

Return Date:

Return to:

Administrator
Bureau of Exceptional Education and Student Services
ESE Program Administration and Quality Assurance
325 West Gaines Street, Suite 614
Tallahassee, Florida 32399-0400

FLORIDA DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION
DIVISION OF K-12 PUBLIC SCHOOLS
BUREAU OF EXCEPTIONAL EDUCATION AND STUDENT SERVICES

School District

**EXCEPTIONAL STUDENT EDUCATION
POLICIES AND PROCEDURES (SP&P)**

EFFECTIVE DATES:

2009-2010 through 2011-2012

SIGNATURE PAGE

School District: Clay
Administrator of Exceptional Student Education: Daniel Becton, Ph.D.
This document is effective for the 2009–2010 through 2011–2012 school years.

CERTIFICATION OF APPROVAL

I, Ben Wortham, do hereby certify that each of the statements below are true:



Signature of Superintendent of School District
or Authorized Representative of Governing Body or Agency

May 21, 2009

Date of Approval

SPECIAL PROGRAMS AND PROCEDURES

The district's *Exceptional Student Education (ESE) Policies and Procedures (SP&P)* document was approved by the governing body for submission to the Florida Department of Education on the date indicated.

The contents of this document preprinted by the Florida Department of Education have not been altered in any way.

The school district shall implement the requirements of any statutes or State Board of Education rules affecting programs for exceptional students during the effective dates of this document.

The school district shall implement the requirements of the Individuals with Disabilities Education Act (IDEA) and its implementing requirements at Section 300 of Title 34 of the Code of Federal Regulations.

SCHOOL DISTRICT POLICIES AND PROCEDURES

Any district-produced policy and procedures documents that meet the following criteria have been submitted to the Florida Department of Education with the SP&P. Such documents:

- Supplement the information contained in the district's SP&P
- Address school district exceptional student education procedures or policies
- Are adopted by the school board as school district policy

TABLE OF CONTENTS
2009-2010 through 2011-2012

I. General Policies and Procedures	3
A. Legal Requirements	4
B. Assurances	5
C. Procedural Safeguards.....	13
1. Exceptional Student Education Procedural Safeguards	13
2. Parental Revocation of Consent.....	14
3. Transfer of Parental Rights at Age of Majority	15
D. Surrogate Parents	16
E. Transferring Exceptional Students	18
F. Access to Student’s Public Benefits or Insurance	19
G. General Education Intervention and Referral	20
H. Student Evaluations and Reevaluations.....	27
I. Qualified Evaluators	32
J. Evaluation Instruments.....	34
II. Policies and Procedures for Students with Disabilities	51
A. Instructional Program	52
B. Eligibility and Programs.....	53
1. Autism Spectrum Disorder	53
2. Deaf or Hard-of-Hearing	55
3. Developmental Delay.....	58
4. Dual-Sensory Impairments	61
5. Emotional/Behavioral Disabilities.....	65
6. Established Conditions	68
7. Homebound or Hospitalized.....	70
8. Intellectual Disabilities.....	72
9. Physically Impaired with Orthopedic Impairment.....	74
10. Physically Impaired with Other Health Impairment.....	75
11. Physically Impaired with Traumatic Brain Injury	76
12. Specific Learning Disabilities	78
13. Speech and Language Impairments.....	85
14. Visual Impairment	88
15. Related Services – Occupational Therapy	91
16. Related Services – Physical Therapy	92
C. Dismissal	94
D. Individual Educational Plan	95
E. Discipline	104
F. State and District Assessments.....	110
G. Prekindergarten Children with Disabilities.....	113
H. Individualized Family Support Plan	117
III. Policies and Procedures for Students who are Gifted	121
A. Eligibility for Students who are Gifted.....	122
B. Educational Plans.....	125
IV. Policies and Procedures for Parentally-Placed Private School Students with Disabilities	127
A. Equitable Services to Parentally-Placed Private School Students.....	128
B. McKay Scholarships	134
V. Appendices	136
A. General Policies and Procedures.....	137
1. Procedural Safeguards for Students with Disabilities	137
2. Procedural Safeguards for Students who are Gifted.....	137
B. Unique Philosophical, Curricular, or Instructional Considerations	138
C. Gifted Plan.....	140

Part I
General Policies and Procedures

Part I. General Policies and Procedures

Section A: Legal Requirements

Statutory and Regulatory Citations

Section 1003.57, Florida Statutes (F.S.)
Rule 6A-6.03411, Florida Administrative Code (F.A.C.)

Requirement

For a school district or agency under contract to the Department of Education (DOE) to be eligible to receive state or federal funding for specially designed instruction and related services for exceptional students, it shall:

1. Develop a written statement of policies and procedures for providing an appropriate program of specially designed instruction and related services for exceptional students
2. Submit its written statement of policies and procedures to the Bureau of Exceptional Education and Student Services (Bureau) for approval
3. Report to the Bureau the total number of students in the school district receiving instruction in each special program for exceptional students in the manner prescribed by DOE

The Individuals with Disabilities Education Act (IDEA), corresponding federal regulations, and State Board of Education rules relating to special programs for exceptional students serve as criteria for the review and approval of the district's *Exceptional Student Education (ESE) Policies and Procedures* (SP&P) document.

The school district will submit the SP&P document in accordance with the timelines established in s. 1003.57, F.S., and Rule 6A-6.03411, F.A.C.

