

INSTRUCTIONAL SPACE FOR STUDENTS WITH DISABILITIES

The Board of Education recognizes its responsibility to ensure that appropriate space is available for:

1. Special programs and services provided to meet the needs of students and preschool students with disabilities both within its own facilities, and in programs provided by the board of cooperative educational services (BOCES) and attended by district residents; and
2. Serving students with disabilities in settings with non-disabled peers, as well.

To ensure that adequate and appropriate space is available for special education classes provided by the District, as well as for programs provided by the Board of Cooperative Education Services (BOCES), the Board of Education will allocate an appropriate amount of space in district facilities to meet the needs of students in such programs.

It is the belief and practice of the Board of Education that students with disabilities, who may benefit from an integrated relationship with non-disabled peers, are to be enrolled in programs that allow opportunities for interaction with students who are non-disabled, to the maximum extent appropriate.

The Board of Education shall ensure the continual allocation of appropriate space within the School District is available to meet and operate its current and future special education programs as required for resident children with disabilities who do not receive a special education placement outside of the school district. In addition, the Board of Education shall ensure, to the degree that it has authority and responsibility, allocation of appropriate space is made available to meet the current and future special education program needs of resident students with disabilities who attend programs operated by BOCES. Through the Superintendent, the District also will share with the BOCES District Superintendent information relevant for the BOCES to determine the regional space needs for serving the District's resident students and preschool students with disabilities. The School District will address such space allocation needs as part of its annual budget cycle, during the annual or any more frequent re-evaluation of its long-range educational facilities plan.

The Board of Education, when it reviews the recommendations of the Committee on Special Education, shall ensure that resident students will be housed in district schools or BOCES classes to be based in the School District. Both District and BOCES-operated classes will be situated in local schools in a manner which will encourage a least restrictive environment for children with disabilities.

As part of the process for ensuring the continual allocation of appropriate space for special education programs and services and serving students with disabilities, the Superintendent of Schools, in consultation with appropriate school personnel will, at a minimum:

1. Periodically gather information regarding the number of students and preschool students with disabilities presently participating and anticipated to continue to participate in the School District's special education programs and services, the type of programming they presently receive and may receive in the future, as well as the setting in which those services are and/or will be provided.

Instructional Space for Students with Handicapping Conditions (Continued)

2. Review the results of the School District's latest census, and other School District child find efforts, including child find activities conducted with respect to parentally-placed nonpublic school students with disabilities.
3. Anticipate projected increases in the number of students and preschool students with disabilities the School District will be responsible for providing special education programs and services to, as well as the anticipated type of services they will be receiving and the settings in which those services will be provided.

Based on the above information, review current space capacity, and identify any additional space requirements to meet both current and future special education program needs. Any change to the allocation of space for special education programs shall be made in consideration of the needs of participating students with disabilities for placement in the least restrictive environment and for the stability and continuity of their program.

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