

The Board of Education, as the governing body of a local education agency (LEA), affirms its responsibility to make appropriate special education programs and related services available to students with disabilities in accordance with state and federal laws and regulations and the policies and procedures contained within the District's special education manual.

The Director of Pupil Services shall be the LEA-authorized official who shall have authority to adopt, modify and implement such special education policies and procedures as are necessary to meet legal mandates and as are deemed necessary for the District to implement its special education program. However, the LEA-authorized official shall not have authority to adopt, without first obtaining Board approval, new discretionary policies or discretionary procedures that obligate District funds in a manner not already allocated for such purpose within the Board-approved School District budget. The LEA-authorized official shall regularly report to the Board, at least once annually, on substantive modifications and updates to the District's special education policies and procedures that have occurred since the last Board update.

The Director of Pupil Services shall have responsibility for completing all special education report forms, audit materials and District plans as may be required by any state or federal agency.

The Board recognizes that special education programs and services are a part of the total educational program in the District and not a separate entity. The Board also recognizes the legal requirement for school districts to educate students with disabilities in the least restrictive environment that is appropriate to their individual needs. Consistent with all applicable laws and regulations, it is the expectation of the Board that:

1. Students with disabilities participate to the maximum extent possible in regular education programs—academic, non-academic and co-curricular—along with students who do not have disabilities. When making education program and placement decisions, consideration shall be given to the rights and needs of the student with the disability and other students, as well as to the availability of appropriate staff and other resources.
2. Part of determining the least restrictive environment for each student with a disability shall include consideration of programs and services that would enable the student, to the extent appropriate, to participate in chronologically age-appropriate environments.
3. Programs for students with disabilities shall not be unnecessarily concentrated in particular school facilities.
4. Students with disabilities have access to appropriate academic and behavioral interventions and supports to improve student achievement and promote positive learning experiences, just as students without disabilities have access to such interventions and supports.

Specific educational programs and services for a student with a disability shall be determined by an individualized education program (IEP) team and be based on an assessment of the student's individual needs. Students with disabilities shall participate in academic assessments required by law and the District, with or without accommodations, or in alternate assessments as outlined in the student's IEP.

Within the parameters of state and federal laws governing the operation of programs for students with disabilities, there are due process safeguards for parent rights and appeals. Such provisions shall be adhered to by the District.

NOTICE OF SPECIAL NEEDS SCHOLARSHIP PROGRAM

This notice serves to inform parents and guardians of students with disabilities that the State of Wisconsin has established the Special Needs Scholarship Program. Under this scholarship program and as further specified in state law, a child with a disability who has been denied the opportunity to attend a nonresident school district under the full-time open enrollment program may be eligible to receive a scholarship from the Department of Public Instruction (DPI) that allows the child to attend an eligible private school that is participating in the Special Needs Scholarship Program.

This is a state-administered program. A parent or guardian who is interested in the Special Needs Scholarship Program should independently verify the participating private schools and the specific terms, eligibility criteria, and application procedures of the scholarship program with the DPI.

The Special Needs Scholarship Program is further defined under section 115.7915 of the state statutes. Additional information about the program should be available on the website of the Wisconsin Department of Public Instruction: <http://dpi.wi.gov/>.

Legal References:

Wisconsin Statutes

Chapter 115 , Subchapter V	[educational programs and services for children with disabilities]
Section 118.13	[student nondiscrimination]
Section 118.30(2)(b)1	[state student assessments; children with disabilities]
Section 121.54(3)	[student transportation; children with disabilities]

Wisconsin Administrative Code

PI 11	[educational programs and services for children with disabilities]
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Federal Laws

Individuals with Disabilities Education Act	[programs and services for students with disabilities]
Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973	[disability discrimination; reasonable accommodations]
Americans with Disabilities Act	[disability discrimination; reasonable accommodations]

Cross References:

DPI Special Education Manual

Adoption Date: 7/10/17