Part I. General Policies and Procedures

Section B: Assurances

Full Educational Opportunity Goal (FEOG)

The district assures provision of full educational opportunity to all children with disabilities, aged three through 21, using the kind and number of facilities, personnel, and services necessary to meet this goal. A free appropriate public education (FAPE) is available to all students with disabilities upon determination of need.

Ages of Students Served

For students with disabilities who have not graduated with a standard diploma, the district will:

- Provide services until the day the student turns 22
- Provide services until the end of the semester in which the student turns 22
- Provide services until the end of the school year in which the student turns 22

Written Agreements

1. The district assures that written agreements are on file in the district for multi-district programs and for the assignment of instructional personnel to a facility operated by another agency or organization. These written agreements have been developed and approved by all participating school boards or agencies. Each such agreement, in accordance with Rule 6A-6.0311, Florida Administrative Code (F.A.C.), includes but is not limited to:
 - a) Designating responsibilities for the implementation of district procedures
 - b) Providing transportation
 - c) Providing program and staff supervision
 - d) Funding programs
 - e) Dissolving the agreement
2. The following written agreements are on file for the provision of special education and related services **to this district's** exceptional students through multi-district programs:

No additional information is included below. Additional information is included below.

District Providing Services

Types of Exceptional Student Education Services Provided

Contractual Arrangements with Private Schools

When the district school board determines that special education programs offered by the district, a cooperating district school board, or a state agency cannot adequately meet the educational program needs for a student, the district will provide special education services through a contractual arrangement with approved nonpublic schools or community facilities.

1. Each school district may provide special educational programs with approved nonpublic schools or community facilities under one of the following circumstances:
 - a) For the provision of a non-residential interagency program for an exceptional student(s) which includes the provision of educational programming in accordance with the individual educational plan (IEP) developed for each student(s) placed in the program
 - b) For the provision of the educational component of a residential placement for an exceptional student(s) when such a placement is made by another public agency for the primary purpose of addressing residential or other non-educational needs. The student's IEP shall reflect that the placement is not required in order for the student to benefit from special education

The district assures that:

1. Before a contract with a nonpublic school or community facility is considered, the district school board will determine that the school or facility adequately and appropriately meets the following criteria for the specific program to be provided to the student or group of students through the contract (Rule 6A-6.0361, F.A.C.):
 - a) Qualified personnel
 - b) Instructional school day and year
 - c) Sanitation and health certificates and fire inspections
 - d) Confidentiality of student records
 - e) Administration of the provisions of the contract and supervision of the program
 - f) Procedures for admission, dismissal, and separation of students
 - g) Philosophy, curriculum, and methodology of instruction
 - h) Written description of support services
 - i) Written policies
 - j) Office for Civil Rights (OCR) compliance
 - k) Reports filed with the Department of Education
2. The contract will not extend beyond the school fiscal year, and the contents will be in accordance with Rule 6A-6.0361, F.A.C., including the following:
 - a) Staffed by qualified personnel
 - b) Description of the educational program
 - c) Periodic reports on the student's progress
 - d) District personnel to review the program
 - e) Reporting of nonattendance
 - f) Method of determining charges and sharing costs to include the projected total cost to the district
 - g) Identification of financial responsibility
 - h) Method of resolving interagency disputes
 - i) Schedule for review of program

- j) Provision for terminating the contract
 - k) Compliance with applicable Civil Rights Act of 1964, Title IX of the Education Amendments of 1974, and Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973
3. The district assures that it is responsible for the following, as required by Rule 6A-6.0361, F.A.C.:
 - a) Selecting an appropriate school or facility in consultation with the parent
 - b) Providing for transportation
 - c) Maintaining a case file including progress reports and periodic evaluations of the student
 - d) Verifying that the student is a resident of the school district and is enrolled in, or has made application for admittance to, a district school educational program
 - e) Providing for the cost of the student's educational program as specified in the contract
 - f) Maintaining documentation of the qualifications of personnel in nonpublic schools or facilities as required in Rule 6A-6.0361, F.A.C., or by the appropriate licensing entity
 - g) Providing an appropriate educational program for the student in the least restrictive environment based on an annual or more frequent review of the student's IEP or IFSP
 - h) Maintaining copies of the IEPs or IFSPs in the district and providing copies of the IEPs of students who are in residential placements to the Department of Education
 - i) Ensuring that an IEP or IFSP is developed and implemented
 - j) Ensuring involvement in IEP or IFSP team meetings initiated and conducted by the nonpublic school (Rule 6A-6.03028, F.A.C.)
 4. Even if a private school or facility implements a student's IEP or IFSP, responsibility for compliance with federal and state requirements remains with the school district and the state.
 5. The district assures that the student will generate Florida Educational Finance Program (FEFP) funds for the school district in the appropriate cost categories as established in s. 1011.62, Florida Statutes (F.S.), only under the conditions detailed in Rule 6A-6.0361, F.A.C., in regard to:
 - a) Program approval
 - b) Student attendance
 - c) Student's classification
 - d) Student's IEP or IFSP
 - e) Full-time equivalency (FTE) reporting
 - f) Submission of contract to the Bureau of Exceptional Education and Student Services (Bureau) prior to the first report of FTE

Limited English Proficient (LEP) Students

The school district assures that LEP students who are also students with disabilities have programming and services pursuant to federal and state laws and regulations.

Child Find

1. The State has assigned to local school districts and the Florida Diagnostic and Learning Resources System (FDLRS) the responsibility for fully informing parents about the requirements of identifying, locating, and evaluating students with disabilities in accordance with 34 Code of Federal Regulations (CFR) 300.128 and ss. 1006.03, and 1003.57, F.S.
2. The focus for FDLRS's child find activities is the out-of-school child aged birth through 21. FDLRS also serves as a link between identification, location, and evaluation services of the local Early Steps

Programs, county health units, Head Start, Florida School for the Deaf and the Blind (FSDB), and the individual school districts.

