

# FREE APPROPRIATE PUBLIC EDUCATION COMPOSITE

Fabens ISD 071903

Template update October 2024

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## PROCEDURES:

### What is Required

After completion of student's FIE, the ARD Committee must determine whether the student has a disability and, by reason of the disability, the student needs special education and related services. If it is determined, through an appropriate evaluation, that the student has one of the disabilities, but only needs a related service and not special education, the student is not a student with a disability under the IDEA.

The ARD Committee must draw upon information from a variety of sources, including aptitude and achievement tests, parent input, and teacher recommendations, as well as information about the student's physical condition, social or cultural background, and adaptive behavior. The committee must also ensure that information obtained from all of these sources is documented and carefully considered.

The ARD Committee must not determine a student is a student with a disability if the determinant factor for the Committee's determination is:

- Lack of appropriate instruction in reading, including the essential components of reading instruction as defined in the Elementary and Secondary Education Act which means explicit and systematic instruction in:
  - Phonemic awareness;
  - Phonics;
  - Vocabulary development;
  - Reading fluency, including oral reading skills; and
  - Reading comprehension strategies;

- Lack of appropriate instruction in math; or
- Emergent bilingual.

District Assessment Personnel must provide a copy of the evaluation report to the student's parent, and Campus Special Education Personnel must provide documentation of determination of eligibility to student's parent.

### Definitions

A "child/student with a disability" means a child evaluated in accordance with the IDEA as having a/an:

- intellectual disability
- Hearing impairment (including deafness);
- Speech or language impairment;
- Visual impairment (including blindness);
- Serious emotional disturbance;
- Orthopedic impairment;
- Autism;
- Traumatic brain injury;
- Other health impairment;
- Specific learning disability;
- Deaf-blindness; or
- Multiple disabilities; and

by reason thereof, needs special education and related services.

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

"Specially designed instruction" means instruction adapted, as appropriate, to the needs of the eligible student under the IDEA, which may include the content, methodology or delivery of instruction; addressing the unique needs of the student that result from the student's disability; and ensuring access of the student to the general curriculum so that the student can meet the educational standards with the jurisdiction of the District that apply to all students.

"Related services" means a wide array of developmental, corrective, and other supportive services that are required to assist the student to benefit from special education. Related services do not include a medical device that is surgically implanted, the optimization of that device's functioning (mapping), maintenance of that device, or the replacement of that device. Special education and related services are based on peer-reviewed research to the extent practicable. This means there is reliable evidence to demonstrate that the program or services are effective in meeting the needs of the student. Peer-reviewed research ensures that the quality of the research meets the established standard of the field. Peer-reviewed research may apply to academic, as well as nonacademic areas, such as behavioral interventions. Related services include, but are not limited to assistive technology, audiology services, counseling services, interpreting services, medical services, music therapy, occupational therapy, orientation and mobility services, parent counseling and training, physical therapy, psychological services, recreation, rehabilitation counseling

services, school health services, social work services in school, speech-language therapy, and transportation.

### **Additional Procedures**

District or Campus Assessment Personnel—which includes, but is not limited to, a licensed specialist in school psychology, an educational diagnostician or other appropriately certified or licensed practitioner with experience and training in the area of the disability, or a licensed or certified professional for a specific eligibility category or related service—is responsible for collecting and reviewing data in connection with the determination of the student’s eligibility. However, determination of eligibility itself is made by the student’s ARD Committee, including the parent and the qualified Assessment Personnel.

District or Campus Assessment Personnel will ensure a copy of the evaluation report is provided to the parent and the other members of the ARD Committee within a reasonable time before the ARD Committee meeting (at least one week before the ARD, if possible) so that all members can review, question, and fully understand the information provided. For an initial evaluation or when a reevaluation indicates a possible additional eligibility, the District or Campus Assessment Personnel will review the results of the evaluation prior to the ARD meeting.

The ARD Committee must convene within the required timeframes under the law to determine eligibility. Typically, this must occur within 30 calendar days from the date of the completion of the written initial FIE report. However, the ARD Committee may wait to finalize eligibility decisions until the first day of classes in the fall if the 30th day falls during the summer when school is not in session, unless the initial evaluation indicates that the student will require Extended School Year services during that summer.

The parent shall be provided a copy of the evaluation report prior to the ARD meeting to determine eligibility for special education and related services. District or Campus Assessment Personnel shall make reasonable efforts to review the evaluation report with the parent and answer any questions prior to the ARD meeting.

Determining eligibility under the IDEA is a two-part analysis. A student is eligible if (1) the student has one or more of the disabilities identified by the IDEA and (2) needs special education and related services. Thus, the ARD Committee must determine not only that a student has one or more of the disabilities identified in the IDEA, but must also find that the student’s condition adversely affects educational performance to such an extent that the student needs special education and related services (as defined above). If a student has a disability, but the disability does not result in a need for special education services, the student is not considered a child/student with a disability eligible for services under the IDEA. While the need for special education and related services should be determined by the ARD Committee on an individualized basis, in most cases where a student is being educated in the regular classroom with only minor accommodations and is making educational progress (i.e. passing marks, advancement from grade to grade, minimal behavior issues, success on standardized tests, etc.), the student does not “need” special education and related services within the meaning of the law. Determination of eligibility will not be based on a single criterion.

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In determining if the student has a disability and the educational needs of the student, the ARD Committee must document and carefully consider information from a variety of sources including:

- The strengths of the student;
- The concerns of the parent for enhancing the education of the student;
- The results of the initial evaluation or most recent evaluation of the student; and
- The academic, developmental, and functional needs of the student.

If the student does not meet the eligibility criteria under the IDEA or does not need special education or related services due to his/her disability, Campus Personnel should discuss referral the student to the Campus or District Personnel responsible for compliance with Section 504 to determine whether the student is eligible for accommodations or services as a student with a disability under Section 504.

Likewise, not all struggling students have a disability. In these situations, the MTSS Team may meet and recommend other general education services or programs in an effort to help the student. The MTSS Team may also recommend additional interventions available to non-disabled students. Finally, the student's progress should be monitored to ensure that, in the future, the student does not need special education services.

District and Campus Special Education Personnel will receive training on the process of determining eligibility, as needed. District or Campus Personnel, including but not limited to special education teachers, general education teachers, and services providers, shall contact District or Campus Assessment Personnel with questions about the recommendations for a student regarding the determined disability condition(s) and the need for special education and related services in the FIE.

The District will maintain documentation requirements of compliance associated with Texas Student Data System (TSDS), Public Education Information Management System (PEIMS), and State Performance Plan (SPP). District staff will provide training, with follow up, to ensure the documentation required is in place and compliant.

### Evidence of Implementation

- Intervention History Documentation
- Section 504 Documentation
- Referral Documentation
- Teacher Information
- Parent Information
- Minutes from Review of FIE with Parent/Staff
- FIE
- ARD/IEP
- Progress Documentation
- Documentation for the state in TSDS, PEIMS, and SPP

## PRESENT LEVELS

### What is Required

A student's IEP should be based on a careful analysis of the student's present levels of academic achievement and functional performance (PLAAFP).

The PLAAFP must include how the student's disability affects the student's involvement and progress in the general education curriculum; or, for a preschool student, how the disability affects the preschool student's participation in appropriate activities.

The PLAAFP for the school-aged student summarizes the current strengths and needs of the student in both academic and functional performance areas. It must include how the student's disability affects the student's involvement and progress in the general education curriculum, regardless of the setting in which the student currently receives services. Additionally, it may describe the current instructional level of the student compared to the grade level Texas Essential Knowledge and Skills, and, if the student is below grade level, the PLAAFP also may describe the prerequisite skills the student needs in order to achieve grade-level proficiency.

PLAAFP for the preschool student summarizes the current levels of present performance related to the student's developmental domains, functional performance, and pre-academic skills. It must include how the student's disability affects the student's participation in appropriate activities. Additionally, it may describe the student's current developmental levels compared to the Texas Prekindergarten Guidelines or District-adopted prekindergarten curriculum.

### Additional Procedures

The PLAAFP data is the critical baseline and foundation for developing an IEP. When considering PLAAFP data, the ARD Committee should include within the PLAAFP statement the student's strengths, weaknesses, and needs in each assessed academic and functional area. From there, the PLAAFP statement should specifically address: 1) how the student's disability impacts the student's appropriate progress in light of the student's unique circumstances, including the student's access to the general education curriculum; or 2) how the disability impacts the preschool student's participation in appropriate activities. If the ARD documentation contains both current PLAAFP data as well as historical PLAAFP information, the date of the PLAAFP data should be clearly identified.

It is critical that the PLAAFP statements are clear and detailed to help the ARD Committee develop a meaningful IEP. For example, if a student's academic performance shows a weakness in math, it is not sufficient for the PLAAFP to simply state that the student is struggling in math. Instead, the PLAAFP description should, for example, specify the student's math grade, the math teacher's input, the student's state assessment score in math, and progress data if the student has a math IEP annual goal. The more detailed the PLAAFP data is, the better the ARD Committee can gauge the student's current performance level. The PLAAFP must not be a recitation of the information in the PLAAFP from the previous IEP and must not simply repeat the same information in each section within the PLAAFP.

The ARD Committee should then use the PLAAFP data to create the student's annual goals, supplementary aids and services, special education, and related services.

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The ARD Committee should ensure that the IEP represents a clear correlation between the student's PLAAFP data and the IEP annual goals. For example, if the PLAAFP demonstrates that a student's education is impacted by not following directions, then the student may have an annual goal related to complying with directions given by staff. Additionally, the student may have counseling as a related service to help achieve the goal of better classroom compliance.

Campus Special Education Personnel, such as the student's case manager, should gather all of the relevant data in advance of the ARD meeting to help the ARD Committee develop the student's PLAAFP in the IEP. The underlying sources to be used when considering PLAAFP data may include:

- Evaluation Reports
- Grades
- Student Work Samples
- State Assessment Data
- Benchmark Testing
- Teacher Input
- Student/Parent Input
- Classroom Observations
- Progress Reports for IEP Annual Goals
- Outside Provider Information

Once this information is collected, the ARD Committee should convene to develop the PLAAFP as described above. It is important that the Campus Special Education Administrator in an ARD meeting understand the legal importance of the PLAAFP and be able to identify whether the PLAAFP adequately addresses the strengths and needs of the students based on current data, including the FIE. Where possible, the Campus Special Education Administrator shall review the draft of the IEP prior to the ARD meeting to ensure the PLAAFP includes all relevant and current information regarding the student's present levels of academic achievement and functional performance, as well as how the disability impacts the student's access and progress in the general curriculum.

The District will maintain documentation requirements of compliance associated with Texas Student Data System (TSDS), Public Education Information Management System (PEIMS), and State Performance Plan (SPP). District staff will provide training, with follow up, to ensure the documentation required is in place and compliant.

### Evidence of Implementation

- FIE
- ARD/IEP
- Progress Reports on the IEP Annual Goals
- Report Card Grades
- Teacher and Campus Special Education Administrator Input
- Student/Parent Input
- Student Work Samples
- State Assessment Results
- Benchmark Testing

- Input from Related Service Providers
- Documentation for the state in TSDS, PEIMS, and SPP

## ANNUAL GOALS

### What is Required

The ARD Committee must develop specific, measurable academic and functional goals in a student's IEP each academic year. A student's annual goals must be designed to meet the student's needs that result from the student's disability to enable the student to be involved in and to make progress in the general education curriculum and meet each of the student's other educational needs that result from the student's disability. Annual goals describe what a student with a disability can reasonably be expected to accomplish in the special education program within a twelve-month period. It is a skill and/or knowledge that can be measured and mastered based on given criteria.

