

PROVISION OF SPECIAL EDUCATION SERVICES IN THE LEAST RESTRICTIVE ENVIRONMENT

The Board of Education recognizes its responsibility to ensure that students with disabilities eligible for special education programs and services under the IDEA and Article 89 of New York's Education Law receive those services in the least restrictive environment appropriate to meet their individual educational needs.

Therefore, the District will not place students with disabilities in special classes or separate schools, or otherwise remove them from the regular educational environment unless the nature or severity of their disability is such that their education cannot be achieved satisfactorily in regular classes, even with the use of supplementary aids and services. In addition, the District will provide special services or programs to enable students with disabilities to be involved in and progress in the general curriculum, to the extent appropriate to their needs.

To fulfill its responsibility to educate students with disabilities in the least restrictive environment, the District will implement the provisions of Section 200.6 of the Commissioner's Regulations.

Students with disabilities placed together for purposes of special education shall be grouped by similarity of individual needs; placements shall include the following considerations:

- The range of academic or educational achievement of the students must be limited to assure that instruction provides each student with appropriate opportunities to achieve his/her annual goals. The learning characteristics of the students in the group shall be sufficiently similar to assure that the range of academic or educational achievement is, at minimum, maintained.
- The social development of each student must also be considered in making placement decisions to assure that the social interaction within the group is beneficial to each student, contributes to each student's social growth and maturity, and does not consistently interfere with the instruction being provided.
- The levels of physical development of the students may vary, so long as each student is provided appropriate opportunities to benefit from instruction.
- The management needs of the students may vary, so long as environmental modifications, adaptations, or human or material resources required to meet the needs of each student are provided and do not consistently detract from the instruction being provided.

The Superintendent will establish a process for ensuring that the CSE or CSE Subcommittee Chairperson, as appropriate, obtains an up-to-date copy of those provisions at the beginning of each school year, and copies of any amendments that become effective during the school year.

The Board also recognizes that the least restrictive environment requirements established by applicable law and regulations also extend to nonacademic settings. Therefore, to the extent appropriate to their individual needs, eligible students with disabilities residing within the school district and attending the school district's public schools will be entitled to participate in school district academic, co-curricular and extracurricular activities available to other students enrolled in the school district's public schools.

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Such co-curricular and extracurricular activities may include but are not limited to, athletics, transportation, recreational activities, school-sponsored special interest groups or clubs and referrals to agencies that provide assistance to individuals with disabilities and the employment of the student (including both employment by the school district and assistance in making outside employment available. Students with disabilities, and their parents, will be informed of the availability of such programs and activities and their eligibility to participate. The District also will provide students with disabilities with supplementary aids and services the CSE or CSE subcommittee, as applicable, determines to be appropriate and necessary for the students to participate in such activities.

Ref:

Individuals with Disabilities Education Act (IDEA) 20 USC §§1400 et seq. 8 NYCRR §§ 200.2(b)(4);
200.6

Adopted: January 22, 2018