

RANCHO SANTA FE SCHOOL DISTRICT

Board Policy No. 6013: PUPILS WITH EXCEPTIONAL NEEDS

- A. The Rancho Santa Fe School District is committed to providing a Free Appropriate Public Education to students with qualifying disabilities and special needs in the least restrictive environment, as mandated by state and federal disability laws, including the Individuals with Disabilities Act (IDEA), Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act, and California Education Code section 56000 *et seq.*

- B. The Board adopts as policy the regulations and procedures of the North Coastal Consortium of Special Education (NCCSE) SELPA. The Board, therefore, directs the Superintendent to see that all SELPA regulations and procedures are observed with regard to pupils with exceptional needs as defined by Education Code section 56026. Such regulations and procedures shall be consistent with the requirements of federal and state laws and regulations and shall be made available for inspection in the office of the Superintendent.

- C. The District shall comply with Education Code section 56300 which requires local educational agencies to actively and systematically seek out all individuals with exceptional needs who reside in the District, including children not enrolled in the District. This process may hereafter be referred to as “Child Find.” Consistent with this policy and NCCSE’s policies and procedures, as well as state and federal special education laws, the District will undertake Child Find outreach activities in coordination with NCCSE and the San Diego County Office of Education.

- D. All children with disabilities residing within the geographical boundaries of the District’s attendance area, and who are in need of special education and related services, shall be identified, located, and assessed and the District shall develop and implement a practical method of Child Find as required by Education Code section 56301. Child Find shall be completed in a time period comparable to that for other students attending school in the District.

- E. If a student meets the criteria to qualify for special education and designated instruction and services (5 CCR § 3030), an Individualized Education Plan (“IEP”) will be developed by an IEP team to provide the student with a free appropriate public education in the least restrictive environment that meets their unique needs. The IEP will set forth the student’s special education and designated instruction and services to be provided to the student.

- F. Parents/guardians are members of the IEP Team and have the right to participate in the IEP process. Parents/guardians must give written consent before implementation of an initial, amended, annual, and/or triennial IEP.

- G. The IEP of a student with exceptional needs will be reviewed at least annually and implemented and updated as needed in accordance with state and federal special

education laws and taking into consideration the unique needs of the student and parent/guardian input. The District will request to assess students who qualify for special education at least every three years to re-determine eligibility. Parents/guardians of students with exceptional needs will be provided notice of their procedural safeguards as required by law and upon reasonable request.

- H. Parents/guardians of students with exceptional needs may request an IEP meeting at any time. The IEP Team will convene a meeting within 30 days of the request, not counting school vacations of five (5) days or more.
- I. A student's IEP follows them to any public school in which they enroll. When a new student with an IEP enrolls in the District, the District will create an Interim Placement IEP in consultation with the student's parents/guardians that is intended to provide the new student with a free appropriate public education for a period of 30 calendar days. The IEP Team will meet after the 30 days to discuss and make any necessary changes or updates to the IEP. (See 34 CFR § 300.323 (e) and (f).)
- J. Any parent or guardian who suspects that their child has a disability and/or exceptional needs, may contact the Principal or Director of Special Education to request an assessment for eligibility for special education services. Additional resources for families and students are available on the District's website.

Legal Reference:

Education Code section 56000 *et seq.*

20 U.S.C. § 1411 *et seq.*

Code of Federal Regulations, Title 34, sections 300.111, 300.131, 300.220 *et seq.*

Date Policy Adopted By The Board: September 6, 1990

Dates Policy Revised By The Board: January 13, 2005; June 5, 2008; November 19, 2024