

SPECIAL EDUCATION PROGRAMS

Background

The Mt. Lebanon School District shall provide services, programs and procedures for identification and evaluation of school age children with disabilities and for planning, developing and operating special education programs and related services consistent with the Federal and State regulations. Children with disabilities are defined as children of school age who have a disability defined by Federal definitions and are in need of specially designed instruction.

Policy

It is the policy of the Mt. Lebanon School District that every resident child will be provided with the opportunity for a free appropriate public education in the least restrictive setting. To the maximum extent appropriate, children with disabilities shall be educated with their nondisabled peers. Placement in special classes, separate schooling, or removal of children with disabilities from the regular educational environment occurs only if the nature or severity of the disability is such that education in regular classes, with the use of supplementary aids and services, cannot be achieved satisfactorily.

If a child is determined to be both gifted and eligible for special education, the procedures in 22 PA Code, Chapter 14 shall take precedence.

Mt. Lebanon School District shall provide access to a full continuum of special education services and placement options to meet the needs of children with disabilities. The continuum shall include alternative placements (instruction in regular classes and special classes, special schools, home instruction, and instruction in hospitals and institutions). Special education services are provided on an itinerant, supplemental, or full-time basis in conjunction with regular education class placement. The District will also provide related services, when required, for the student to benefit from the special education program. The determination of educational placement shall be made by members of an IEP team, including, but not limited to the parent/guardian, regular education teacher, special education teacher, local education agency representative, and other service providers knowledgeable about the needs of the child.

Definitions

Children with disabilities are individuals who have one or more of the following:

1. autism
2. deaf-blindness
3. deafness
4. emotional disturbance
5. hearing impairment
6. intellectual disability

7. multiple disabilities
8. orthopedic impairment
9. other health impairment
10. specific learning disability
11. speech or language impairment
12. traumatic brain injury
13. visual impairment including blindness

Administration Responsibility

The Administration shall take all actions necessary and appropriate for implementation of this policy and for compliance with all Federal and State laws and regulations.

Communication

This policy shall be communicated to:

77065128. All personnel responsible for implementing this policy
77065129. All parents or guardians where applicable.

Adopted December 15, 1975
Revised September 26, 1977
Revised May 20, 1996
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