILITIES (Cont'd.)

Consent to Access Public Benefits or Insurance (e.g., Medicaid)

A School District must notify the child's parent in writing prior to accessing the child's or parent's public benefits or insurance for the first time and annually thereafter. The written notification must explain the protections afforded to parents so that parents are fully informed of their rights before the District accesses their or their child's Medicaid or other public benefits or insurance to pay for services under the IDEA. Furthermore, this notice must be in a language understandable to the general public and in the parent's native language or the mode of communication used by the parent.

A School District must obtain a one-time written consent from the parent, after providing the written notification (as described above), before accessing the child's or parent's public benefits or insurance (e.g., Medicaid) for the first time. The consent must state that the parent understands and agrees that the School District may access the child's or parent's public benefits or insurance to pay for special education or related services. The consent must also specify:

- a) The personally identifiable information that may be disclosed (this can include records or information about the services that will be provided to the student);
- b) The purpose of the disclosure; and
- c) The agency to which the disclosure may be made (Medicaid).

Merely providing the Medicaid application does not meet the IDEA parent consent requirements. A sample Medicaid Consent Form may be found at:

<http://www.p12.nysed.gov/specialed/publications/sampleconsent.htm>.

Consent for an Unaccompanied Homeless Youth

Consent may be provided by a surrogate parent. However, until a surrogate parent is appointed, consent may be provided on a temporary basis by an employee of a temporary housing facility operated or approved by a local social services district or a residential facility for runaway and homeless youth.

Consent for a Ward of the State

A ward of the State means a child or youth under the age of twenty-one (21):

- a) Who has been placed or remanded pursuant to Social Services Law or the Family Court Act or freed for adoption pursuant to Social Services Law; or

SUBJECT: PARENT INVOLVEMENT FOR CHILDREN WITH DISABILITIES (Cont'd.)

- b) Who is in the custody of the Commissioner of Social Services or the Office of Children and Family Services; or
- c) Who is a destitute child under Social Services Law.

In the event that a child is a ward of the State, the School District shall make reasonable efforts to obtain the informed consent from the parent of the child for an initial evaluation to determine whether the child is a child with a disability.

The School District is not required to obtain informed consent if:

- a) Despite reasonable efforts to do so, the School District cannot discover the whereabouts of the parent of the student, including consulting with the agency responsible for the care of the student; or
- b) The rights of the parents of the student have been terminated in accordance with State law; or
- c) The rights of the parent to make educational decisions have been subrogated by a judge in accordance with State law and consent for an initial evaluation has been given by an individual appointed by the judge to represent the student.

Consent for a Student Who is Home Instructed or Parentally Placed in a Private School at the Parent's Expense

If a parent of a student who is home instructed or placed in a private school by their parents at their own expense does not provide consent for an initial evaluation or reevaluation, or the parent fails to respond to a request to provide consent, the District may not continue to pursue those evaluations by using the due process procedures and the District is not required to consider the student as eligible for special education services.

Parental Revocation of Consent

Parental revocation of consent for continued provision of special education and related services must be in writing. When the parent revokes such consent, the District still must provide the parent with the usual written notice of its intentions with respect to the child.

If the parent of a student with a disability revokes his/her consent in writing for the continued provision of special education and related services to the student at any time subsequent to the initial provision of special education and related services, the District:

(Continued)

SUBJECT: PARENT INVOLVEMENT FOR CHILDREN WITH DISABILITIES (Cont'd.)

- a) Shall not continue to provide special education and related services to the student, but must provide prior written notice to the parent before ceasing the provisions of special education and related services;
- b) Shall not use due process procedures (i.e., mediation, resolution meeting, and/or impartial due process hearing) in order to obtain agreement or a ruling that the services may be provided to the student without parental consent;
- c) Shall not be considered to be in violation of the requirement to make a free and appropriate public education (FAPE) available to the student because of the failure to provide the student with further special education and related services following revocation of consent;
- d) Is not required to convene a meeting of the Committee on Special Education or develop an IEP for the student for further provision of special education programs and related services upon receipt of written revocation of consent; and
- e) Is not required to amend the student's education records to remove any references to the student's receipt of special education programs and services because of the revocation of consent.

Procedural Safeguards Notice

The School District will provide the procedural safeguards notice prescribed by the Commissioner of Education to the parents of a student with a disability at least one time per year and also:

- a) Upon initial referral or parental request for evaluation;
- b) Upon the first filing of a due process complaint notice to request mediation or an impartial due process hearing;
- c) Upon request by a parent;
- d) Upon a decision to impose a suspension or removal that constitutes a disciplinary change in placement; and
- e) Upon first receipt of a State complaint.