The IEP must include a description of (1) how the student's progress towards the annual goals will be measured and (2) when periodic reporting on progress towards annual goals—e.g., through quarterly or periodic IEP progress reports issued along with report cards—will be provided.

For students with disabilities who take alternate achievement tests aligned to alternate achievement standards, the ARD Committee must include in the student's IEP a description of short-term objectives or benchmarks. Short-term objectives are developed based on the major components of the student's annual goals and serve as milestones for measuring progress toward meeting those goals. Like annual goals, short-term objectives must also be specific and measurable.

### Definitions

“Present Levels / Present Levels of Academic Achievement and Functional Performance (PLAAFP)” for the school-aged student summarizes the current strengths and needs of the student in both academic and functional performance areas. It must include how the student's disability affects the student's involvement and progress in the general education curriculum, regardless of the setting in which the student currently receives services. Additionally, it may describe the current instructional level of the student compared to the grade level Texas Essential Knowledge and Skills, and, if the student is below grade level, the PLAAFP also may describe the prerequisite skills the student needs in order to achieve grade-level proficiency. PLAAFP for the preschool student summarizes the current levels of present performance related to the student's developmental domains, functional performance, and pre-academic skills. It must include how the student's disability affects the student's participation in appropriate activities. Additionally, it may describe the student's current developmental levels compared to the Texas Prekindergarten Guidelines or district-adopted prekindergarten curriculum.

Campus Special Education Personnel will consult with the student's general education teacher(s), where applicable, when developing a draft of the annual goals. Where feasible, Campus Special Education Personnel should send the parent a draft of the annual goals prior to the ARD meeting. The ARD Committee, including the parent, will provide input regarding the annual goals at the ARD meeting, and the annual goals will not be finalized or implemented until mutual agreement is reached.

The annual goals should be based on the student's present levels of academic achievement and functional performance ("PLAAFP") and tailored to meet the student's educational needs that result from the student's disability. As such, Campus Special Education Personnel will assess the student prior to developing annual goals when preparing for annual ARD meetings. The goals should be realistic, attainable, and reasonably calculated to enable a student to make appropriate progress in light of the student's unique circumstances. The criterion should specify the amount of growth expected to meet the annual goal and be based on how the progress will be measured—not necessarily the score required for passing the course or assignment. Restating attainment of a grade level standard should not be a student's annual goal, as attainment of a grade level standard is a goal for every general education student. Additionally, a goal should be something that can be reasonably attained within one year. When developing annual goals, Campus Personnel should include the following components within the annual goals:

- **Timeframe:** Identifies the amount of time, usually specified in interval periods, for the goal to be completed;
- **Conditions:** Describes the specific resources that must be used for a student to reach the goal. The condition of the goal should relate to the behavior being measured;
- **Behavior:** Represents an action the student must take to achieve the goal that can be directly observed, measured, and monitored;
- **Criterion:** Identifies the frequency or to what standard the behavior must occur to demonstrate that the goal has been met; and
- **Unit of Measure:** A means for evaluating the goals and objectives

For example, the following is an example of a poorly written Annual Goal: *Student will learn to count money.* Instead, an appropriate goal would look something like the following: *By the end of 36 instructional weeks, given a collection of pennies, nickels, and dimes, Student will determine the value of the coins with 100% accuracy on 8 out of 10 trials as measured by classroom observation and teacher-made assessments*

Although short-term objectives or benchmarks are only required for students who take alternate tests, it is recommended that all special education students have short-term objectives within their IEP to gauge a student's progress. Benchmarks/short-term objectives should include intermediate steps that serve to gauge student progress or lack of progress toward mastery of the annual goal. The short-term objectives or benchmarks should also include a timeframe, conditions, behavior, criterion, and unit. Mastering benchmarks/short-term objectives does not necessarily mean that the student has mastered an annual goal. Thus, an annual goal should not simply state that the student will master the benchmarks/short-term objectives.

It is imperative that goals and objectives/benchmarks are measurable and that the teacher/service providers who are required to track progress understand how the goal will be measured and what data will

be collected to show whether the student is progressing on the goals. Although the IDEA does not specify how often progress data of a student's IEP goals should be monitored, such data should be considered at least every grading period or more often as needed.

Each IEP goal should correspond to specially designed instruction or related services that a student needs based on the student's unique academic or functional needs. For example, if a student's PLAAFP data shows that the student's pragmatic speech is impacting his or her education, a student may have a speech goal related to improving pragmatic speech, as well as direct speech therapy related services to help the student master the goal. Thus, goals should only be drafted after examining the student's PLAAFP. The ARD Committee will then determine what specially designed instruction or special education services the student requires, as well as the frequency, duration, and location of these services, to meet the annual goals.

The ARD Committee has discretion over the areas in which a student requires measurable annual goals. However, the ARD Committee will implement an annual goal in any area where content is modified, specifically addressing how the content is modified. Additionally, the ARD Committee will include an annual goal for each subject where the student is removed from the general education setting, even if the content is not modified during that period.

The ARD Committee must include in the student's IEP how the student is progressing towards meeting the annual goals and the reporting intervals for the ARD Committee to assess the student's progress on the goals (e.g., quarterly or concurrent with report card grades).

Campus Special Education Personnel, such as the student's case manager, and/or general education teacher for a student who is mainstreamed, should be tasked with collecting student data to create progress reports to be sent to the student's parent. The progress data should be as specific as possible and based on data from the student's current teachers and related service providers who are tasked with monitoring the student's goals. Although the IDEA does not require the District to provide parents with short-term/benchmark progress data, it is best practice to provide this data to parents to ensure they are apprised of their student's progress.

If the progress data reveals that a student has mastered an annual goal, the ARD Committee should convene and determine whether to remove the goal from the student's IEP or modify the goal to target a more difficult concept that directly or sequentially relates to the original goal. If input from teachers reflect that a particular annual goal is no longer appropriate or if the student is not making expected progress on the goal, the ARD Committee should convene to determine if changes to the goals are indicated.

At least once annually, Campus and District Special Education Personnel will receive training on standards-based IEPs.

The District will maintain documentation requirements of compliance associated with Texas Student Data System (TSDS), Public Education Information Management System (PEIMS), and State Performance Plan (SPP). District staff will provide training, with follow up, to ensure the documentation required is in place and compliant.

**Evidence of Procedure**

- FIE
- IEP
- Documentation of Collaboration Between Campus Personnel in Drafting Goals
- Progress Reports on Annual Goals
- Consistent Progress Documentation
- Progress Monitoring Documentation
- Report Card Grades
- State Assessment Results
- Teacher Input
- Student/Parent Input
- Documentation for the state in TSDS, PEIMS, and SPP

**SPECIAL FACTORS**

State and federal law require consideration of special factors for students with the following special education eligibilities or needs/supports:

- Students with Behavioral Needs;
- Emergent Bilingual Students;
- Blind or Visually Impaired Students;
- Students with Communication Needs
- Deaf or Hard of Hearing Students;
- Assistive Technology; and
- Students with Autism Spectrum Disorder.

***STUDENTS WITH BEHAVIORAL NEEDS*****What is Required**

If a special education student's behavior is impeding the student's learning or that of others, the ARD Committee must consider the use of positive behavioral interventions and supports and other behavior strategies to address the behavior. If appropriate, the ARD Committee will develop a Behavior Intervention Plan or a Behavior Improvement Plan ("BIP") to be included in the student's IEP. A BIP is a written plan developed as part of the IEP to address behavioral concerns affecting the student's educational progress. A BIP is based on a functional behavioral assessment ("FBA") of the problem behaviors, identifies events that predict these behaviors, and includes positive interventions to change behaviors and methods of evaluation. If the ARD Committee develops a BIP, a copy of the BIP will be provided to each of the student's teachers. The purpose of a BIP is to redirect the student's targeted behaviors to ensure the student can make appropriate progress in light of the student's unique circumstances.

An ARD Committee may also consider time-out as part of the student's IEP and/or BIP. If a student requires any type of time-out, the District must comply with state requirements and documentation. The ARD Committee is required to address any necessary documentation or data collection and use any

collected data to judge the effectiveness of time-out as an intervention and provide a basis for making determinations regarding its continued use curriculum modifications, behavior goals and objectives, and/or a BIP.

If the ARD Committee determines that a BIP is appropriate for the student, Campus or District Special Education Personnel, such as a teacher or a LSSP, may conduct an FBA for the student. An FBA is generally understood to be an individualized evaluation of a student to assist in determining eligibility and/or the nature and extent of the special education and related services that the student needs, including the need for a BIP. As such, in most cases, parental consent is required for an FBA.

An FBA is a process for collecting data to determine the possible cause of problem behaviors and to identify strategies to address the behaviors. Although an FBA is only *required* in the context of disciplining a student with a disability, an FBA may be conducted whenever an ARD Committee is considering a BIP for a student, and sometimes more often when the student's behavior has changed, or interventions and strategies in the current BIP are no longer effective. Additionally, when considering positive behavior support strategies for a student with autism, the ARD Committee should consider a BIP developed from an FBA that uses current data related to target behaviors and addresses behavioral programming across environments.

The scope and nature of the FBA will depend on the nature and severity of the student's behaviors. The District or Campus Assessment Personnel will observe the student in various school settings and collect input from staff and members of the ARD Committee, including the parent. The District or Campus Assessment Personnel will consider the data, including interviews conducted with the student and/or parents that provides information about how the student's environment contributes to positive and problem behaviors, including the antecedents to the behavior. This information will be used to develop a hypothesis about why problem behaviors occur (the function of the behaviors) and will identify replacement behaviors that can be taught and that serve the same purpose for the student.

The FBA will provide the ARD Committee with information regarding the function of the student's behavior, factors that may trigger certain behavior, and interventions identified to decrease negative behaviors and increase appropriate behaviors. This information will be reviewed by the ARD Committee when developing a BIP and or behavior goals or accommodations for the student.

The BIP should include positive strategies and supports to help target the student's behaviors. The BIP should also include reinforcements and consequences to enable the student to reflect on the exhibited targeted behaviors.

The BIP must be provided to every teacher who is educating the student, as well as other staff members assisting the student, such as a paraprofessionals or related service providers who are working with the student. The ARD Committee should determine the best way to monitor the student's progress and BIP implementation. The ARD Committee should also establish how often staff should document behaviors. For example, a campus can use a "BIP tracking sheet" for teachers to document, on a weekly basis, observed targeted behaviors and the interventions the teacher attempted, per the student's BIP. Use of a BIP tracking sheet is one way to monitor whether the BIP is effective. The ARD Committee should

ensure that teachers are aware of how to track BIP implementation and how frequent such information should be tracked.

If a student who is identified as a student with a disability under the IDEA violates the District's Student Code of Conduct, Campus Personnel must ensure that the student's BIP is followed when applying consequences from the Student Code of Conduct.

If a student who has a BIP is not making progress on the student's behavior goals, or if either the rate or severity of behaviors targeted in the BIP increase, the ARD Committee should convene and discuss whether modifications to the BIP are indicated.