- a) In addition to these functions, FDLRS Centers have been authorized to provide testing and evaluation services to nonpublic school pupils or other children who are not enrolled in public schools and to assist districts in providing testing and evaluation services for high-risk or infants and preschool children with disabilities.

Confidentiality of Student Records

In accordance with 34 CFR 300.614, s. 1002.22, F.S., and Rule 6A-1.0955, F.A.C., the district assures that a formal policy is in place to guarantee the confidentiality of student records. This policy includes:

1. Access rights

- a) The district will permit parents to inspect and review any educational records relating to their children that are collected, maintained, or used by the district, without unnecessary delay and before any meeting regarding an IEP, IFSP, or educational plan (EP), or any hearing relating to the identification, evaluation, or educational placement of the child, or the provision of FAPE to the student, and in no case more than 30 days from the request. The parent has the right to:
 - A response from the district for reasonable explanation and interpretation of the records
 - Request that the district provide copies of the records if failure to do so would deprive the parent of the right to review the records
 - Have a representative of the parent inspect and review the records
- b) The district presumes that the parent has authority to inspect and review records relating to that parent's child unless otherwise advised that the parent does not have such authority.
- c) The district keeps a record of parties obtaining access to student records, other than the parent or authorized district or school employees, which includes the name of the party, the date access was given, and the purpose for which the party is authorized to use the records.
- d) When the educational record includes information about more than one student, the parent may review the information relating only to that parent's child.
- e) The district will provide the parent, upon request, a list of the types and locations of educational records relating to that parent's child.
- f) The district may charge a fee for copies of records if the fee does not prevent the parent from accessing the records. A search or retrieval fee may not be charged.

2. Amendment of student records

- a) The student's parent who believes that information within the student's educational records contains inaccurate or misleading information, or violates the privacy or other rights of the child, may request that the district amend the information.
- b) The district will decide whether to amend the information in accordance with the request within a reasonable period of time.
- c) If the district refuses to amend the information, it will inform the parent of the refusal and advise the parent of the right to a hearing, in accordance with the Family Educational Rights and Privacy Act (FERPA) of 1974.
- d) If, as a result of the hearing, the district decides that the information is inaccurate, misleading, or otherwise in violation of the privacy or other rights of the child, it will amend the record accordingly, and inform the parent in writing.
- e) If, as a result of the hearing, the district decides that the information is not inaccurate, misleading, or otherwise in violation of the privacy or other rights of the child, it will inform the parent of the

right to place in the record a statement commenting on the information or setting forth any reason for disagreement with the decision of the district.

- f) Any explanation placed in the student's record will be maintained by the district as part of the student's record as long as the district maintains the record or the contested portion. If the record is disclosed by the agency to any party, the explanation will also be disclosed.

3. Consent

- a) Parental consent will be obtained before personally identifiable information is disclosed to anyone other than officials of the district or other party with a legitimate interest in the record, or as specifically authorized by FERPA and s. 1002.22, F.S.
- b) Parental consent or the consent of an eligible student, who has reached the age of majority, must be obtained before personally identifiable information is released to officials of participating agencies that provide or pay for transition services.
- c) Parental consent or the consent of an eligible student, who has reached the age of majority, must be obtained before any personally identifiable information about a child is released between school district officials where a private school is located and officials in the school district of the parent's residence in situations involving parentally placed private school students.

4. Safeguards

- a) The district will protect the confidentiality of personally identifiable information during the collection, storage, disclosure, and destruction of records.
- b) The principal or designee at each school assumes responsibility for ensuring confidentiality of student records.
- c) All persons using or collecting personally identifiable information must receive training in confidentiality procedures.
- d) The district will maintain for public inspection a current listing of the names and positions of those employees within the district who have access to personally identifiable information.

5. Destruction of information

- a) The district will inform parents when personally identifiable information is no longer needed to provide education services to the student. This information must be destroyed at the request of the parent.
- b) A permanent record of the student's name, address, telephone number, grades, attendance record, classes attended, grade level completed, and year completed may be maintained without time limitation.

6. Annual written notice to parents

- a) The district will provide annual written notice to inform the adult student, or the parent or guardian, of the rights defined in s. 1002.22, F.S., and 34 CFR 99.7. Items to be included in the notice are:
 - The right to review and inspect the student's education records, including the procedures to exercise this right
 - The right to seek amendment of the student's education records that the parent or eligible student believes to be inaccurate, misleading, or otherwise in violation of the student's privacy rights, including the procedures to request an amendment
 - The right to consent to disclosure of personally identifiable information contained in the student's education records, except to the extent that FERPA and state statute permits disclosure without consent
 - The right to file a complaint with the U.S. Department of Education concerning alleged failures by the district to comply with the requirements of FERPA

- b) The district will have developed alternate methods of notice for informing adult students or the parent or guardian unable to comprehend a written notice in English.

7. Free Appropriate Public Education (FAPE)

The district assures that FAPE is available to all students with disabilities residing in the district between the ages of three and 22, including: students with disabilities who have been suspended or expelled from school; students with disabilities who have graduated with a special diploma or certificate of completion, but have not attained the age of 22; and students with disabilities who attend public charter schools. FAPE is also available to students identified as gifted in kindergarten through grade 12.

