

Descriptor Term: EDUCATION OF INDIVIDUALS WITH DISABILITIES

Descriptor Code: IDDF

Rescinds: IDDF

Board Approved: 7/18/2016

Previously Approved: 5/4/2015

To better serve the citizens and youth of Gulfport, the Board of Trustees of the Gulfport School District approves the following policy:

1. The Superintendent will direct all Special Education staff members to develop and implement a District Special Education program that is in compliance with policies and procedures for Special Education that are mandated by federal and state laws and regulations. The Board acknowledges that the District program for Special Education submitted by the Director of Special Education follows state and federal policies and procedures.
2. The District will assure the following:
  - A. Free Appropriate Public Education (FAPE) is defined by IDEA 2004 at 34CFR 300.17 to mean: special education and related services that-- a) are provided at public expense, under public supervision and direction, and without charge; b) meet the standards of the state educational agency...; c) include an appropriate preschool, elementary school, or secondary education in the state involved; and d) are provided in conformity with an IEP that meets the requirements of 34 CFR § 300.320 through 34 CFR § 300.324.
  - B. Full Service Goal  

The District is committed to serving students with disabilities and hereby sets a goal of providing full educational opportunities for all students with disabilities, ages three (3) through twenty-one (21) in accordance with the Mississippi Department of Education policies and procedures. The opportunities will be provided in accordance with applicable State statutes, Federal laws and the Mississippi Department of Education policies. 20 U.S.C. §1412(a)(2)
  - C. Child Find  

The District will continue its efforts to identify children, ages three (3) through twenty-one (21), who are in need of special education and related services are identified, located, and evaluated as defined under the Individuals with Disabilities

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Education Act (IDEIA), Part B & C, the District will conduct Child Find activities for children who reside in the jurisdiction of the District and who are enrolled in the District. IDEA 2004 34 CFR § 300.111

Similar Child Find activities undertaken for the public school children enrolled in the District will be conducted with respect to the identification, location, and evaluation for those children with disabilities who are homeless children or ward of the state and children with disabilities attending private schools. The Child Find process will be completed in a time period comparable to that for other students enrolled and attending public schools within the District. The District will adhere to the relevant policies and the procedures for implementation of the Child Find requirements for local school districts under state and federal laws, policies and procedures. 20 U.S.C. §1412(a)(3); 20 U.S.C. §1412(a)(10)(A)(ii)

### D. Individualized Education Program (IEP)

IDEA 2004 defines an IEP as a “written statement for a child with a disability that is developed and implemented in accordance with [the provisions of the IDEA].” The IEP is the centerpiece of the IDEA education service delivery system for students with disabilities. It has both a written document memorializing the essential components of the IDEA eligibility students’ appropriate educational program and collaborative process between the parents and the school by which the contours of the educational program designed.

The District assures that procedures for development and implementation of IEPs will be followed as stated in state and federal policies and procedures. 20 LISC 1414 (d)(1) & 34 CFR §300.320

### E. Procedural Safeguards (Due Process)

Procedural Safeguards are the formality requirements of IDEA that are “designed to afford parents and guardians of [children with disabilities] meaningful involvement in the education placement of their children.”

The District assures that policies and procedures relating to Procedural Safeguards, as outlined in the District program, will be implemented. 20 USC § 1415 (b) (1)-(8)

### F. Least Restrictive Environment

Least Restrictive Environment- “educational placements under IDEA must be individually determined in light of each child’s unique abilities and needs, to reasonably promote the child’s education courses.” The placement should be based on the child’s IEP and of course, provide for its implementation. 34 CFR 300.116 The District assures that students with disabilities, to the maximum extent appropriate, are educated in their least restrictive environment, in accordance with state and federal policies and procedures. 20 U.S.C § 1412

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#### G. Evaluation

The District assures that procedures in evaluation of students are in compliance with regulations as specified in the state and federal policies and procedures.

#### H. Confidentiality

The District assures that procedures to protect the confidentiality of all data are implemented in accordance with regulations as specified in the state and federal policies and procedures.

#### I. Participation in Private Schools

District procedures for implementation of this policy are those contained in the state regulations issued by the Mississippi Department of Education.

#### J. Public Control of Funds

The District assures the control of funds designated under state and federal guidelines is in compliance with state and federal regulations.

#### K. Information Reports

The District assures appropriate reporting of all information relative to Special Education in accordance with state and federal regulations.

#### L. Non-supplanting

The District assures compliance with state and federal regulations relating to non-supplanting.

#### M. Public Participation

The District assures the involvement of parents of students with disabilities as stated in state and federal policies.

#### N. Restraint and Seclusion

In accordance with Miss Code Ann. §§37-9-69 and 37-11-57, it is recognized that staff may intercede in a situation wherein students are displaying physically violent behavior or are deemed to be a danger to themselves or others.

3. The District will develop and implement a grading and graduation policy for Special Education students. This policy will be implemented in accordance with the students'

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Individual Education Plan (IEP) and will be explained to parents in an IEP conference.

4. The District will adhere to state and federal policies and procedures in regard to administering discipline to students with disabilities.
5. The District should conduct vision and hearing screening on all school-age students as deemed necessary as a preliminary to Child Study.

Legal Reference: IDEA 2004; Mississippi State Department of Education Bulletins No. 48 and 96; and 20 U.S. Code §1412-State eligibility.