At least once annually and following the development of and/or revision of a student's BIP, all Campus and District Personnel who work with a student with disabilities requiring behavioral interventions and supports shall be trained on the positive behavioral interventions and supports required by the student's IEP, including how to implement and document the implementation of the interventions and supports. Additionally, at least once annually, all Campus and District Personnel shall be trained on the use of restraint or time-out, how to complete necessary documentation or data collection, and how to determine the effectiveness of the use of these interventions. This training is separate and apart from the Crisis Prevention Institute ("CPI") training that various Campus and District Personnel may receive.

#### Evidence of Implementation

- Student Discipline Records
- Teacher Documentation of Behaviors
- Parent Information of Home Behaviors
- BIP
- ARD/IEP
- BIP Tracking Sheet
- FBA
- FIE

#### ***EMERGENT BILINGUAL STUDENTS***

For a student identified as a student with a disability who is emergent bilingual, the ARD Committee must consider the language needs of the student as such needs relate to the student's IEP. An Emergent Bilingual student ("EB") (formerly referred to as an English Learner ("EL"), English Language Learner ("ELL") or student with Limited English Proficiency ("LEP")) is a student who is in the process of acquiring English, and another language is their primary language. The ARD Committee, in conjunction with the language proficiency assessment committee ("LPAC"), must identify a student as Emergent Bilingual if the student is emergent bilingual or if the student has a significant cognitive disability such that the English language proficiency assessment cannot be administered. The ARD Committee should consider the extent of the student's language needs related to the student's IEP.

For students who are Emergent Bilingual and are eligible for special education, the ARD Committee and the LPAC must create assessment procedures to distinguish between language proficiency and disabling

conditions. The decision for entry into a bilingual education or ESL program must be determined by the ARD Committee in conjunction with the LPAC.

The ARD Committee, in conjunction with the LPAC, must also comply with the State and Districtwide Assessment procedures, including selecting the appropriate assessments, documenting the decisions and justifications in the student's IEP, and determining and documenting any allowable testing accommodations..

The ARD Committee must include a member of the LPAC if a student is identified as Emergent Bilingual.

The District must follow the standardized process for Emergent Bilingual program reclassification for Emergent Bilingual students who are also eligible for special education services. The ARD Committee in conjunction with the LPAC must meet annually at the end of the year to review progress and determine if an Emergent Bilingual student is eligible to be reclassified or exit an Emergent Bilingual program and be classified as English proficient. A student is deemed English proficient if the student can participate equally in a general education, all-English instructional program.

When determining whether a student can be reclassified or exit an Emergent Bilingual program, the following factors will be considered:

- A proficiency rating on the state-approved English language proficiency test for reclassification or exit that is designated for indicating English proficiency in each of the four language domains (listening, speaking, reading, and writing);
- Passing standard met on the reading assessment or for students at grade levels not assessed by the reading assessment, a score of the 40th percentile or above on both the English reading and the English language arts test of the state- approved norm-referenced standardized achievement instrument; and
- Results from a teacher evaluation using the state's standardized rubric.

A student may not be reclassified or exited from bilingual education or ESL program in prekindergarten or kindergarten. Additionally, a student may not be reclassified or exited from the bilingual education or ESL program if the LPAC recommends designated supports or accommodations on the state reading assessment instrument.

For an Emergent Bilingual student with significant cognitive disabilities, the LPAC, in conjunction with the ARD Committee, may determine that the state's English language proficiency assessment for reclassification is not appropriate because of the nature of the Emergent Bilingual student's disability. In these situations, the LPAC, in conjunction with the ARD Committee, may recommend an appropriate performance standard requirement for the Emergent Bilingual student to be reclassified or exit a program.

### **Additional Procedures**

For students who are receiving special education services and identified as Emergent Bilingual, the ARD Committee and the LPAC must work in collaboration. Joint meeting will occur between key members of both committees to review the following considerations:

- Entry and Reclassification/exit criteria for ESL or bilingual services
- Appropriate listening, speaking, reading, and writing assessments;

- Appropriate student performance standards to verify that second language acquisition support in English is needed or not needed;
- Review progress; and
- Determine linguistic needs such as language instruction.

The meetings may be informal discussions among members. However, the final recommendations are brought to the ARD Committee with LPAC representation at the ARD Committee Meeting. The two committees, in meeting to collaborate in the best interest of the student, should consider information regarding cognitive and linguistic abilities, affective needs, data from progress monitoring, assessment data from both special education and ESL/bilingual programming, and confidentiality of student information regarding the presence of any person not employed by the District.

Prior to an ARD meeting regarding an Emergent Bilingual student's assessments, a Campus Special Education Professional, such as the student's case manager, should gather necessary data for the committees to make a data-based decision regarding the assessments and educational programs the Emergent Bilingual student will take.

The Campus Special Education Professional should start gathering necessary data several weeks before the end of the academic year for the committee to review to determine whether the Emergent Bilingual student may be reclassified or exit an Emergent Bilingual program.

At least once annually, training shall be provided to Campus and District Special Education Administration and Personnel regarding collaboration between the ARD Committee and the LPAC on topics such as the language needs of the student, entry into a bilingual education or ESL program, participation in the English language proficiency assessment, the process for exiting an Emergent Bilingual student from an Emergent Bilingual program, and participation in the state's alternate English language proficiency assessment.

#### Evidence of Implementation

- Referral for Special Education
- FIE
- ARD/ IEP
- EL Assessment
- LPAC Team Documents
- Training for LPAC Members
- ARD Attendance by LPAC Member
- Student's Academic Progress Consideration
- Documentation of Reclassification Consideration

#### ***BLIND OR VISUALLY IMPAIRED STUDENTS***

##### What is Required

In the development of the IEP for a VI student, proficiency in reading and writing is a significant indicator of the student's satisfactory educational progress. A student who is blind or visually impaired

must be evaluated to determine the student's reading and writing skills, needs, and appropriate reading and writing media. The evaluation must be administered by a teacher certified to teach students with visual impairments and should be based on an appropriate literacy media and skills for the student's current and future instructional needs. *See* [VISUAL IMPAIRMENT].

#### Braille

When considering a VI student's needs, District Assessment Personnel must determine the student's current and potential need for instruction in braille or the use of braille. A VI student's IEP must include instruction in braille and the use of braille unless the ARD Committee determines and documents that braille is not an appropriate literacy medium for the student. The ARD Committee's decision must be based on the evaluation of the student's appropriate literacy media and literacy skills and the student's current and future instructional needs. Each person developing the IEP must be given information on the benefits of braille instruction. If the ARD Committee determines that braille instruction is appropriate for a student, such instruction may be used in combination with other appropriate special education services, but the braille instruction must be provided by a teacher certified to teach children with visual impairments.

#### Expanded Core Curriculum

Before placing a student with a visual impairment in a classroom setting, or within a reasonable time period after placement, the Campus Special Education Personnel must provide an evaluation of the impairment and instruction in an expanded core curriculum, which is required for the student to succeed in classroom settings and derive lasting, practical benefits from education. Instruction in an expanded core curriculum must include instruction in:

- Compensatory skills, such as braille and concept development, and other skills needed to access the rest of the curriculum;
- Orientation and mobility;
- Social interaction skills;
- Career planning;
- Assistive technology, including optical devices;
- Independent living skills;
- Recreation and leisure employment;
- Self-determination; and
- Sensory efficiency.

In developing an IEP for a VI student, the ARD Committee must include in the IEP:

- A detailed description of the arrangements made to provide the student with an evaluation of the impairment and instruction in the expanded core curriculum;
- Plans and arrangements made for contacts with and continuing services to the student beyond regular school hours to ensure the student learns the skills and receives the instruction in the expanded core curriculum; and
- a statement reflecting that the student has received an explanation of the various community and state resources.

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The Texas School for the Blind and Visually Impaired (the “School for the Blind”) is a state agency established to serve as a special school in the continuum of statewide alternative placements for students who are 21 years of age or younger and who have a visual impairment. The School for the Blind is intended to serve students who require specialized or intensive educational or related services related to the visual impairment. The School for the Blind is not intended to serve students whose needs are appropriately addressed in a home or hospital setting or in a residential treatment facility, or students whose primary, ongoing needs are related to a severe or profound emotional, behavioral, or cognitive deficit.

The ARD Committee for a VI student may determine that the appropriate placement for the student is the Texas School for the Blind. If the ARD Committee places a VI student in the Texas School for the Blind, the District must ensure that it provides the student with FAPE and that all legally required ARD meetings are conducted to develop and review the student’s IEP.

The District must provide each parent of a VI student with the state-adopted form that contains written information about programs offered by state institutions, including the Texas School for the Blind.

### Additional Procedures

VI Students have unique learning needs that must be addressed if they are going to access the regular core curriculum and become independent, productive citizens to the greatest extent possible. The District provides educational services for students ages 0- 21 who meet eligibility criteria for VI. Eligible infants (ages 0-2 years) are served in their home by the District in conjunction with the local Early Childhood Intervention (ECI) Program. At age 3, eligible students are transitioned to the District to receive services through special education, as determined by the student’s ARD Committee. Each Campus Administrator should ensure that appropriately trained personnel for the blind or visually impaired attend the student’s ARD meeting.

The ARD Committee will develop an IEP for the student based on the requirements described above, including the use of braille. Service delivery options may include indirect/consultation, direct services, community-based activities, or a combination of these options. IEP goals and objectives addressed by VI and Certified Orientation and Mobility Specialists (“COMS”) Service Providers may be integrated with classroom teacher’s goals and objectives. Services may include pre-braille instruction, braille instruction, visual efficiency training, instruction in the use of technology for the visually impaired, and the provision of large print or braille textbooks, assignments, or tests. Modifications and accommodations necessary for the VI student to access the educational curriculum, appropriate goals and objectives, progress monitoring, and transition services will be addressed through consultation with the VI and/or COMS Service Providers and regular education staff.

Campus Special Education Personnel should document on the VI Supplement/Section of the IEP the following:

- Whether the student is functionally blind based on the functional vision evaluation and learning media assessment;
- Whether the ARD Committee has received information on the benefits of braille;
- The need for braille and the student’s strengths and weaknesses in braille reading and writing;

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- Appropriate learning and literacy media information;
- Whether the student has been provided a detailed explanation of the various community and state resources;
- Whether the parent has been provided information about the Texas School for the Blind and Visually Impaired and other programs offered by Texas institutions;
- Plans and arrangement for contacts with and continuing services to student beyond the regular school hours;
- All areas of the expanded core curriculum instruction; and
- Appropriate special media and special tools, appliances, aids, or devices commonly used by VI student (i.e., braille textbooks, braille writer, braille paper, sensory learning kit, low vision devices, canes, etc.).

Instruction for VI students should reflect the assessed needs of each student in all areas of expanded core curriculum. Assessments in all of these areas that determine each student's strengths and weaknesses can be used to assist the ARD Committee to build a program that truly addresses life-long competencies. Not all areas will have equal urgency each year, but to make informed decisions on where to focus, it is essential to measure progress and functioning across all areas. The ARD Committee should prioritize needs in order to develop an appropriate and comprehensive educational program for students with visual impairments.

A student's need for vision services may vary over time. A student's needs may differ in intensity and focus during the student's school years. These fluctuations will be reflected in the IEP and should be fluid and flexible, based on immediate educational needs at any time during the student's educational process. Consideration for services may be especially necessary during periods of transition between schools or into community activities. Other considerations are when there are significant changes to the IEP and/or vocational considerations.

Campus-based members of the ARD Committee should stay apprised of the various resources in Texas that offer consultation and support to staff and/or family for special education students who are blind or visually impaired. Parents of VI students should be provided information about the Texas School for the Blind annually.