8. Transition from Part C to Part B

Students participating in early intervention programs under Part C, who will participate in prekindergarten programs under Part B, will experience a smooth and effective transition to the prekindergarten program for disabilities. By the student's third birthday, an IEP or IFSP is developed and implemented. A representative of the school district participates in transition planning conferences arranged by Children's Medical Services (CMS), the designated lead agency for Part C.

9. Revised funding formula

The district assures that, in accordance with s. 1011.62, F.S., in order to generate funds using one of the two weighted ESE cost factors, a new matrix of services form is completed by trained personnel at the time of initial placement and at least once every three years. Additionally, the district ensures that matrices reflect current services. If services change as the result of an IEP team decision, a new matrix will be completed. The nature and intensity of the services indicated on the matrix is consistent with the services described in each student's IEP, IFSP, or EP. Nothing listed in the matrix limits the services the school district provides in order to ensure that exceptional students are provided a free appropriate public education.

Students identified as exceptional who do not have a matrix of services will generate funds on the basis of full-time equivalent student membership in the FEFP at the same funding level per student as provided for basic students. These students will be reported at 111 for grades prekindergarten through 3, 112 for grades 4 through 8, and 113 for grades 9 through 12. Additional funding for these students is contained in the ESE Guaranteed Allocation component of the FEFP.

Coordinated Early Intervening Services (CEIS) (Required)

1. The school district assures, as applicable, if the school district has been determined by the Department of Education to have disproportionate data by race/ethnicity with respect to the 1) identification of children with disabilities, 2) placement of these children in particular educational settings, and 3) disciplinary actions, including suspensions and expulsions, that the school district will reserve the maximum allowed for intervening services (15%) to provide comprehensive coordinated early intervening services to serve children in the school district, particularly, but not exclusively, children in those groups that were significantly over-identified.
2. School districts must publicly report on the revision of policies, practices, and procedures with respect to identification, placement, and disciplinary actions taken of these children.

Coordinated Early Intervening Services (CEIS) (Voluntary)

1. The school district assures that no more than 15% of funds may be used to develop and implement activities that support coordinated early intervening services for students in grade K-12 who have not been identified as needing special education or related services, but who need additional academic and behavioral support to succeed in a general education environment.
2. In addition to direct services to students, activities may include professional development for teachers to support delivery of scientifically based academic instruction and behavioral interventions.

3. Annual reports identifying the number of children served and the number of children served who subsequently received special education and related services are required.

(Note: The amount of funds expended by the school district for early intervening services shall count toward the maximum amount that Maintenance of Effort (MOE) may be reduced.)

National Instructional Materials Access Center (NIMAC)

1. The school district assures compliance with 20 U.S.C. 1413, to provide instructional materials to blind persons or other persons with print disabilities in a timely manner.
2. Instructional materials may be purchased through the NIMAC in the same manner and conditions as authorized by the State.
3. School districts may choose not to coordinate with the NIMAC, but must ensure that children with disabilities who need instructional materials in accessible formats receive those materials in a timely manner.

Part I. General Policies and Procedures

Section C.1: Exceptional Student Education Procedural Safeguards

Statutory and Regulatory Citations

Title 34 Code of Federal Regulations (CFR) § 300.500 – 300.536
Sections 1003.57 and 1002.22, Florida Statutes (F.S.)
Rules 6A-6.03311, 6A-6.03313, and 6A-1.0955, Florida Administrative Code (F.A.C.)

Procedural Safeguards

Parents of exceptional students are entitled to information about their rights. These rights, or *procedural safeguards*, are intended to ensure that parents have the opportunity to be partners in the educational decisions made regarding their children.

1. Procedural safeguards for students with disabilities

This applies to students with disabilities enrolled in public schools and to students with disabilities enrolled by their parents in nonprofit private schools.

One of the following **must** be selected:

- A. The district will use the Department of Education's *Notice of Procedural Safeguards for Parents of Students with Disabilities*, located in **Appendix A.1**.
- B. The district will use a different notice of procedural safeguards for parents of students with disabilities. A copy of this notice is located in **Appendix A.1**.

2. Procedural safeguards for exceptional students who are gifted

One of the following **must** be selected:

- A. The district will use the Department of Education's *Procedural Safeguards for Exceptional Students who are Gifted*, located in **Appendix A.2**.
- B. The district will use a different notice of procedural safeguards for parents of students who are gifted. A copy of this notice is located in **Appendix A.2**.

Part I. General Policies and Procedures

Section C.2: Parental Revocation of Consent for Special Education and Related Services

Statutory and Regulatory Citations

Title 34 Code of Federal Regulations (CFR) §§ 300.9 and 300.300

Procedures

A parent of a student with a disability who has been receiving specially designed instruction and related services may revoke consent for such services.

1. The parent's request for revocation must be in writing.
2. The district will provide the parent with written notice under 34 CFR §300.503 before ceasing the provision of special education and related services.
3. The district may not continue to provide special education and related services to the child.
4. The district will not use mediation or due process procedures to challenge the parent's revocation of consent.
5. Revocation of consent constitutes dismissal from exceptional student education (ESE) services as a student with a disability.
6. The district is not required to convene an individual educational plan (IEP) team or develop an IEP for further provision of special education and related services for the student.
7. The district is not required to amend the child's education records to remove any reference to the child's previous receipt of such services.
8. The district will not be considered to be out of compliance with the Individuals with Disabilities Education Act (IDEA) for failure to provide a free appropriate public education (FAPE) to an otherwise eligible child.

