SPECIAL EDUCATION SERVICES

The District shall provide a continuum of programs and services pertinent to state and federal law for all individuals with exceptional needs to insure them the right to an appropriate educational opportunity to meet their unique needs.

1. Least Restrictive Environment

Individuals shall be placed in the least restrictive environment, to the maximum extent appropriate, in both academic and non-academic settings. It is the policy of the District that placement in special classes, separate schooling, or other removal of such pupils from the regular education environment shall occur only when the nature and severity of the handicap is such that education in regular classes with the use of supplementary aids and services cannot be achieved satisfactorily.

2. Special Day Classes

The District shall maintain special day classes for pupils whose nature or severity of the disability precludes their participation in the regular school program for a majority of a school day.

3. Resource Specialist Program

The District shall maintain a resource specialist program. The resource specialist program shall provide service for individuals with exceptional needs who are assigned to the regular classroom for a majority of the school day.

4. Designated Instruction and Services

The District shall provide designated instruction and services as specified in the individualized education program. These services may include, but are not limited to:

- a. Language and speech development and remediation
- b. Instruction in the home or hospital
- c. Adaptive physical education
- d. Physical and occupational therapy
- e. Counseling and guidance
- f. Psychological services other than assessment and the development of the individualized education program
- g. Health-nursing services

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5. Nonpublic/Nonsectarian School Services

The District shall provide nonpublic, nonsectarian school services, including services by nonpublic agencies, to individuals with exceptional needs when no appropriate public education program is available.

6. Special Education Program Review

The District shall provide for a program review of an individual with exceptional needs at least annually during the birth month and when the parent, special education, or regular teacher requests such a review. Responsibilities of personnel shall be stated in District procedures.

7. North Orange County Special Education Consortium

In order to implement the State Master Plan for Special Education, the District will join with other designated districts to maintain the North Orange County Special Education Consortium. All policy issues of the Consortium will be heard by the Board of Trustees prior to the issue becoming Consortium policy.

8. Child Find

The District, in cooperation with the Consortium, shall seek out individuals with exceptional needs from birth through 21 years of age, assuring the provisions of legally mandated services appropriate to the needs of the handicapped child. The Consortium shall establish procedure for a continuous child find system in accordance with state and federal law.

Reference: Education Code Sections 56221, 56301, 56303, 56362, 56380-56381

Policy adopted: March 16, 1981; October 25, 2011