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Adopted 10.6.2014

Individuals with Disabilities Education Improvement Act of 2004 (Public Law 108-446) Section 614(a)
Individuals with Disabilities Education Act (IDEA), 20 USC Section 1400 et seq.
34 CFR Part 300
Education Law Sections 207, 3212, 4005, 4202, 4401 and 4402
8 NYCRR Sections 200.1, 200.4(b)(6), and 200.5

NOTE: Refer also to Policy #7260 -- Designation of Person in Parental Relation

Adoption Date 10/6/2014

POLICY

Students 7670
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Adopted 2.17.2015
Revised 3.20.2023

SUBJECT: IMPARTIAL DUE PROCESS HEARINGS/SELECTION OF IMPARTIAL HEARING OFFICERS

Due Process Complaints

The District will make every effort to amicably resolve disputes regarding educational programs for students with disabilities. If these disputes cannot be resolved, either a parent, person in parental relation, or the District may file a due process complaint challenging the identification, evaluation, or educational placement of a student with a disability, or a student suspected of having a disability, or the provision of a free appropriate public education to the student. The complainant may not receive an impartial due process hearing until the complainant, or the complainant's attorney, files a due process complaint notice that meets the requirements set forth in law for the notice. All due process hearings will be conducted in a manner consistent with the timelines and procedures set forth in law and regulation.

Except as otherwise provided by law, all requests for impartial due process hearings must be submitted within two years of the date the parent or the District knew or should have known about the alleged action forming the basis of the complaint. Upon receipt or filing of the due process complaint notice, the District will provide the most current version of the procedural safeguards notice to the parents. The District will also inform parents in writing of the availability of mediation and any free or low-cost legal and other relevant services available in the area.

An impartial due process hearing will be conducted at a time and location reasonable and convenient to the parent and student involved. The hearing will be closed to the public unless the parent requests otherwise. The impartial hearing officer (IHO) may conduct the hearing by videoconference or teleconference with parental consent which may be obtained at a pre-hearing conference, or at a minimum of ten days before the scheduled hearing date, provided that all personally identifiable data, information, or records pertaining to the student during the hearing is kept confidential in accordance with law and regulation.

A student whose education is the subject of a due process complaint will remain in ~~his or her~~ their current placement during the pendency of the impartial due process hearing unless both parties agree or as otherwise permitted by law.

Resolution Process

Prior to the opportunity for an impartial due process hearing, the District will convene a meeting with the parents and the relevant member or members of the Committee on Special Education or Committee on Preschool Special Education who have specific knowledge of the facts identified in the complaint. This meeting will provide the parents with an opportunity to discuss their complaint and the facts that form the basis of the complaint, and an opportunity to resolve the complaint with the District. The District will take steps to ensure that one or both of the parents of the student with a disability are present at the resolution meeting, and will notify parents of the meeting early enough to ensure that they have the opportunity to attend. The resolution meeting will be at a mutually agreed upon time and place,

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Students 7670
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Adopted 2.17.2015
Revised 3.20.2023

SUBJECT: IMPARTIAL DUE PROCESS HEARINGS/SELECTION OF IMPARTIAL HEARING OFFICERS (Cont'd.)

and in a location that is physically accessible to the parents. The parents and District may agree to use alternative means of meeting participation, such as videoconferences and conference calls. The District will ensure that all resolution meetings conform to the requirements set forth in the Commissioner's regulations.

The parents and the District may agree, in writing to waive the resolution process or agree to use the mediation process to resolve the dispute.

Selection and Board Appointment of Impartial Hearing Officers

When a due process complaint notice is properly filed, the Board will arrange for an impartial due process hearing to be conducted. In these instances, the Board will immediately, but not later than two business days after receipt of the due process complaint notice or mailing of the due process complaint notice to the parent, initiate the process to select an IHO through a rotational selection process. To expedite this process, the Board may designate one or more of its members to appoint the IHO on its behalf.

The District will utilize the New York State Education Department's (NYSED) Impartial Hearing Reporting System to access the alphabetical list of the names of each IHO certified in New York State and available to serve in the District. The appointment of an IHO will be made only from this list and in accordance with the alphabetical rotation selection process and the timelines and procedures established by the Commissioner of Education. The District will record and report required information relating to the selection of IHOs and the conduct of impartial due process hearings according to the manner and schedule specified by NYSED.