Requirements No Longer Applicable

When a parent of a student with a disability revokes consent for services, the requirements that previously applied solely as a result of the student's status as a student with a disability will no longer apply. Examples include:

1. The revocation applies to all services the student is receiving as a student with a disability, including instructional and testing accommodations; the revocation cannot be for some services but not others.
2. The procedural safeguards that apply to students with disabilities, including disciplinary protections, will no longer apply to the student.
3. The student will not be eligible for a waiver from the Florida Comprehensive Assessment Test (FCAT) graduation requirements as a student with a disability or for a special diploma.

Part I. General Policies and Procedures

Section C.3: Transfer of Parental Rights at Age of Majority

Statutory and Regulatory Citations

Title 34 Code of Federal Regulations (CFR) § 300.520 and § 300.320
Section 393.12, Florida Statutes (F.S.)
Rules 6A-6.03028 and 6A-6.03311, Florida Administrative Code (F.A.C.)

Procedures

1. When a student with a disability reaches the age of 18, except for a student with a disability who has been determined incompetent under State law or who has had a guardian advocate appointed to make educational decisions as provided by s. 393.12, F.S., all rights afforded to parents under Rules 6A-6.0311 through 6A-6.0361, F.A.C., transfer to the student. However, the right to notice under Rules 6A-6.0311 through 6A-6.0361, F.A.C., is retained as a shared right of the parent and the student.
2. At least one year before the student's 18th birthday, the district will inform the student of his or her rights under Part B of the Individuals with Disabilities Education Act (IDEA), if any, that will transfer from the parent to the student on reaching the age of majority, which is 18 years of age. The student's individual educational plan (IEP) will include a statement that the student has been informed of the rights, if any, that will transfer to the student at 18 years of age.
3. The school district will notify the student and the parent of the transfer of rights when the student attains the age of 18; this notice is separate and distinct from the notice that was provided to the student and the parent at least one year before the student's 18th birthday.
4. For a student with a disability who has attained age 18 and is incarcerated in a juvenile justice facility or local correctional facility, all rights accorded to parents under Part B of the IDEA transfer to the student, including the right to notice.
5. For students incarcerated in state correctional facilities, all rights accorded to parents under Part B of the IDEA transfer to the student, including notice, regardless of the age of the student.
6. If a student with a disability has reached the age of majority and does not have the ability to provide informed consent with respect to his or her educational program, procedures established by statute may be used by the parent to (one of the following):
 - a) Have the student declared incompetent and the appropriate guardianship established in accordance with the provisions of Chapter 744, F.S.
 - b) Be appointed to represent the educational interests of the student throughout the student's eligibility for FAPE under Rules 6A-6.03011 through 6A-6.0361, F.A.C.
 - c) Have another appropriate individual appointed to represent the educational interests of the student throughout the student's eligibility for FAPE under Rules 6A-6.0311 through 6A-6.0361, F.A.C., if the parent is not available in accordance with s. 393.12, F.S.

Part I. General Policies and Procedures

Section D: Surrogate Parents

Statutory and Regulatory Citations

Title 34 Code of Federal Regulations (CFR) § 300.519
Section 1002.22, Florida Statutes (F.S.)
Rule 6A-6.0333, Florida Administrative Code (F.A.C.)

Definition

A surrogate parent is an individual appointed to act in the place of a parent in safeguarding a student's rights in the exceptional education decision-making process, when the student's parent, after reasonable efforts, cannot be located by the school district, the student is a ward of the State under State law, or the student is an unaccompanied homeless youth.

Procedures

1. The person qualified as a surrogate parent shall, at a minimum:
 - a) Be a citizen of the United States, a resident of the State of Florida, and above the age of 18
 - b) Not be an employee of any agency involved in the education or care of the student
 - c) Have knowledge and skills acquired by successfully completing training and using training materials developed and approved by the Department of Education (DOE) to ensure adequate representation of the student
 - d) Have no personal or professional interest that conflicts with the interest of the student that the surrogate represents
2. Appointment of surrogate parent
 - a) Surrogate parents for students who are eligible for or who are suspected of being eligible for special programs made available through a school district or agency under contract with the school district shall be appointed by the district's school superintendent not more than 30 days after the school district determines that the student needs a surrogate parent. Surrogate parents for students who are eligible for or who are suspected of being eligible for special programs made available through a contract from DOE shall be appointed by the individual specified in the contract. In the case of a student who is a ward of the State, the surrogate parent alternatively may be appointed by the judge overseeing the student's case, provided the surrogate meets the qualifications listed above.
 - b) The surrogate parent will continue in the appointed role until one of the following circumstances occurs:
 - The student is determined to no longer be eligible or in need of special programs, except when termination of special programs is being contested
 - The legal guardianship for the student is assigned to a person who is able to carry out the role of the parent
 - The parent, who was previously unknown, becomes known; or the whereabouts of a parent that was previously undiscovered, is discovered
 - The appointed surrogate parent no longer wishes to represent or is unable to represent the student

