

Special Education and Related Services for Eligible Students

Educational Service District 112 is responsible for and provides a free, appropriate, public education, including special education and related services, to individuals, ages 3 to 21, who reside in school districts that are members of the ESD 112 Special Education ESA (Educational Service Agency) and are eligible for special education under the Individuals with Disabilities Education Improvement Act. In providing special education and related services, the ESD recognizes that individuals whose disabilities adversely impact educational performance and who require specially designed instruction can obtain meaningful educational benefit when they receive special education and related services tailored to fit their needs. It is the policy of the ESD to provide a free, appropriate, public education in the least restrictive environment to all eligible individuals, ages 3 to 21, who reside in the ESA Member Districts.

Special education programs for students eligible for special education are an integral part of the educational programs of the ESA Member Districts. The special education programs the ESD administers shall be operated in compliance with federal and state requirements governing special education. The ESD will provide a continuum of placement options that may include the provision of services within and/or outside the ESA Member Districts as may be necessary to meet the student's needs.

The ESD will provide special education and related services in a safe learning environment where students are treated with dignity and respect. Students receiving special education and related services from the ESD will not be subject to the use of unreasonable force. Students will not be isolated or restrained as a form of discipline or punishment. There are times, however, when it is necessary and appropriate to restrain or isolate students. The Board authorizes the reasonable use of restraint, restraint devices and isolation, as defined and detailed in ESD procedures. The ESD will provide parents and guardians a copy of this policy and the ESD procedures when the ESD prepares the student's individualized education program (IEP). In addition, the ESD will include notification procedures in each student's IEP.

Not all students with disabilities are eligible for special education services. ESA Member Districts, with assistance from the ESD, shall assess the needs of individuals with disabilities. The ESA Member Districts shall provide disabled students that are not eligible to receive special education services accommodations or modifications as may be required under Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act in accordance with their own district's policy and procedures.

The Board authorizes the ESD Superintendent to bind the ESD to a special education mediation or resolution agreement.

Decisions regarding graduation and participation in commencement exercises for any student receiving special education services through the ESD 112 Special Education ESA shall be made by the school district where the student resides, in accordance with that district's board policies and regulations.

The ESD Superintendent shall develop and maintain special education procedures necessary to implement this policy and shall assist ESA Member Districts in developing and maintaining special education policies and procedures that are consistent with this policy. This policy and the procedures that implement the policy shall be available to the public.

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