St. Cloud Area School District 742!

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Executive Director
Special Education

To: Principal/Representative of Non-Public School

Re: Special Education and Private School Children with Disabilities

The Individuals with Disabilities Education Act (IDEA) requires that public school districts consult with and provide certain information to the representatives of private schools and to the representatives of parents of parentally placed private school students. Toward that end, St. Cloud Area School District is providing you with this memorandum. Please post this memorandum in a prominent location in your schools so that parents may have access to this information as well. I have also enclosed a letter to parents of privately placed students. Please make copies and give these to the parents of your students along with a copy of the enclosed brochure. The brochure provides our child find process at a glance. It is also meant to be shared with parents.

1. **What is the child find process?**
   The School District is required to conduct activities to locate, identify, and evaluate all children with disabilities who are located within the geographic boundaries of the District. These activities are referred to as the "child find" process. The child find requirement applies to all children with disabilities who are attending private elementary and secondary schools, including religious schools. The child find process for private school children with disabilities must be comparable to the process used for children with disabilities in public schools.

   IDEA requires that all children with disabilities who are receiving special education and related services from the District be reevaluated at least once every 3 years. Therefore, the School District must initiate a reevaluation of a private school child with a disability at least once every three years. If the District cannot complete the reevaluation because the child's parents refuse to cooperate, the District is not required to take further action.

2. **How can parentally placed private school children suspected of having a disability participate equitably in the child find process?**
   The parent, guardian, or teacher of a child who is attending a private school located within the School District may ask the District to evaluate the child to determine whether he or she has a disability and is in need of special education services under IDEA. Any child suspected of having a disability may be referred to the School District for an evaluation. If the School District evaluates a child and determines that the child is eligible for special education services, the District will provide the child with a free appropriate public education if the parents choose to enroll the child in the District's public schools.

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that the child is eligible for special education services, the District will provide the child with a free appropriate public education if the parents choose to enroll the child in the District's public schools. Students found eligible for special education services who choose to stay enrolled in the private school will be provided equitable services to those students attending public schools.

3. **How does the St. Cloud Area School District 742 inform parents, teachers, and private school officials of the child find process?**
   In addition to disseminating this memorandum, once a year the District's Director of Special Education and/or a representative of the Director will meet with Private School Representatives to discuss the child find process. The District will provide a brochure that explains the child find process. Copies of the brochures will be provided to private school's officials and will be available to parents, teachers, and private school officials.

4. **What process will the School District use to consult with private school officials and parents of parentally placed children with disabilities and how will the process operate throughout the school year to ensure that parentally placed private school children with disabilities who are identified through the child find process can meaningfully participate in special education?**
   The District will consult with private school officials and parents of parentally placed children with disabilities on an annual basis by disseminating this memorandum and by offering the private school representative the opportunity to meet with a public school representative. If a child is evaluated and found to be a child with a disability who is in need of special education services, the District will consider the child's individual needs and provide services to those students. Additionally, throughout the school year, private school officials and parents of parentally placed children with disabilities are invited to contact me if they have questions.

5. **Where, how, and by whom will special education and related services be provided to parentally placed private school children with disabilities?**
   School Districts are required to offer a free appropriate public education to children with disabilities who are enrolled in its public and non-public schools.

   In consultation with representatives of private schools and parents of children with disabilities, decisions about how and where special education services will be provided are made on a case-by-case basis with consideration being given to the individual needs and circumstances of the child with a disability. The School District may choose to provide the services at a private school site, but the District is not required to do so. One of the many factors that the District may consider is whether providing services at the private school site will minimize the need for transportation and the disruption to the educational program of all children receiving services.

When special education and related services are provided to parentally placed private school children with disabilities, they will be provided by qualified personnel. Such personnel will typically be employed and assigned by the School District. In some circumstances, however, the District may contract with qualified personnel who are not employees of the District.

6. **What types of services may be provided?**
   The special education services that the District provides to private school children with disabilities may include all types of direct and indirect services, including transportation services. Indirect services may include, but are not limited to, assisting with the professional development of private school teachers who work with children with disabilities and providing consultation to assist private school personnel in meeting the needs of children with disabilities.

   Special education services, including student specific materials and equipment, must be secular, neutral, and non-ideological. The School District must control the funds used to provide special education services and have title to all materials, equipment, and property purchased with the funds. The District must administer the funds and property and ensure they are used for the purpose of providing services to parentally placed private school children with disabilities.

7. **If the School District disagrees with the views of a private school official on the provision of services or the types of services that will be provided, what information will be provided to the private school official?**
   In the event of a disagreement between a private school official and the District, the District will provide a written explanation of the reasons why it chose not to provide services directly or through a contract.

Enclosures: Parent Letter
Brochure - Special Education Evaluations – Referral Procedures for Non-Public School Sites
Part B Notice of Procedural Safeguards
Affirmation of Timely and Meaningful Consultation