At least once annually, training shall be provided to Campus and District Personnel, including Campus and District Special Education Administration, special education teachers, general education teachers, and related service providers, who work with students who are blind or visually impaired on proficiency in reading and writing, appropriate literacy media and literacy skills, benefits of Braille instruction, and instruction in an expanded core curriculum.

### Evidence of Implementation

- Referral for Special Education
- Notice of Procedural Safeguards
- FIE
- ARD/IEP
- VI Supplement/Section of IEP

- Teacher/Provider Certification
- ARD Attendance Sheet
- Documentation of Training
- Texas School for the Blind Information and Parent Receipt

## ***COMMUNICATION***

### What is Required

The ARD Committee must consider the communication needs of the child.

### Additional Procedures

Regardless of a student's disability, the ARD Committee must consider a student's communication needs. In determining the student's communication needs, the ARD Committee shall discuss the student's communicative demands and opportunities for communication and determine whether the student has the skills and strategies necessary to meet those demands. Additionally, the ARD Committee shall determine whether the student has adequate opportunities for communication and if the student can appropriately communicate in different settings. Finally, the ARD Committee shall discuss whether the student communicates effectively and, if not, discuss and document any reasons for the lack of effective communication in the IEP.

If the ARD Committee determines that the student has communication needs, the IEP must reflect those needs. The student's communication needs shall be documented in the Present Levels of Academic Achievement and Functional Performance ("PLAAFP"), the statement of annual goals, the provision of special education and related services, accommodations, and supplementary aids and services, including assistive technology.

At least once annually, training shall be provided to Campus and District Personnel, including Campus and District Special Education Administration, special education teachers, general education teachers, and related service providers, who work with students with communication needs to address how to determine the communication needs of a student and the appropriate supports and services to provide to a student with communication needs.

### Evidence of Implementation

- Referral for Special Education
- Notice of Procedural Safeguards
- FIE
- ARD/IEP
- Communication Needs Documentation
- ARD Attendance Sheet
- Documentation of Training

## ***DEAF OR HARD OF HEARING STUDENTS***

## What is Required

The ARD Committee must consider the unique communication needs for students who are eligible for special education as a result of being deaf or hard of hearing and ensure that each student's communication mode is respected, used, and developed to an appropriate level of proficiency. When developing an IEP for a student eligible for special education due to being deaf or hard of hearing, the ARD Committee must consider the following:

- The student's language and communication needs;
- The student's opportunities for direct communications with peers and professional personnel in the student's language and communication mode;
- The student's academic level, considering factors such as the student's grades, benchmark testing, and state assessments; and
- The student's full range of needs, including opportunities for direct instruction in the student's language and communication mode.

The District must provide each parent with the state-adopted form that contains written information about programs offered by state institutions for deaf or hard-of-hearing students.

At least once annually, training shall be provided to Campus and District Personnel, including Campus and District Special Education Administration, special education teachers, general education teachers, and related service providers, who work with students who are deaf or hard of hearing on topics such as language and communication needs, opportunities for direct communication with peers and professional personnel, and opportunities for direct instruction in the child's language and communication mode.

## Additional Procedures

The District provides educational services for students ages 0-21 who meet eligibility criteria for AI. Eligible infants (ages 0-2 years) are served in their home by the District in conjunction with the local Early Childhood Intervention (ECI) Program. At age 3, eligible students are transitioned to the District to receive services through special education, as determined by the student's ARD Committee. *See [AGES 0-5].* A Campus Administrator should ensure that appropriately trained personnel for the deaf or hard of hearing attend the student's ARD Committee meeting. The ARD Committee shall consider all the student's needs, academic levels, and supports as described above. Students with AI may receive special education services through a variety of service delivery models. Many students are appropriately served on their home campus with special education services. Other students may need additional instructional support from a teacher of the deaf or hard of hearing, an interpreter, and/or a communication facilitator. For students who need additional Deaf Ed services, the District participates in the El Paso Regional Day School Program for the Deaf (RDSPD). Students receiving direct services via RDSPD may receive services according to a continuum of services based on the unique needs of the student.

The continuum of services for AI students includes some or all of the following:

- Monitor/consult only (indirect services)
- Itinerant/direct services from a certified Teacher of the Deaf

- Site-based direct services in the RDSPD
- In-class support
- External support
- Audiological services
- Interpreting service
- Communication facilitator services
- Audiological management
- Counseling

The instructional program for AI students is designed to meet the individual needs of the student and will include both oral and total communication philosophies.

Campus-based members of the ARD Committee should stay apprised of the various resources in Texas that offer consultation and support to staff and/or families for special education students who are deaf or hard of hearing. At the initial ARD and at each annual ARD, Campus Special Education Personnel will provide the parents of AI students information about the Texas School for the Deaf describing the program offered, eligibility and admissions, and the rights of students. When signing the ARD document, the IEP should reflect that the parent received this information.

#### Evidence of Implementation

- Referral for Special Education
- Notice of Procedural Safeguards
- FIE
- ARD/IEP
- Communication Needs Documentation
- Teacher Certification
- ARD Attendance Sheet
- Documentation of Training
- Parent Receipt of Texas School for the Deaf Information

#### *ASSISTIVE TECHNOLOGY*

##### What is Required

The ARD Committee must determine if a student needs assistive technology devices (ATD) and/or services. The term assistive technology service means any service that directly assists the student with a disability in the selection, acquisition, or use of an ATD, and includes:

- The evaluation of the needs of the student, including a functional evaluation in the student's customary environment;
- Purchasing, leasing, or otherwise providing for the acquisition of ATD's by the student;
- Selecting, designing, fitting, customizing, adapting, applying, maintaining, repairing, or replacing ATD's;

- Coordinating other resources, such as therapies, interventions, or services to be used with the ATDs, such as those in the student's IEP and rehabilitation plans;
- Training or technical assistance for the student or the family, if appropriate, to ensure the student and family understands how to properly use the ATD; and
- Training or technical assistance for all school staff who provide services to or who are substantially involved in the major functions of the student.

Assistive Technology services or an ATD can be provided as a supplementary aide and service and utilized by the classroom teacher. Assistive Technology can also be a related service and implemented by an assistive technology specialist and/or part of a student's goals or objectives in the IEP. Campus staff working with students with disabilities will be informed of the assistive technology services and devices available and who to contact when campus staff have questions about the availability of services and devices and the operations and functions of various ATD's.

The ARD Committee will consider AT needs for every special education student, regardless of the student's eligibility, at least annually, but need not conduct a formal AT evaluation for every student with a disability. It is during this consideration that the ARD Committee is to determine if an AT evaluation is warranted and plan for any necessary AT evaluation. In some cases, members of the ARD Committee will be knowledgeable about the student's functional needs and the range of appropriate AT devices/services to meet those needs. In those cases, the ARD Committee may decide what AT devices/services should be provided for the student without the necessity of a formal AT evaluation. This is particularly true with readily available, low tech AT devices/services. In other situations, the ARD Committee may not have sufficient in-depth knowledge of the student's functional needs, or the members of the ARD Committee may not have the expertise or technical knowledge about what AT devices/services are available to meet the student's needs. In those cases, a formal AT evaluation should be requested by the ARD Committee. In addition, if a student can use an AT device successfully outside of school but struggles to use the same device in the classroom, that may also trigger the need for an AT evaluation. The ARD Committee may seek information from other sources such as an outside expert, a vendor of a device, or other Campus Personnel. If either a parent or Campus Personnel refers a student for an AT evaluation, the ARD Committee will determine whether the evaluation is needed and, if so, the scope of the evaluation. Should the ARD Committee seek a formal AT evaluation, all IDEA requirements regarding evaluations, such as notice and parent consent, apply.

If an ARD Committee determines that an AT evaluation is warranted prior to selecting an ATD, Campus Special Education Personnel responsible for setting up the ARD Committee will invite an AT representative to an ARD meeting to discuss the AT evaluation results and the functions of the recommended device for the student. Alternatively, the Special Education Assessment Personnel should consult with the AT representative to obtain relevant information to share with the ARD Committee members.

Although there are no specific guidelines about what must be included as part of an AT evaluation for it to be sufficient, the District Special Education Personnel and District Assessment Personnel should consider both statutory and regulatory requirements regarding evaluations in general. The AT evaluation should be conducted by a qualified professional and consist of a detailed review and analysis of the

student's needs and abilities and should be based on current information and data derived from a review of the student's educational records, observations, and discussions with classroom teachers, other services providers, and the parent. The AT evaluation should assess the student's needs across a variety of domains such as communication, written language, academic content areas, fine and gross motor skills, and daily living skills. The evaluation of a particular domain may be informal. For example, if the concern expressed by the ARD Committee relates to the student's handwriting, the evaluation of communication and daily living skills may be informal, based on input from teachers and parents, and simply note that functioning in those areas is adequate for the age and grade level of the student. In other domains, formal evaluation procedures may be appropriate using protocols, skills inventories, and various frameworks to assess the student's functional needs and develop recommendations regarding AT devices/services.

The District may consider providing the parent with a questionnaire regarding technology to be discussed at the ARD meeting. Seeking this input will provide information to the ARD Committee regarding the extent of the student's AT needs and/or the effectiveness of the student's current ATD. When considering a device for a student, the ARD Committee does not have to choose the most sophisticated device, but rather one that will enable the student to access the general education curriculum. The ARD Committee must consider the extent of the student's needs for the ATD.

For example, the student may need to take the ATD home to appropriately complete homework. If a student is permitted to take an ATD home, the District may require the parent to complete any District-required forms or paperwork regarding the parent/student's responsibility for care of the ATD. The procedures followed for purchasing, leasing, or otherwise providing for the acquisition of All campus staff members who work with students should be aware of the ATD addressed in the student's IEP and must allow the student to use the device in the manner described in the student's IEP. Campus staff working directly with the student must promptly notify Campus Administrative Personnel, Campus Special Education Personnel, if appropriate and necessary, District Special Education Personnel, or the AT representative if the student's ATD malfunctions so that it can be repaired and/or replaced. The District is required to provide and maintain any ATD that the student's ARD Committee has determined is necessary for implementing the student's IEP. If the ATD is not functioning or does not function correctly, the District is responsible for providing a substitute device, or for convening an ARD Committee meeting to review and, if appropriate, revise the student's IEP.

Campus Special Education Personnel, with support from the Special Education AT Specialist (as needed), is responsible for consistently implementing strategies, providing training, and collecting data regarding AT use or effectiveness. The Special Education AT Specialist will provide appropriate training to the student, parents, and staff regarding the effective use of the student's ATD.