- The superintendent or DOE contract designee determines that the appointed surrogate parent no longer adequately represents the student
 - The student moves to a geographic location that is not reasonably accessible to the appointed surrogate parent
- c) The appointments and termination of appointments of surrogate parents will be in writing. Terminations initiated by the superintendent or DOE contract designee or a request for termination initiated by the surrogate will list the reasons for such request.
 - d) Either party may request a hearing under Chapter 120, F.S., regarding the termination of a surrogate parent.
 - e) Nothing in this rule shall prohibit the continuance of a surrogate parent appointment when the responsibility for the student's educational placement moves among and between public and private agencies.
3. The person appointed as a surrogate parent:
 - a) Must become acquainted with the student and be knowledgeable about his or her disability and educational needs
 - b) May represent the student in all matters relating to the identification, evaluation, and educational placement of the student and the provision of a free appropriate public education (FAPE) to the student
 - c) Represents the interests and safeguards the rights of the student in educational decisions that affect the student
 4. The responsibilities of a person appointed as a surrogate parent will not extend to the care, maintenance, custody, residential placement, or any other area not specifically related to the education of the student.
 5. A person appointed as a surrogate parent will be entitled to all of the procedural safeguards afforded a parent with respect to the identification, evaluation, and placement of a student with a disability or a student who is suspected of having a disability.
 6. A person appointed as a surrogate parent shall not be held liable for actions taken in good faith on behalf of the student in protecting the special education rights of the student.
 7. A school district may compensate persons appointed as surrogate parents. A person acting as a surrogate parent is not an employee of the district or DOE contracted program solely because he or she is paid by the district or DOE contracted program to serve as a surrogate parent.
 8. In the case of a student who is an unaccompanied homeless youth, appropriate staff of emergency or transitional shelters, independent living programs, and street outreach programs may be appointed as temporary surrogate parents without regard to the requirements until a surrogate can be appointed that meets all of the requirements.

Part I. General Policies and Procedures

Section E: Individual Educational Plans (IEPs) and Educational Plans (EPs) for Transferring Exceptional Students

Statutory and Regulatory Citations

Title 34 Code of Federal Regulations (CFR) § 300.323
Section 1003.57, Florida Statutes (F.S.)
Rule 6A-6.0334, Florida Administrative Code, (F.A.C.)

Definition

A transferring exceptional student is one who was previously enrolled as an exceptional student in any other school or agency and who is enrolling in a Florida school district or in an educational program operated by the Department of Education through grants or contractual agreements in accordance with s. 1003.57, F.S.

Procedures

1. Individual educational plans (IEPs) or educational plans (EPs) for students who transfer school districts within Florida

If an exceptional education student who had an IEP or EP that was in effect in a previous Florida school district transfers to the school district and enrolls in a new school, the school district (in consultation with the parents) will provide a free appropriate public education (FAPE) to the student, which includes services comparable to those described in the child's IEP or EP from the previous Florida school district, until the school district does either of the following:

- a) Adopts the child's IEP or EP from the previous school district
- b) Develops, adopts, and implements a new IEP or EP that meets the applicable requirements of Rule 6A-6.03028 or 6A-6.030191, F.A.C.

2. IEPs or EPs for students who transfer from outside Florida

If an exceptional education student who had an IEP or EP that was in effect in a previous school district in another state transfers to the school district and enrolls in a new school within the same school year, the school district (in consultation with the parents) will provide the child with FAPE (including services comparable to those described in the child's IEP or EP from the previous school district), until the school district does both of the following:

- a) Conducts an initial evaluation in accordance with Rule 6A-6.0331, F.A.C. (if determined to be necessary by the school district)
- b) Develops, adopts, and implements a new IEP or EP, if appropriate, that meets the applicable requirements of Rules 6A-6.03011 through 6A-6.0361, F.A.C.

3. Parental consent

The student's new school district is not required to obtain parental consent for the initial provision of services for transferring exceptional students determined eligible for services.

4. Transmittal of records

To facilitate the transition for a child described in subsections 1 and 2 above, the new school district in which the student enrolls will take reasonable steps to promptly obtain the student's records, including the IEP or EP and supporting documents and any other records relating to the provision of special education or related services to the child, from the previous school district in which the child was enrolled, in accordance with 34 CFR 99.31; and the previous school district in which the child was enrolled must take reasonable steps to promptly respond to the request from the new school district.

Part I. General Policies and Procedures

Section F: Access to a Student's Public Benefits or Insurance

Statutory and Regulatory Citations

Title 34 Code of Federal Regulations (CFR) § 300.154
Rule 6A-6.03028, Florida Administrative Code (F.A.C.)

Procedures

The school district may use the Medicaid or other public health benefits or insurance programs in which a student participates to provide or pay for services required under Rules 6A-6.03011 through 6A-6.0361, F.A.C., as permitted under the public benefits or insurance program, except as noted below:

1. With regard to services required to provide a free appropriate public education (FAPE) to an eligible student under the Individuals with Disabilities Education Act (IDEA), the school district:
 - a) May not require parents to sign up for or enroll in public insurance programs in order for their student to receive a FAPE under Part B of the IDEA
 - b) May not require parents to incur an out-of-pocket expense such as the payment of a deductible or co-pay amount incurred in filing a claim for services provided pursuant to the IDEA, but pursuant to information provided below, the district may pay the cost that the parent otherwise would be required to pay
 - c) May not use a student's benefits under a public insurance program if that use would (any of the following):
 - Decrease available lifetime coverage or any other insured benefit
 - Result in the family paying for services that would otherwise be covered by the public benefits or insurance program and that are required for the student outside of the time the student is in school
 - Increase premiums or lead to the discontinuation of benefits or insurance
 - Risk loss of eligibility for home and community-based waivers, based on aggregate health-related expenditures
 - d) Must obtain informed written parental consent each time that access to public benefits or insurance is initially sought and notify parents that the parents' refusal to allow access to their public benefits or insurance does not relieve the school district of its responsibility to ensure that all required services are provided at no cost to the parents. Parental consent must be obtained each time services are changed.
2. With regard to students with disabilities who are covered by private insurance, a school district may access a parent's private insurance proceeds to provide services required under the IDEA only if the parent provides written informed consent.
 - a) Each time the school district proposes to access the parent's private insurance proceeds, the agency must obtain parental consent and inform the parents that their refusal to permit the school district to access their private insurance does not relieve the school district of its responsibility to ensure that all required services are provided at no cost to the parents.
 - b) If a school district is unable to obtain parental consent to use the parents' private insurance, or public benefits or insurance when the parents would incur a cost for a specified service required to ensure a FAPE, the school district may use its IDEA Part B funds to pay for the service. To avoid financial cost to parents who otherwise would consent to use private insurance, or public benefits or insurance if the parents would incur a cost, the school district may use its IDEA Part B funds to pay the cost that the parents otherwise would have to pay to use the parents' benefits or insurance (e.g., the deductible or co-pay amounts).