If an IHO is not appointed within 196 days from receipt by the District of a due process complaint, the District will, no later than five business days after the 196th day has elapsed, provide written notification to parents of their right to request accelerated review. When accelerated review is sought, the District will be deemed to have denied the student a free and appropriate public education (FAPE) by virtue of the 196 day (or more) delay in the appointment of an IHO.

The District will be responsible for compensating the IHO for pre-hearing, hearing, and post-hearing activities at the rate agreed upon at the time of the IHO's appointment. The District will also reimburse the IHO for certain travel and other hearing-related expenses in accordance with an annually determined schedule.

Individuals with Disabilities Education Act (IDEA), 20 USC Section 1400 et seq.
34 CFR Part 300
Education Law Sections 4404 and 4410(7)
8 NYCRR Sections 200.2 and 200.5

(Continued)

POLICY

Students 7670
3 of 3

Adopted 2.17.2015
Revised 3.20.2023

**SUBJECT: IMPARTIAL DUE PROCESS HEARINGS/SELECTION OF IMPARTIAL
HEARING OFFICERS (Cont'd.)**

NOTE: Refer also to Policies #7313 -- Suspension of Students
#7660 -- Parent Involvement for Children with Disabilities
#7690 -- Special Education Mediation

Adoption Date: 2/17/2015
Revision Date: 3/20/2023

POLICY

Students 7680
1 of 1

Adopted 11.24.2014

SUBJECT: INDEPENDENT EDUCATIONAL EVALUATIONS

Parents of children with disabilities have the right under Federal and State regulations to obtain an independent educational evaluation (IEE) at public expense under certain conditions. Regulatory standards are outlined in New York State Regulations of the Commissioner of Education Part 200.5(g). Additionally, the Federal Regulations (34 Code of Federal Regulations [CFR] 300.502) specify requirements for an independent evaluation.

A parent is entitled to only one IEE at public expense each time the District conducts an evaluation with which the parent disagrees.

Administrative regulations on independent evaluations will be developed in order to explain the rights of parents and the responsibilities of school districts with regard to independent evaluations, and also to avoid any misunderstandings.

34 CFR Sections 300.12 and 300.502
8 NYCRR Sections 200.1(z) and 200.5(g)

Adoption Date 11/24/2014

SUBJECT: SPECIAL EDUCATION MEDIATION

The District will offer mediation to resolve any disputes involving any matter for which an impartial due process hearing may be brought, including matters arising prior to the filing of a due process complaint notice.

Such mediation shall be conducted by mediators furnished by a Community Dispute Resolution Center who are not employees of any school district or State agency that is involved in the education or care of the student who is the subject of the mediation process. Mediators may not have a personal or professional interest which would conflict with their objectivity in the mediation process and should be knowledgeable in laws and regulations relating to the provision of special education services.

Parents or persons in parental relation to students suspected of or having disabilities will receive written notice of the availability of the mediation program each time they receive notice of their entitlement to the impartial due process hearing procedures in accordance with Federal and State law and regulations. If the parent and District agree, alternative means of meeting participation may be utilized, such as video conferences and conference calls.

Discussions during the mediation process must be confidential and may not be used as evidence in any subsequent due process hearing or civil proceedings.

If resolution to the complaint is reached through mediation, the parent and the representative of the District who has the authority to bind the District will execute a legally binding written agreement specifying the resolution and stating that all discussions occurring during the mediation process are confidential and may not be used as evidence in any subsequent due process hearing or civil proceeding of any Federal or State court. If the written agreement is inconsistent with the student's current individualized education programs (IEP), the IEP must be immediately amended to reflect the mediation agreement.

The mediation process is voluntary and will not operate to diminish or limit any rights provided for in law, including the right of the parent or person in parental relation to request an impartial due process hearing subsequent to mediation. Parents or persons in parental relation to students suspected of or having disabilities continue to have full access to all rights, including due process procedures, provided for in federal and state laws and regulations. Similarly, mediation shall not be construed to limit a parent or person in parental relation from requesting an impartial due process hearing without having first utilized mediation procedures set forth in Education Law.

Individuals with Disabilities Education Improvement Act of 2004 (Public Law 108-446) Section 614(a)
Individuals with Disabilities Education Act (IDEA), 20 USC Section 1400 et seq.
34 CFR Part 300
Education Law Sections 4005, 4202 and 4404-a
Judiciary Law Section 849a
8 NYCRR Sections 200.1 and 200.5

Adoption Date: February 17, 2015