#### Evidence of Implementation

- Referral for Special Education
- Notice of Procedural Safeguards
- FIE
- ARD/IEP

- AT Evaluation
- AT Checklist
- ATD Check-out
- ATD Progress Documentation
- ATD Student Training Documentation
- ATD Provider Training Documentation

### ***STUDENTS WITH AUTISM***

#### What is Required

In the case of a student with autism, the ARD Committee must consider the following eleven (11) strategies based on peer-reviewed, research-based educational programming practices to the extent practicable, and when needed, in the student's IEP:

- Extended educational programming (e.g., extending the day and/or school year to ensure the student makes appropriate progress in areas of need, such as behavior, social skills, and academics);
- Daily schedules reflecting minimal unstructured time and including active engagement in learning activities. These schedules should consider, for example, meal periods, recess, and adapting to changes such as a substitute teacher, classroom location change, or a school event that deviates from the normal day (e.g., pep rally or student-wide meeting). The goal is to provide consistency for the student and contingency plans when the student's normal daily routine changes;
- In-home and community-based training or viable alternatives that assist the student with acquisition of social/behavioral skills (for example, strategies that facilitate maintenance and generalization of such skills from home to school, school to home, home to community, and community to home);
- Positive behavior support strategies based on relevant information (e.g., antecedent manipulation, replacement behaviors, reinforcement strategies, and data-based decisions; and a BIP developed from an FBA that uses current data related to target behaviors and addresses behavioral programming across home, school, and community-based settings);

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- Transition planning, to begin at any age the ARD Committee determines is appropriate, in considering future planning for the student's integrated living, work, community, and educational environments that consider the skills needed for the student's current and postsecondary environments. *See [TRANSITION SERVICES];*
- Parent/family training and support by qualified personnel with experience in autism spectrum disorders. The goal of this training is to provide families with supports for the student to succeed beyond school—in home and in the community. The ARD Committee must also provide the parent information for community resources for the student (e.g., parent support groups, videos, and conferences related to parenting a student with autism). The parent/family training should also facilitate parental carryover of in-home training (e.g., behavior management strategies and developing structured home environments);

- Suitable staff-to-student ratio appropriate to identified activities and as needed to achieve social/behavioral progress based on the student's developmental and learning level that encourages work towards individual independence as determined by, for example, adaptive behavior evaluation results, behavioral accommodation needs across settings, and transitions within the school day;
- Interventions to improve the student's communication skills across settings;
- Social skills, supports and strategies based on social skills assessment and curriculum and applied across settings (for example: circle of friends, video modeling, social stories, and role playing);
- Professional development for teachers and staff related to educating students who have an Autism Spectrum Disorder; including training on the correct implementation of techniques and strategies described in the student's IEP; and
- Teaching strategies based on peer-reviewed, research-based practices for students with an Autism Spectrum Disorder (for example those associated with discrete-trial training, visual supports, applied behavioral analysis, structured learning, augmentative communication, or social skills training).

If the ARD Committee determines that the student does not need any of the supports listed above, it must state its decision and the basis of the decision in the student's IEP.

#### Additional Procedures

The ARD Committee for an AU student will clearly show that each of the 11 strategies noted above were meaningfully discussed, even if the ARD Committee determines that the student does not need some of the listed services. C

Personnel should consider the following practices when considering the 11 strategies:

- 1) Ensure that staff involved in the provision of ESY services are provided with a copy of the student's IEP. Communication between the student's teacher during the regular school year and ESY staff is imperative to ensure that ESY staff receive updated information about the student and the goals/tasks to work on during ESY. Consider community options for ESY services, if appropriate.
- 2) Within the student's daily schedule, include, for example, meals, restroom breaks, leisure breaks, course instruction, daily wrap-ups, and pack-up and dismissal. Attach a daily schedule to the ARD document, describe any difficulties with transitions between classes or activities, and address behavioral problems that may occur when a change occurs in routine or location. Minimal unstructured time means that IEP goals/objectives are being addressed throughout the day and across settings.
- 3) Consider important life skills for in-home training such as training for the student to independently use the restroom or dress him or herself. Consider a data chart to track how often the student is completing the desired tasks. To help a student acquire critical skills across settings or generalize critical skills from one setting to another, the ARD Committee should discuss any skills the student exhibits in one setting but has not acquired in another setting. In-home training is a related service that requires an evaluation before implementation. When an in-home training evaluation is requested, Assessment Personnel will obtain consent from the parent and follow the evaluation procedures.
- 4) Consider including prevention interventions, teacher interventions, and reinforcement interventions in the student's BIP if needed. *See Students with Behavior Needs* above.
- 5) Begin consideration of transition support in elementary school to ensure the student is successful in his or her post-secondary transition.

- 6) Gather parent input to determine the appropriate parent/family training and support needed for the student. Such input could be in the form of a parent questionnaire for the parent to express the student's talents, challenges, and specific information the parent needs to assist the student. The goal of parent training is to provide parents with the necessary skills and techniques to assist their student with the ongoing development and maintenance of skills and behaviors.
- 7) Create a chart that includes activities related to the student's IEP objectives and goals and the level of staff-to-student ratio for each of the student's developmental and functioning levels. When determining staff-to-student ratios, an ARD Committee should consider the setting, a student's communication abilities, and present level of competence in each area of instruction. Typically, a student in the acquisition phase of development may need more direct intensive instruction relative to later phases. As a student moves through the phases, there should be less adult supervision, more self-monitoring, and therefore, a higher staff to student ratio.
- 8) Create a communication functions chart, including strategies such as a schedule card and visual supports. The ARD Committee should consider the student's communication across settings, and this review should not be limited to SLP services. Communication forms include physical, objects, sign language, pictures, line drawings, speech/verbal, independent writing, typing, or pointing to printed words.
- 9) Social skills are a set of behaviors used to interact and communicate with others. The ARD Committee should consider various social skills including impulse control, willingness to do non-preferred activities, personal responsibility, concept of friendship, response to suggestions or requests, self-regulation, self-monitoring, reading/interpreting/responding to social cues, appropriate communication, environmental regulations skills, self-advocacy skills, play skills, and manners and listening. The ARD Committee may consider social skills strategies including trained peer facilitators, video modeling, social stories, role playing, incidental teaching, pivotal teaching strategies, social narratives, cartooning, or direct instruction.
- 10) Document the training staff receives as it relates to educating or providing related services to students who have AU and ensure staff are trained at least annually. This training shall include elements of the autism supplement, including extended educational programming, daily schedules reflecting minimal unstructured time and active engagement in learning activities, in-home and community-based training or viable alternatives, positive behavior support strategies, futures planning, parent/family training and support, suitable staff-to-child ratio to identified activities, communication interventions, social skills and strategies, professional educator and staff support, and teaching strategies based on peer-reviewed, research-based practices for children with autism.
- 11) Teaching strategies based on peer-reviewed and/or research-based practices for students with AU may include ABA including errorless learning, prompting and prompt fading, shaping, task analysis, consistent classroom routines and expectations, choice-making, multiple opportunities to learn and practice skills in structured and naturalistic settings, manipulations of antecedents and consequences to increase desired behaviors and decrease challenging behaviors, discrete trial training, and/or structured learning. Special Education Personnel should create a strategy tracking chart to document student's progress in the various teaching strategies used to share with the ARD Committee. • Referral for Special Education

The District will maintain documentation requirements of compliance associated with Texas Student Data System (TSDS), Public Education Information Management System (PEIMS), and State Performance Plan (SPP). District staff will provide training, with follow up, to ensure the documentation required is in place and compliant.

Evidence of Implementation

- FIE
- AU Supplement/Section of IEP
- Staff Training
- ESY Documentation
- Daily Schedules
- In-Home/Community-Training Documentation
- BIP/Behavior Interventions Tracking
- Futures Planning Documentation
- Parent Training Documentation
- Staff to Student Ratios
- Social Skills Documentation
- Documentation for the state in TSDS, PEIMS, and SPP

#### *DEFINITIONS*

“Assistive Technology Device” is any item, piece of equipment, or product, whether acquired commercially off the shelf, modified, or customized, that is used to increase, maintain, or improve the functional capabilities of a student with a disability. The term excludes surgically implanted medical devices.

“Autism” refers to the developmental disability that significantly affects verbal and nonverbal communication and social interaction, generally evident before age three, and adversely affects a student’s educational performance. *See* [AUTISM].

“Autism Spectrum Disorder” (“ASD”) refers to a complex developmental condition that involves persistent challenges in social interaction, speech and nonverbal communication, and restricted/repetitive behaviors. The effects of ASD and the severity of symptoms are different in each person. *See* [AUTISM].

“Behavioral Intervention Plan” (“BIP”)” is a written plan developed as part of the IEP to address behavioral concerns affecting the student’s educational progress. It is based on a functional behavior assessment of the problem behaviors, identifies events that predict these behaviors, includes positive interventions to change behaviors, and includes methods of evaluation.

“Deaf or Hard of Hearing” means a hearing impairment that is so severe that the student is impaired in processing linguistic information through hearing, with or without amplification, whether permanent or fluctuating, and that adversely affects a student’s educational performance. Deaf usually refers to an individual with very little or no functional hearing and who often uses sign language to communicate. Hard of Hearing refers to an individual who has a mild-to-moderate hearing loss who may communicate through sign language, spoken language or both. *See* [DEAF OR HARD OF HEARING].

“English Learner” refers to a student whose native language is a language other than FAPE Customized by Burnham Wood Charter School District

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English or who comes from an environment where a language other than English is dominant and who has difficulty speaking, reading, writing, or understanding the English language.

“Extended School Year Services” (“ESY”) means an individualized educational program provided beyond the regular school year for eligible students with disabilities. The need for ESY services must be determined on an individual basis by the student’s ARD Committee from formal and/or informal evaluations provided by the District or the parents. A student is eligible for ESY services when the student has exhibited or reasonably may be expected to exhibit severe or substantial regression in one or more critical skill areas that cannot be recouped within a reasonable period of time. *See* [EXTENDED SCHOOL YEAR SERVICES].

“Functional Behavior Assessment” (“FBA”) refers to a systematic process for describing problem behavior and identifying the environmental factors and surrounding events associated with problem behavior. The team that works closely with a student exhibiting problem behavior observes and identifies its problematic characteristics, identifies which actions or events precede and follow the behavior, and determines how often the behavior occurs.

“Significant Cognitive Disability” means an impairment in which a student who exhibits significant intellectual and adaptive behavior deficits in the ability to plan, comprehend, and reason, also indicates adaptive behavior deficits that limit the student’s ability to apply social and practical skills such as personal care, social problem-solving skills, dressing, eating, using money, and/or other functional skills across life domains; and is NOT identified based on English learner designation or solely on the basis of previous low academic achievement or the need for accommodations; and requires extensive, direct, individualized instruction, as well as a need for substantial supports that are neither temporary nor specific to a particular content area.

“Visual Impairment including Blindness” means an impairment in vision that, even with correction, adversely affects a student's educational performance. The term includes both partial sight and blindness. A licensed ophthalmologist or optometrist determines the student has a progressive medical condition that will result in no vision or a serious visual loss after correction.

### ***Blind and Visually Impaired***

Sensory Impairments - Texas Education Agency Texas School for the Blind and Visually Impaired Programs and Administrative - Information and Resources - Texas School for the Blind and Visually Impaired

American Printing House for the Blind

OSERS Dear Colleague Letter (June 19, 2013) - U.S. Department of Education Visually Impaired - SPEDTEX

### ***Deaf or Hard of Hearing***

Sensory Impairments - Texas Education Agency Statewide Outreach Center - Texas School for the Deaf Texas School for the Deaf

Deaf Students Education Services - U.S. Department of Education Deaf/Hard of Hearing - SPEDTEX  
*Assistive Technology*

## FREE APPROPRIATE PUBLIC EDUCATION COMPOSITE

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Assistive Technology - Texas Education Agency Texas Assistive Technology Network - Region 4 *Autism*  
Texas Statewide Leadership for Autism Training - Region 13 Autism Spectrum Disorder - SPEDTEX  
Children with Autism - SPEDTEX

### SUPPLEMENTARY AIDS AND SERVICES, SPECIAL EDUCATION, RELATED SERVICES

#### What is Required

The IEP for each student with a disability must include a statement of the special education and related services and supplementary aids and services to be provided to the student and a statement of the program modifications or supports for school personnel that will be provided to enable the student –

- to advance appropriately toward attaining the annual goals,
- to be involved in and make progress in the general education curriculum,
- to participate in extracurricular and other nonacademic activities; and
- to be educated and participate with other children with disabilities and nondisabled children.