Part I: General Policies and Procedures

Section G: General Education Intervention and Referral

Statutory and Regulatory Citations

Title 34 Code of Federal Regulations (CFR) §§ 300.302, 300.306, and 300.308–300.310
Sections 1008.25 and 381.0056, Florida Statutes (F.S.)
Rules 6A-6.0331 and 6A-6.03411, Florida Administrative Code (F.A.C.)

Definitions

1. General education intervention procedures are required for students needing additional academic or behavioral support in order to succeed in the general education environment. General education interventions may include the provision of educational and behavioral evaluations, services, and supports, including scientifically based literacy instruction and professional development for teachers and other school staff to enable them to deliver scientifically based academic and behavioral interventions.
2. Referral is the process whereby a written request is made for a formal individual evaluation to determine a student's eligibility for specially designed instruction and related services.

General Education Intervention Procedures

1. Parent involvement in general education intervention procedures
The school district provides opportunities for parents to be involved in the process to address the student's academic or behavioral areas of concern. Discussions are held with the parent regarding the student's responses to interventions, supporting data and potential adjustments to the interventions, and anticipated future action to address the student's learning and/or behavioral areas of concern. Maintain documentation of parental involvement and communication.
2. Observations of student in the educational environment
The school district conducts observations of the student in the educational environment and, as appropriate, in other settings to document the student's academic or behavioral areas of concern. At least one observation must include an observation of the student's performance in the general classroom.
3. Review of data
The school district reviews social, psychological, medical, and anecdotal records and achievement data in the student's cumulative folder and demonstrates through data that the student was provided appropriate instruction in the regular education settings, which was delivered by qualified personnel. Attendance records are reviewed and used as one indicator of a student's access to instruction.
4. Sensory and diagnostic screenings
 - a) Hearing and vision screenings are completed for the purpose of ruling out sensory deficits that may interfere with the student's academic and behavioral progress. Additional screenings are conducted to assist in determining academic or behavioral interventions, as appropriate. Student screenings to determine instructional and behavioral intervention strategies are not considered to be an evaluation for eligibility for special education and related services.
 - b) A vision screening is conducted in accordance with the school district's school health plan. A medical eye report takes the place of a vision screening report.
 - Students being considered for exceptional student programs, excluding gifted and hospital/homebound who may be screened on a referral basis, will be screened for the

purpose of ruling out sensory deficits that may interfere with the student's academic and behavioral progress.

- Instruments used for vision screening include, but are not limited to:

- i. Near Vision Test for Children
- ii. New York Flash Card Vision Test
- iii. Snellen Eye Chart
- iv. Titmus Vision Test
- v. Keystone Telebinoc

- c) A hearing screening is conducted in accordance with the school district's health plan.

- Students being considered for exceptional student programs, excluding gifted and hospital/homebound who may be screened on a referral basis, must be screened for the purpose of ruling out sensory deficits that may interfere with the student's academic and behavioral progress.
- Instruments used for hearing screening include, but are not limited to:
 - i. Pure tone audiometric screening
 - ii. Impedance screening

5. Implementation of evidence-based interventions

The school district implements evidence-based interventions addressing the identified areas of concern in the general education environment. Develop the interventions selected for implementation through a process that uses student performance data to identify and analyze the area of concern. Select and implement interventions, and monitor the effectiveness of the interventions. Interventions shall be implemented as designed for a reasonable period of time and with a level of intensity that matches the student's needs. Collect and communicate to the parents in an understandable format the pre-intervention and ongoing progress monitoring measures of academic and/or behavioral areas of concern.

6. Exceptions to requirement for general education interventions

The general education interventions described above are not required for students suspected of being gifted as described in Rule 6A-6.03019, F.A.C.; or who are being considered for eligibility for specially designed instruction for students who are homebound or hospitalized as described in Rule 6A-6.03020, F.A.C.; or for students who are not enrolled in a public school. The general education interventions described in paragraphs 1, 2, and 5 above may not be required for students suspected of having a disability if the student demonstrates a speech disorder or severe cognitive, physical, or sensory disorders, or severe social/behavioral deficits that require immediate intervention to prevent harm to the student or others, and a team that comprises qualified professionals and the parent determines that these general education interventions are not appropriate.

7. The activities above do not apply to children who are below mandatory school age and who are not enrolled in kindergarten. For those children, the requirements below will be followed:

- a) Review existing social, psychological, and medical data. Refer for a health screening when needed.
- b) Conduct vision and hearing screenings for the purpose of ruling out sensory deficits.
- c) Conduct additional screenings to assist in determining interventions as appropriate.

Additional Information Required:

The district's procedures for conducting required general education interventions are described below.

purpose of ruling out sensory deficits that may interfere with the student's academic and behavioral progress.

