Merchantville Board of Education 130 South Centre Street Merchantville, NJ 08109	File Code : 6164.4 Proposed : 10/13/2009 Adopted : 10/27/2009 Revised : 04/25/2017 Reviewed : 07/15/2024

Child Study Team

The board of education shall provide the services of child study team personnel in numbers sufficient to ensure implementation of pertinent law and regulation. The chief school administrator shall present to the board for approval job descriptions, qualifications and evaluation criteria for positions required, and shall present to the board for hiring the best qualified applicants. The child study team shall consist of a school psychologist, a learning disability teacher consultant and a school social worker, and for the purposes of evaluation and classification shall include pertinent information from certified school personnel making the referral.

When complete evaluations of pupils are necessary, the chief school administrator shall recommend for board approval qualified persons or agencies to supplement the district team. Appropriate staff members, such as the nurse and teachers assigned to the pupil, shall also be involved.

Pupils who have been identified by any professional staff member, the parents/guardians of the child, a child welfare agency or by the health services staff as possibly having an educational disability shall be considered for evaluation.

Teachers and administrators shall provide intervention resources (e.g., adaptive teaching methods and materials, schedule changes, modified workloads, corrective or remedial instruction, etc.) in order to discover whether an observed difficulty is the result of problems within the educational delivery system. Parents/guardians shall be notified of such interventions. The members of the child study team shall be available to discuss problems informally with teachers and parents/guardians.

If the problems persist despite these intervention techniques, a formal referral, requiring due process procedures, shall be initiated. The examination of each such pupil shall proceed promptly in strict accordance with law. The board shall review and adopt the regulations governing the referral process.

Examination of each identified child shall consist of a physical examination, a psychological examination, an educational examination, a social case study, and such other examinations as may be deemed necessary by the child study team.

Any decision by the basic child study team concerning the evaluation, classification and placement of a student shall include the full participation of that student's parents or guardian.

Students at Risk

In addition to the students with disabilities, the Child study team shall consider and recommend appropriate remedies and/or programs for pupils at risk for school failure. child study team members may participate as part of the multidisciplinary team in making decisions regarding a student's placement in an alternative education program.

All staff members shall be familiar with and implement the discipline policies and procedures adopted by the board (see board policy 5131 Conduct and Discipline). This implementation of the student code of conduct combined with consistent documentation shall provide data that may be used to identify the students that are at risk for school failure due to emotional and behavior issues. Staff members shall report the names of pupils who disrupt the educational program to the appropriate administrator who shall initiate actions that will ensure the involvement of the pupil's family and the provision of counseling and assessment services, so as to determine the causes of the pupil's disruptive behavior.

A request for pre-referral intervention or for referral for evaluation may be made to the child study team. Throughout this process, administrators, support staff, teachers, parents/guardians, and if prudent, the pupil shall be be involved. If all strategies prove unsuccessful, referral to the appropriate outside agency may be made.

Students whose continuing attendance interrupts the educational program and/or threatens harm to themselves and others may be suspended and considered for expulsion.

Key Words

Child Study Team, Referrals, Disaffected Pupils, Disruptive Pupils, Disaffected Students, Disruptive Students

Legal References

- N.J.S.A. 18A 46-3.1: Regional consultants for hearing impaired; appointment; duties
- N.J.S.A. 18A 46-5.1: Basic child study team services; provision by boards of education and state operated programs
- N.J.S.A. 18A 46-5.2: Participation by parent or guardian
- N.J.A.C. 6A 9B-14.5 School social worker
- N.J.A.C. 6A 9B-14.6 Speech-language specialist
- N.J.A.C. 6A 9B-14.7 Director of school counseling services
- N.J.A.C. 6A 9B-14.9 School psychologist
- N.J.A.C. 6A 9B-14.10 Learning disabilities teacher-consultant
- N.J.A.C. 6A 14-1.1 General requirements
- 20 U.S.C. 1401 et seq Individuals with Disabilities Education Act
- 29 U.S.C. 794 et seq Rehabilitation Act of 1973

Cross References

- 4111 - Sample Policy: Recruitment, Selection and Hiring
- 5114 - Sample Policy: Suspension and Expulsion
- 5120 - Sample Policy: Assessment of Individual Needs
- 5131 - Sample Policy: Conduct and Discipline
- 5200 - Sample Policy: Nonpublic School Pupils
- 6010 - Sample Policy: Goals and Objectives
- 6146.2 - Sample Policy: Promotion, Retention
- 6164.2 - Sample Policy: Guidance Services
- 6171.4 - Sample Policy: Special Education
- 6172 - Sample Policy: Alternative Education Programs

*Indicates policy is included in the Critical Policy Reference Manual.

NJSBA File Date: 05/06