Nonacademic and extracurricular services and activities may include:

- Meals
- Recess periods
- Counseling services
- Athletics
- Transportation
- Health Services
- Recreational activities
- District Special interest groups or clubs
- Referrals to other agencies that provide assistance to individuals with disabilities
- Employment of students, including both employment by the District and assistance in making outside employment available

In developing a student's IEP, the ARD Committee will include a schedule of all special education services, supplementary aids and services, related services, and modifications a student will receive, including the projected start date, anticipated frequency, and anticipated duration of those services. Students with disabilities will have available an instructional day commensurate with that of students without disabilities, as appropriate, which will be determined by the ARD Committee and specified in the student's IEP.

The ARD Committee must determine and include in the student's IEP the expected location of where the student will receive services and modifications. If the District assigns the student to a different campus other than where the student is zoned to attend based on residence, the District must allow any other student who is residing in the student's home to transfer to the school if the other student(s) is entitled to attend school in the District and the school offers the appropriate grade level for the other student(s) at the campus. The District is not required to transport the other student(s) who is permitted to transfer unless the other student(s) is entitled to transportation as a related service. The transfer right does not apply to the other student(s) if the special education student attends a residential facility.

### Supplementary Aids and Services

Supplementary aids and services are aids, services, and other supports that are provided in regular education classes, other education-related settings, and in extracurricular and nonacademic settings, to enable the student with a disability to be educated with nondisabled students to the maximum extent appropriate. The ARD Committee must determine the necessary supplementary aids and services to be provided to or on behalf of a student who is eligible to receive special education services.

### Special Education

Special education is specially designed instruction, at no cost to parents, to meet the unique needs of the student with a disability. The ARD Committee must determine needed special education services that meet the unique needs of the student with a disability.

### Related Services

The ARD Committee determines what related services a student with a disability needs. Related services are an array of developmental, corrective, and other supportive services as may be required to assist the student with a disability to benefit from special education. Related services include, but are not limited to assistive technology, audiology services, counseling services, interpreting services, medical services, music therapy, occupational therapy, orientation and mobility services, parent counseling and training, physical therapy, psychological services, recreation, rehabilitation counseling services, school health services, social work services in school, speech-language therapy, and transportation.

For example, audiology services are a related service. The ARD Committee or Section 504 committee may determine that a student is eligible to receive audiology services pursuant to the Health and Human Services Commission if the student is:

- 1) 20 years of age or younger;
- 2) Has a disability or chronic medical condition;
- 3) Is eligible for Medicaid benefits; and
- 4) Has been prescribed the services under the student's Individualized Education Program (IEP) or a plan created under Section 504.

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*See [FUNDING FOR NONEDUCATIONAL SERVICES].*

Transportation is a related service and extends to transporting students who are residentially placed by the District. If an ARD Committee places a student at a residential school, the District, which is the resident school district, is required to transport the student, at the beginning and end of the term at the residential campus, including regularly scheduled holidays when the student is expected to leave the residential campus. If the ARD Committee determines that the student requires an accompanied adult for safety measures, the committee must designate and provide transportation for an adult who will be with the student during the round-trip transportation. The District is not responsible for transportation costs for students who are placed in a residential setting by their parents rather than by the ARD Committee.

### Other Supports

*Training to Implement the IEP*

For those employees who work primarily outside of special education and who do not possess the knowledge and skills necessary to implement the student's IEP, the District will train such staff at a time and place designated by the District. Such training will be evidence-based and related to instruction of students with disabilities, including students with disabilities who also have other intellectual or mental health conditions and will be designed specifically for educators who work outside of special education. In developing the training, the District will consult with experts in research-based practices for students with disabilities who may be associated with outside entities (e.g., colleges, universities, nonprofit organizations, and regional education service centers in Texas) as well as those employed by the District.

#### *Intensive Program of Instruction*

The ARD Committee must design an intensive program of instruction for students who do not perform satisfactorily on a state assessment or who are not likely to receive

The purpose of an intensive program of instruction designed by the ARD Committee is to ensure students attain annual growth on the basis of the student's IEP and to carry out the Student Success Initiative (SSI) purpose described further below.

#### *Accelerated Reading Instruction*

The District will administer a state or District-adopted reading instrument to determine students' reading development and comprehension. Such reading instruments also evaluate a student's risk for dyslexia or other reading difficulties. For students identified with dyslexia or a related disorder, the IEP must be developed and implemented in accordance with the requirements under 19 TAC §74.28.

If the evaluation results reveal a reading deficiency, the District will notify the student's parent of the results and will implement an accelerated reading instruction program to help the student progress in his or her reading skills.

For special education students in kindergarten or grades 1 and 2 who do not perform satisfactorily on the state or District-adopted list of reading instruments, the ARD Committee must determine how the student will participate in the accelerated instruction program.

#### *Accelerated and Supplemental Instruction*

For any student who does not pass a state assessment, including EOC assessment, or students who are absent or otherwise do not have valid assessment scores, accelerated instruction must be delivered by either assigning a classroom teacher who is certified master, exemplary, or recognized teacher, or delivering supplemental instruction before or after school, or embedded in the school day. Supplemental instruction must be TEKS-aligned and provided for no less than 30 hours for each subject area the student did not pass. Instruction must be delivered in a 1-on-1 or small group environment with no more than 3 students (or in a larger ratio with permission from all parents or guardians connected to students in the group). Where an ARD Committee determines that a high school student with disabilities is not required to pass EOC assessments to graduate, the District is still obligated to provide the student accelerated instruction if the student fails to perform satisfactorily.

#### *Accelerated Learning Committees*

The District will establish an Accelerated Learning Committee for each student in Grades 3, 5, and 8 who did not perform satisfactorily on the state assessment for math or reading. District or Campus Personnel shall notify the parent of the time and purpose of these meetings. At a minimum, the ALC must include the student's Principal or designee, the parent, and a teacher of the relevant subject. The ALC must develop an educational plan that is in writing and provide a copy of the plan to the parent. ARD Committees will act as the ALC for students with disabilities taking standard or alternate state assessments.

For any student with disabilities in Grades 3, 5, or 8 who do not perform satisfactorily on the state assessment for math or reading, the ARD Committee must meet to determine the manner in which the student will participate in an accelerated instruction program. When an accelerated learning plan is required, the ARD Committee must consider the individual needs of the student and determine whether adjustments are appropriate to the accelerated learning plan. If supplemental instruction is required, it must be provided in accordance with requirements related to Accelerated Instruction and Accelerated Learning Committees for all students, unless the ARD Committee determines some or all supplemental instruction requirements would deny the student FAPE. The ARD Committee must document these decisions in the student's IEP.

If the ARD Committee serves as the ALC to develop a plan to address the student's performance on the state assessment for math or reading, and the student does not perform satisfactorily in the subsequent year, the ARD Committee must meet with the Superintendent or designee to address the student's performance, adjust the accelerated learning plan, and document the changes in the IEP.

#### *Personal Graduation Plan in Junior High and Middle School*

A graduation plan is required for students who do not perform satisfactorily on a state assessment (or who are likely not to receive a high school diploma before the fifth year following the student's enrollment in grade 9. A student's IEP may be used as a graduation plan for students in junior high and middle school.

#### Additional Procedures

##### Supplementary Aids and Services

In order to access the general education curriculum in the least restrictive environment, students with disabilities may require supplementary aids and services. Supplementary aids and services encompass a broad range of student supports, which include (but are not limited to):

- Accommodations – changes to materials or procedures that enable students with disabilities to participate meaningfully in learning and assessments. Examples include shortened assignments, extended time given for completing assignments, or preferential seating. Accommodations do NOT change what the student is expected to master.
- Modifications – changes in what the student is expected to learn that is different from his or her grade-level curriculum. Examples include reducing the expectations for an assignment or test or modifying the work to a prerequisite skill level compared to the curriculum (TEKS). Modifications DO change what the student is expected to master.
- Assistive technology – items, devices or products that are used to increase, maintain, or improve the functional capabilities of a student with a disability.

- Adapted equipment – examples include a footstool for a student whose feet do not comfortably reach the floor when sitting in a regular desk or wheelchair accessible playground equipment.
  - 
  - Adapted materials – examples include large-print textbooks, writing tablets with raised lines, or soft pencil grips to help with manual dexterity.
  - Communication aids – examples include sign language, interpreting services and assistive and augmentative communication devices.
  - Resource support – one-on-one or small group work in subject areas where the student needs re-teaching, tutoring or slower-paced instruction.
  - Paraprofessional support – sometimes called an “aide,” the paraprofessional provides instructional support under the direct supervision of a highly qualified teacher.
  - Collaborative teaching – the special education teacher acts as a co-teacher in the general education classroom (direct instruction) or as a “consultant” to the general education teacher (indirect instruction).  
Note: When the IEP calls for coordination between regular and special education teachers, parents should be clear on how responsibilities will be divided: who will be responsible for instruction, who will be responsible for modifications, and who will assign grades.
- Staff development – this includes training and supports needed by the teacher in order to implement the student’s IEP.
  - Peer tutoring or assistance – natural supports in the classroom. Some students learn best through peer modeling and interactions, and this practice often initiates friendships between students with and without disabilities.

Like all special education services, supplementary aids and services are based on the individual needs of the student, not what the parent may want for the student. Supplementary aids and services are provided in addition to related services, although there can be some overlap between the two.

The ARD Committee will explore, recommend, and document the appropriate supplementary aids and services that will support the student in the least restrictive environment. The time to discuss supplementary aids and services should be indicated on the ARD Agenda, following a review of evaluation data, the PLAAFP, and annual goals and objectives. Placement decisions should be made only after the ARD Committee reviews the supplementary aids and support the student will need in order to function in the least restrictive environment. The ARD Committee will also consider those supplementary aids and services as necessary to allow a student with a disability to participate in extracurricular and nonacademic settings with their peers without disabilities. When discussing supplementary aids and services, the ARD Committee should review the student’s entire school day and schedule, including playground activities, lunch, and extracurricular activities.

### Special Education

The unique needs of a student with a disability encompass more than mastering academic subjects. The student’s unique needs should be broadly construed to include academic, social, health, emotional, physical, and vocational needs. These needs will be addressed by the student’s ARD Committee.

The IDEA does not require a specific instructional methodology. The District, through decisions made by teachers and service providers, must provide the student an instructional methodology that enables the student to access a FAPE.

When a student needs the curriculum modified, the ARD Committee will develop goals and objectives that modify what the student will be taught and what the student is expected to learn. Modifications may include changes to assignment (answer different test questions, do projects instead of tests, complete different homework assignments) or to the curriculum, (learning different materials, being graded using different standards, being excused from projects, etc.).

At least annually, Campus and District Special Education Personnel will receive training in identifying needed special education services using evidence-based interventions.

#### Related Services

Related services are a support to the commitment that all students with disabilities have available to them a free appropriate public education with special education services designed to meet their specific needs. Some students may need related services to meet their individually designed special education goals. The need for related services is considered during the students ARD meeting in the review and discussion of the student's evaluation and ongoing assessment data. An ARD Committee's decisions regarding the need for related services to support educational goals must be clearly identified in the student's IEP and must be determined on an individual basis.

