



Special Education Operating Procedures

South San Antonio Independent School District

CHILD FIND

Introduction

South San Antonio Independent School District (SSAISD) Board Policy along with these Special Education Operating Procedures constitute the Policies and Procedures designed to be consistent with the State policies and procedures developed pursuant to the Individual with Disabilities Education Act (IDEA). The procedures are not to be for the purpose of creating a requirement that is not otherwise imposed by the Individuals with Disabilities Education Improvement Act ("IDEA"), together with federal regulations, state statutes and rules, as they shall from time to time be amended as established by IDEA. These Special Education Operating Procedures will be posted on the school district website. The procedures will be reviewed and updated, as needed, on at least an annual basis and the district will make timely changes to policies and procedures in response to IDEA amendments, regulatory or rule changes, changes to state policy, or new legal interpretation as are necessary in order to be in compliance with the requirements of IDEA.

SSAISD maintains systems to ensure that all students with disabilities residing in the District, including students with disabilities attending non-public schools, regardless of the severity of their disabilities, and who need special education and related services, are identified, located, and evaluated and provided a free appropriate public education. In addition, district maintains systems to ensure that students with disabilities and their parents are afforded the procedural safeguards required under the IDEA (and its implementing federal regulations, state statutes and rules) including with respect to the confidentiality of records and personally identifiable information.

SSAISD Board Policy References: EHB (LEGAL), EHBA (LEGAL), EHBAA (LEGAL), EHBAB (LEGAL), EHBAC (LEGAL), EHBAD (LEGAL), EHBAAE (LEGAL), and EHBAAF (LEGAL)

Child Find is a federal mandate under the Individuals with Disabilities Education Act (IDEA). It requires public school districts and charter schools, to identify, locate, and evaluate all children with disabilities residing within their jurisdictions who need *special education* and related services.

Special education means specially-designed instruction, at no cost to parents, to meet the unique needs of the child with a disability, including instruction conducted in the classroom, in the home, in hospitals and institutions, and other settings; and instruction in physical education.

Specially-designed instruction means adapting an appropriate educational program to the needs of an eligible child under IDEA that includes the content, methodology or delivery of instruction:

- To address the unique needs of the child that result from the child's disability; and



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- To ensure access of the child to general curriculum, so that the child can meet the educational standards within the jurisdiction of the school district that apply to all students.

Related services means transportation, and such developmental, corrective, and other supportive services as may be required to assist the child with a disability to benefit from special education.

Child with disability means a child who was evaluated according to the evaluation frameworks and determined by an Admission, Review and Dismissal (ARD) Committee to have an intellectual disability, a speech or language impairment, a visual impairment, a serious emotional disturbance, an orthopedic impairment, autism, traumatic brain injury, or other health impairment, a specific learning disability, deaf, blindness, multiple disabilities, or who is deaf and hard of hearing, and who by reason thereof, needs special education and related services.

In addition to children enrolled in the public schools, the Child Find duty extends to:

- Children with disabilities who are homeless or are wards of the state; and
- Children with disabilities who are attending private schools.

The school district in which the private school is located must comply with the Child Find for Children with disabilities parentally-placed in private schools' requirements. The school district must comply with the state's policies and procedures designed to prevent the inappropriate overidentification or disproportionate representation by race and ethnicity of children as children with disabilities, including children with disabilities with a particular impairment.

Prior to referral for possible special education services, the student should be considered for all support services available to all students such as:

- Tutorial;
- Compensatory;
- Response to evidence-based intervention; and
- Other academic or behavior support services.

Intervention strategy means a strategy in a multi-tiered system of supports that is above the level of intervention generally used in that system with all children. The term includes response to intervention and other early intervening strategies.