In determining whether a particular related service should be provided, the ARD Committee will consider the evaluation and the recommendations of the related service provider who conducted the evaluation.

When considering related services, the ARD Committee should be mindful that the IDEA does not include an exhaustive list of related services to be provided. Accordingly, an ARD Committee should consider a variety of services that may assist the student to benefit from special education.

However, the IDEA specifically excludes from related services a medical device that is surgically implanted (e.g., cochlear implant), the optimization of that device's functioning (e.g., mapping), maintenance of that device, or the replacement of that device. This exclusion does not limit the right of a student with a surgically implanted device to receive related services that are determined by the ARD Committee to be necessary for the student to receive FAPE, limit the responsibility of the District to appropriately monitor and maintain medical devices that are needed to maintain the health and safety of the student, including breathing, nutrition, or operation of other bodily functions, while the student is transported to and from school or is at school; or prevent the routine checking of an external component of a surgically implanted device to make sure it's functioning properly.

The following "best service" practices should be considered by the ARD Committee when making decisions regarding related services:

- Related services are a collaborative, integrative service with a focus on early intervention to minimize deficits and diminish the need for services in later years.
- Related Service Providers are members of the collaborative team, providing needed support to the student, teacher, and other team members.
- Related service evaluations are conducted in natural environments during daily activities and focus on the barriers to learning and participation.

- Related service IEP goals and objectives are expressed in terms of desired educational outcomes and all team members will implement (collaborative IEPs).
- Related service delivery will be provided through a continuum of available options.
- Related service intervention is provided in natural settings during daily routines as the problems are occurring. This allows the Related Service Provider to model strategies/solutions for Classroom Personnel.
- Teachers are the foundation of the integrated model and will incorporate the suggestions of the related service providers throughout the school day.

When considering a related service, the Related Service Provider will conduct an evaluation and make recommendations about the need for the service and for service delivery. The evaluation will be in context of the FIE and will focus on accessing instruction. After considering the need for intensive intervention, the age and developmental level of the student, and the student's effort, attitude, and motivation, the ARD Committee determines whether or not the student is eligible for the related service. In addition to the evaluation and determination of need, the Related Service Provider will provide recommendations for services. Service delivery options include: monitoring; consultation; classroom based integrated services; pull out in an individual or group setting; community-based services; or a combination of these options. It is critical that the ARD Committee clarify the service delivery model as direct services (provided directly to the student by the service provider regardless of the setting) or indirect services/consultation (services provided to teachers or other staff, regardless of setting, to assist the student in accessing the curriculum). Recommendations will also include goals and objectives, and frequency, duration, and location of sessions.

At least annually, Campus and District Special Education Personnel will receive training in identifying needed related services and documenting and considering their effectiveness.

#### Other Supports

The ARD Committee should be knowledgeable of the various opportunities for a special education student to interact with the student's nondisabled peers both in education-related settings and in extracurricular and nonacademic settings to determine if supports are necessary.

Although training on IEP implementation is only required for staff members who work primarily outside of special education, the District will provide training to staff who work with special education students. The District will solicit input from staff who work directly with students in determining the professional development and training opportunities that the District offers. This training will address how to identify needed supplementary aids and services and program modifications and how to document and consider their effectiveness. Additionally, this training will address how to identify needed supports for school personnel and how to document and consider their effectiveness.

The District Special Education Personnel should ensure that campuses provide an individualized intensive program of instruction for those students who are likely not to receive a high school diploma before the fifth school year following the student's enrollment in grade 9.

## FREE APPROPRIATE PUBLIC EDUCATION COMPOSITE

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Each campus should ensure that Special Education Personnel develop and implement an accelerated reading instruction for all special education students who have performed unsatisfactorily on the state assessments.

If a student is not making appropriate progress in light of the student's unique circumstances, the ARD Committee should convene and reconsider the schedule of services. For example, the ARD Committee may consider increasing the amount of inclusion minutes or making the student's placement more restrictive if the student is not progressing. Changes such as these will be reflected in the student's IEP.

The ARD Committee can determine to place a student at a District campus other than the student's zoned residential campus. The ARD Committee may make this decision if it believes another District campus can provide more appropriate supports for the student to access the general education curriculum. If an ARD Committee places a student in a campus other than the student's zoned residential campus, the parent's other children who reside at the home also have the right to attend the campus, if they are otherwise eligible to attend school in the District. The purpose of this transfer rights policy is to accommodate parents with multiple children in the District. Campus Administrators will be made aware of this transfer procedure and must not deny enrollment.

The District will maintain documentation requirements of compliance associated with Texas Student Data System (TSDS), Public Education Information Management System (PEIMS), and State Performance Plan (SPP). District staff will provide training, with follow up, to ensure the documentation required is in place and compliant.

### Evidence of Implementation

- FIE
- ARD/IEP
- Referral Documentation
- Teacher Input
- Parent Input
- Support Service Documentation
- Related Service Provider Documentation
- Session Notes
- Progress Reports on Annual Goals
- Report Card Grades
- Benchmarking Testing
- State Assessment Results
- District-Wide Assessment Results
- Campus Enrollment Documentation
- Staff Training
- Evidence of Intensive Program of Instruction
- Evidence of Accelerated Instruction Programs
- ALC Educational Plans
- Documentation for the state in TSDS, PEIMS, and SPP

## STATE AND DISTRICTWIDE ASSESSMENTS

### What Is Required?

Participation in State and Districtwide Assessments. All students with disabilities are included in general and Districtwide assessment programs. When necessary, the student's IEP should include the appropriate accommodations and alternate assessments needed for the student, as determined by the ARD committee.

### Accommodation Guidelines

The TEA (for statewide assessments) or District Special Education Administration (for Districtwide assessments) must develop guidelines for appropriate accommodations. The guidelines will 1) identify those accommodations that do not invalidate the assessment score; and 2) instruct the ARD Committee to select the appropriate accommodations for each assessment.

### Alternate Assessments

The TEA (for statewide assessments) or District Special Education Administration (for Districtwide assessments) will create guidelines for alternate academic achievement standards for students with significant cognitive disabilities who cannot participate in general assessments, even with IEP accommodations. The guidelines will 1) align with state academic content standards and alternate academic achievement standards under the Every Student Succeeds Act ("ESSA"); and 2) measure the achievement of students with the most significant cognitive disabilities.

The TEA (for statewide assessments) or District Special Education Administration (for Districtwide assessments) must provide the ARD Committee with a clear explanation of the difference between alternate assessments and those based on grade-level academic achievement standards. The TEA (for statewide assessments) or District Special Education Administration (for Districtwide assessments) will inform the parents of students selected to take an alternate assessment that their child's achievement will be measured based on alternate academic achievement standards. The TEA or District Special Education Administration must also provide the ARD Committee, including the student's parent, information about how the student's education may be impacted due to taking an alternate assessment. For example, a student who takes an alternate assessment may not meet the requirements for a regular high school diploma or may be delayed in receiving a diploma. However, the TEA or District Special Education Administration shall not preclude a student from attempting to complete the regular high school diploma requirements.

### Assessment Requirements for Graduation

A special education student is not subject to the individual graduation committee requirements set forth in Texas law. The ARD Committee must determine if special education students in grades 9 through 12 are required to achieve satisfactory performance on an end-of-course assessment to graduate and receive a high school diploma.

## IEP Documentation

The ARD Committee will include in the student's IEP a statement about the appropriate and allowable testing accommodations that are needed to measure a student's academic and functional performance on a state or Districtwide assessment.

If the ARD Committee determines that a student will take an alternate state or Districtwide assessment, the IEP will include a statement of why the student cannot participate in the general assessment, as well as the alternate assessment selected by the ARD Committee for the student.

For Emergent Bilingual ("EB") special education students, the ARD Committee and the language proficiency assessment committee ("LPAC") will select the appropriate assessments and document the decisions and justifications in the student's IEP. The ARD Committee will also document any testing accommodations in the IEP.

## Annual Assessment of English Language Proficiency

The District must annually administer a state-identified EL assessment to an EL student in kindergarten through grade 12 in the areas of listening, speaking, reading, and writing. The ARD Committee and the LPAC may determine the special education services for the student to participate in the English language proficiency ("ELP") assessment due to the student's disability. The committees' decision and justification must be clearly stated in the student's IEP. An EL student who receives special education services may also receive testing accommodations, to be determined by the ARD Committee and the LPAC.

## Definitions

"English Learner" is a student whose native language is language other than English or who comes from an environment where a language other than English is dominant and who has difficulty speaking, reading, writing, or understanding the English language.

A student with a "significant cognitive disability" is a student who:

- exhibits significant intellectual and adaptive behavior deficits in their ability to plan, comprehend, and reason, and also indicates adaptive behavior deficits that limit their ability to apply social and practical skills such as personal care, social problem-solving skills, dressing, eating, using money, and other functional skills across life domains;
- is not identified based on English learner designation or solely on the basis of previous low academic achievement or the need for accommodations; and
- requires extensive, direct, individualized instruction, as well as a need for substantial supports that are neither temporary nor specific to a particular content area.

## Additional Procedures

### State and Districtwide Assessments Accommodation Guidelines

Prior to an ARD meeting about accommodations or alternate assessments, Campus Special Education Personnel should collect baseline data about the student's educational and behavioral performance. An

ARD Committee should then review the data and describe its considerations for accommodations and/or alternative assessments in detail in the IEP.

When considering accommodations that do not invalidate the assessment score, the ARD Committee should consider TEA's policies on accommodations for alternative assessments. The policies are categorized by three different types of accommodations:

1) accessibility features; 2) locally-approved designated supports; and 3) designated supports that require TEA approval.

### Basic Transcribing

Accessibility features are procedures and materials available to any student who regularly benefits from their use during instruction. Accessibility features may be provided to students based on their needs; however, a student cannot be required to use them during testing. Testing coordinators are responsible for ensuring that test administrators understand the proper implementation of these procedures and use of these materials. In some cases, a student may need to complete the test in an individual setting to eliminate distractions to other students and to ensure that the security and confidentiality of the test are maintained.

Locally-approved designated supports include accommodations that may be made available to students who meet eligibility criteria. The decision to use a designated support during a state assessment should be made by the ARD Committee on an individual student basis and take into consideration the needs of the student and whether the student routinely receives the support during classroom instruction and classroom testing. The twelve locally-approved designated supports available for the STAAR are:

- Braille/Refreshable Braille
- Calculation Aids
- Content and Language Supports
- Extra Time
- Individualized Structured Reminders
- Large Print
- Manipulating Test Materials
- Mathematics Manipulatives
- Oral/Signed Administration
- Spelling Assistance
- Supplemental Aids

The designated supports requiring TEA approval include complex transcribing, extra day, mathematics scribe, and other. If the ARD Committee determines that the student needs accommodations requiring TEA approval, Campus Special Education Personnel will notify the District Testing Coordinator who will submit an Accommodation Request Form to TEA. TEA's Accommodations Task Force will communicate with the District Testing Coordinator by email once a decision has been made. Campus Special Education Personnel should note the expiration date for the provided accommodation included in

the TEA decision email. As this process may take several weeks, Campus Special Education Personnel should make this request within a reasonable amount of time before a scheduled assessment, when feasible. A new accommodation request will need to be submitted each calendar year if the student continues to demonstrate a need. Campus Special Education Personnel should be trained to ensure they understand the process for requesting student assessment accommodations that require TEA approval.

#### Alternate State Assessments

The ARD Committee will also determine whether a student grades 3 through 8 and those in high school, who has a significant cognitive disability, and is receiving special education services needs to take the STAAR Alternate 2 assessment. This decision must be made on a case-by-case basis, considering each student's individual strengths, needs, instruction, and accommodations—as documented in the student's IEP. In determining whether the student is eligible for the STAAR Alternate 2 assessment, the ARD Committee must carefully consider the STAAR Alternate 2 Participation Requirements document included as part of the student's IEP.

If the answer is “Yes” to all eligibility criteria within the STAAR Alternate 2 Participation Requirements document, the ARD Committee must discuss assurances related to the student's participation in the STAAR Alternate 2 assessment. The STAAR Alternate 2 assessment is given in the spring during a three-week period and may include breaks as needed based on the student's needs. The STAAR Alternate 2 assessment is provided at the student's campus or at an alternate site if determined necessary based on the child's individual needs. Campus Special Education Personnel will ensure that the assessment is provided in a testing environment where the student can avoid distractions and receive all individual accommodations.

Student participation in assessments should be reviewed at each annual ARD meeting. The District will provide training to ensure that ARD Committee members are aware of and understand all of the state or Districtwide guidelines on alternate assessments.

#### Assessment Requirements for Graduation

The ARD Committee can consider different factors for determining whether a student is required to achieve satisfactory performance on an end-of-course assessment. Student progress and demonstrated ability to access the general education curriculum are factors to consider. For example, a special education student may have issues with long-term retrieval that causes the student to perform unsatisfactorily on an end-of-course assessment. Despite this, the student is still making appropriate academic progress and achieving satisfactory scores on classroom assignments and homework. In an instance like this, the ARD Committee may excuse the student from retaking the assessment. The ARD Committee may also consider whether a special education student improved his or her score on the second administration of the end-of-course exam. If the student does not achieve satisfactory performance but makes improvement the second time, the ARD Committee may excuse the student from retaking the assessment.

A student that takes an alternative assessment will take the STAAR Alternate 2 in all grade levels and subject areas instead of the EOC. The ARD Committee will determine if the student can take standard EOC assessments or will require a modified or alternate form of the assessment.

Student participation in assessments should be reviewed after each assessment in which a student did not meet passing criteria to plan appropriate interventions, and at each annual ARD meeting.

- Is the student identified in PEIMS as LEP/EL?
- Does the student have a significant cognitive disability?
- Does the student require specialized, extensive supports to access the grade-level curriculum and environment?
- Does the student require intensive, individualized instruction in all institutional settings?
- Does the student access and participate in the grade-level TEKS through prerequisite skills?
- Is the assessment determination based on the student's significant cognitive disability and English learner status and NOT any other factors?

### IEP Documentation

The PLAAFP section of a student's IEP should clearly document the results of the previous year's state assessments, as well as any effective accommodations the student received. Accommodations will also be addressed for each subject area on the state assessment page. Accommodations used on assessments should also be used regularly in the student's academic instruction.

The ARD Committee should include detailed deliberations in the student's IEP that reflect its discussion related to state assessments. The deliberations should include the underlying data the ARD Committee relied upon but need not include a list of each test and/or accommodation recommended, as this is detailed elsewhere in the IEP. Detailed deliberations also help to guide the ARD Committee, educators, related service providers, and other campus staff on the student's expectations. Further, detailed deliberations help demonstrate the ARD Committee's meaningful discussion.

### Annual Assessment of English Language Proficiency

The TELPAS Alternate is a holistic inventory that assesses the language domains of listening, speaking, reading, and writing for students with significant cognitive disabilities in grades 2 through 12 who are in the process of acquiring English proficiency in those areas. The ARD Committee in conjunction with the student's LPAC Committee will meet to review participation requirements and determine and document the student's eligibility for TELPAS Alternate. If the TELPAS Alternate is being considered for a student in grade 2, the ARD Committee and LPAC must ask the following questions:

If the answer is "Yes" to all of the above criteria, the student is eligible to participate in TELPAS Alternate. If a student entering grades 3 through 12 has been identified as Emergent Bilingual and the ARD Committee has followed the guidelines above in:

- The English Language Proficiency Assessment
- FIE
- ARD/IEP
- Report Card Grades
- Progress Reports on Annual Goals
- Teacher and Campus Special Education Administrator Input
- State or Districtwide Assessment Results
- Accommodation Requests/Approval
- Documentation for the state in TSDS, PEIMS, and SPP

## EXTENDED SCHOOL YEAR SERVICES

### What is Required

The ARD Committee must ensure extended school year (“ESY”) services are available as necessary to provide a FAPE to students with disabilities.

ESY services are special education and related services provided to a student with a disability beyond the normal school year of the District in accordance with the student’s IEP and at no cost to the parents of the student that meets the standards set forth by TEA. The ARD Committee must determine whether ESY services are necessary for the provision of FAPE. If the ARD Committee does not propose ESY services for discussion at the annual review of the student’s IEP, the parent may request that the ARD Committee discuss ESY services. The ARD Committee must determine the need for ESY services from formal and/or informal evaluations provided by the District or the parents. For a student enrolling in the District during the school year, information obtained from student’s previous district, as well as information collected during the current year, may be used to determine the need for ESY services.

If the student for whom ESY services were considered but rejected loses critical skills because of the decision not to provide ESY services, and if those skills are not regained after the reasonable period of time for recoupment, the ARD Committee must reconsider the current IEP if the student’s loss of critical skills interferes with the implementation of the student’s IEP.

### Students who Register During the Summer

For a student who registers in the District during the summer months but whose IEP requires ESY services, the District will discuss the student’s ESY needs at the transfer ARD and provide comparable services.

### Limitations on ESY

The District may not limit ESY services to particular categories of disability or unilaterally limit the type, amount, or duration of ESY services.

ESY services are limited to the educational needs of the student and must not supplant or limit the responsibility of other public agencies to continue to provide care and treatment services pursuant to policy or practice, even if those services are similar to, or the same as, the services in the students’ IEP. The student should not be denied ESY services simply because the student is receiving care and treatment services from other agencies.

### Regression-Recoupment Analysis

A student qualifies for ESY services if, in one or more critical areas addressed in the student’s current IEP (“critical skill”), the student has exhibited, or reasonably may be expected to exhibit, severe or substantial regression that cannot be regained within a reasonable period of time.

The reasonable period of time for recoupment of acquired skills must be determined on the basis of needs identified in the student’s IEP. If the loss of acquired skills would be particularly severe or substantial, or

if such loss results, or reasonably may be expected to result, in immediate physical harm to the student or to others, ESY services may be justified without consideration of the period of time of recoupment of such skills. The period of time of recoupment must not exceed eight weeks.

If the ARD Committee determines the student needs ESY services, the IEP must identify which goals and objectives in the IEP will be addressed during ESY services.

#### Definitions

“Severe or substantial regression” means that the student has been, or will be, unable to maintain one or more acquired critical skills in the absence of ESY services.

“Critical Skills” – A skill is critical when the loss of that skill results, or is reasonably expected to result, in any of the following during the first eight weeks of the next regular school year: placement in a more restrictive instructional arrangement; significant loss of acquired skills necessary for the student to appropriately progress in the general curriculum; significant loss of self-sufficiency in self-help skill areas as evidenced by an increase in the number of direct service staff and/or amount of time required to provide special education or related services; loss of access to community-based independent living skills instruction or an independent living environment provided by noneducational sources as a result of regression in skills; or loss of access to on-the-job training or productive employment as a result of regression in skills.

#### Additional Procedures Determine Student Needs

District and Campus Special Education Personnel are responsible for collecting regression and recoupment data to support the determination of the need for ESY services throughout the year. The ARD Committee must determine the need for ESY services for all students with disabilities on an individual student basis. The ARD Committee should make recommendations for ESY services based on documentation, including formal and/or informal evaluations provided by the Assessment Personnel, Campus Special Education Personnel, Campus General Education Personnel, and/or the parents, that in one or more critical areas addressed in the current IEP goals and/or objectives the student has exhibited (or reasonably may be expected to exhibit) severe or substantial regression of an acquired critical skill that cannot be recouped within a reasonable length of time, not to exceed 8 weeks.

ESY should be specifically requested and/or recommended at the annual ARD Committee meeting when deemed appropriate based on student data. The request may be made by District Special Education Personnel involved in the student’s program or the parent.

If the annual ARD is held in the fall semester, the ARD Committee must consider whether to delay the decision about ESY services until later in the school year if limited documentation is available. If this is the case, then another ARD must be held in the Spring to revisit the issue.

If the student qualifies for ESY services, ESY services should be documented in the IEP in a supplement or separate section. The ARD Committee must decide on the appropriate IEP goals and objectives the student will work on during the period of time that ESY services are provided. Goals for students recommended for ESY services will be identified from the student’s current IEP. These goals should be identified as being critical to the student’s academic, behavioral, or functional development, and that

without ESY services, the student would suffer regression in that critical skill area that cannot be recouped within a reasonable period of time, not to exceed 8 weeks. District and Campus Special Education Personnel will be trained at least once annually on the process for determining the need for ESY services.

### **ESY ARD Meeting**

The ARD Committee will consider the following components during the ARD meeting held to consider ESY services:

- ESY Supplement/Section – the ESY ARD Supplement/Section must be completed in its entirety during the ARD and be included in the IEP
- ESY IEP Goals & Objectives – if student meets the ESY recommendation requirements, the ARD Committee must identify current goals that will be addressed during the period of time ESY services will be provided. The ARD Committee documentation must state the time and duration for ESY services.
- Transportation Supplement/Section – transportation, as a related service, will be considered and offered to students with disabilities who need this service to benefit from ESY services. If a parent has declined specialized transportation during the regular school year, but the ARD Committee determines that there will be a need for this service during ESY services, an ARD must be held to add this service. The ARD documentation must indicate that this service will only be for the duration of ESY. In addition, a Transportation Supplement/Section must be completed and submitted along with the other ESY documentation.

### **Providing ESY Services**

It is not unusual for the teacher or service providers working with a student during ESY to be different than the teacher or service provider(s) during the regular school year. It is imperative that those who are most familiar with the student, the student's needs and the student's IEP goals to share relevant information with the teacher and service provider who will be providing ESY services. This information should include the critical skills or emerging skills that will be addressed during ESY services, specifics about the BIP if the student has one, specifics about accommodations and any other pertinent information. Additionally, the teacher and service providers providing ESY services must document progress in the student's IEP and communicate the levels of performance the student attained on goals back to the student's campus so the student's teacher will have a good baseline for what was accomplished during ESY. All documentation related to the student's academic and behavioral performance during ESY should be included in the IEP updates and shared with the student's teacher and other service providers. The District will maintain documentation requirements of compliance associated with Texas Student Data System (TSDS), Public Education Information Management System (PEIMS), and State Performance Plan (SPP). District staff will provide training, with follow up, to ensure the documentation required is in place and compliant.

### **Evidence of Implementation**

- Formal/Informal Evaluations by Assessment Team/SPED staff

## FREE APPROPRIATE PUBLIC EDUCATION COMPOSITE

Fabens ISD 071903

- ARD/IEP
- ESY Supplement/Section
- Transportation Supplement
- Documentation Collected During ESY
- Documentation for the state in TSDS, PEIMS, and SPP