- Instruments used for vision screening include, but are not limited to:
 - i. Near Vision Test for Children
 - ii. New York Flash Card Vision Test
 - iii. Snellen Eye Chart
 - iv. Titmus Vision Test
 - v. Keystone Telebinoc
- c) A hearing screening is conducted in accordance with the school district's health plan.
 - Students being considered for exceptional student programs, excluding gifted and hospital/homebound who may be screened on a referral basis, must be screened for the purpose of ruling out sensory deficits that may interfere with the student's academic and behavioral progress.
 - Instruments used for hearing screening include, but are not limited to:
 - i. Pure tone audiometric screening
 - ii. Impedance screening

5. Implementation of evidence-based interventions

The school district implements evidence-based interventions addressing the identified areas of concern in the general education environment. Develop the interventions selected for implementation through a process that uses student performance data to identify and analyze the area of concern. Select and implement interventions, and monitor the effectiveness of the interventions. Interventions shall be implemented as designed for a reasonable period of time and with a level of intensity that matches the student's needs. Collect and communicate to the parents in an understandable format the pre-intervention and ongoing progress monitoring measures of academic and/or behavioral areas of concern.

6. Exceptions to requirement for general education interventions

The general education interventions described above are not required for students suspected of being gifted as described in Rule 6A-6.03019, F.A.C.; or who are being considered for eligibility for specially designed instruction for students who are homebound or hospitalized as described in Rule 6A-6.03020, F.A.C.; or for students who are not enrolled in a public school. The general education interventions described in paragraphs 1, 2, and 5 above may not be required for students suspected of having a disability if the student demonstrates a speech disorder or severe cognitive, physical, or sensory disorders, or severe social/behavioral deficits that require immediate intervention to prevent harm to the student or others, and a team that comprises qualified professionals and the parent determines that these general education interventions are not appropriate.

7. The activities above do not apply to children who are below mandatory school age and who are not enrolled in kindergarten. For those children, the requirements below will be followed:

- a) Review existing social, psychological, and medical data. Refer for a health screening when needed.
- b) Conduct vision and hearing screenings for the purpose of ruling out sensory deficits.
- c) Conduct additional screenings to assist in determining interventions as appropriate.

Referral Procedures

Prior to a referral for students suspected of having a disability, school personnel must make one of the following determinations and include appropriate documentation in the student's educational record:

1. For students who present speech disorders; severe cognitive, physical, or sensory disorders; and/or severe social/behavioral deficits that require immediate attention in order to prevent harm to the student or others, the implementation of evidence-based interventions (including the parent involvement in the intervention procedures) and the observations of the student would be inappropriate in addressing the immediate needs of the student.
2. The activities described in the general education intervention procedures above have been implemented, but have been unsuccessful in addressing the areas of concern for the student
3. The parents of the child receiving general education interventions requested, prior to the completion of the interventions, that the school conduct an evaluation to determine the child's eligibility for specially designed instruction and related services as a student with a disability. In this case, the activities described in the general education interventions procedures are completed concurrently with the evaluation but prior to the determination of the student's eligibility for specially designed instruction.

Additional Information Required:

1. Procedures for referring students who may have disabilities and students who may be gifted who are enrolled in the public school system and the personnel responsible:

(continued)

2. Procedures for referring students who are enrolled in nonpublic schools or agency programs and the personnel responsible:

3. Procedures for referring students who are not enrolled in any school and the personnel responsible:

Part I. General Policies and Procedures

Section H: Student Evaluations and Reevaluations

Statutory and Regulatory Citations

Title 34 Code of Federal Regulations (CFR) §§ 300.300–300.305

Section 490, Florida Statutes (F.S.)

Rules 6A-1.044, 6A-1.0502, 6A-4.0311, 6A-6.0331, and 6A-6.03411, Florida Administrative Code (F.A.C.)

Definitions

1. Evaluation is the process used to determine whether a student has a disability or is gifted and in need of specially designed instruction and related services, and the nature and extent of the exceptional student education (ESE) that the student needs.
2. Reevaluation of a student with a disability is the process whereby information about the student is gathered and reviewed to determine whether the student continues to have a disability and be in need of specially designed instruction and related services, and the educational needs of the student.

Procedures for Evaluation

1. Responsibility for evaluation
 - a) The school district is responsible for conducting all initial evaluations necessary to determine if the student is eligible for ESE services and to determine the educational needs of the student.
 - b) Evaluation specialists include, but are not limited to, persons such as physicians, school psychologists, psychologists, speech/language pathologists, teachers, audiologists, and social workers, with each such person licensed in the professional's field as evidenced by a valid license or certificate to practice such profession in Florida.
 - c) Educational evaluators not covered by a license or certificate to practice a profession in Florida either hold a valid Florida teacher's certificate or are employed under the provisions of Rule 6A-1.0502, F.A.C.
 - d) Tests of intellectual functioning are administered and interpreted by a professional person qualified in accordance with Rule 6A-4.0311, F.A.C., or licensed under Chapter 490, F.S.
 - e) The standardized assessment of adaptive behavior includes parental input regarding the student's adaptive behavior.
2. Evaluation timelines
 - a) The school district must make one of the following determinations, documented in the student's educational record, prior to the request for an initial evaluation:
 - General education interventions have been implemented and indicate that the student should be considered for ESE eligibility
 - The nature or severity of the student's areas of concern makes the general education intervention procedures inappropriate in addressing the immediate needs of the student
 - b) If a parent requests that the school district conduct an initial evaluation prior to the completion of the general education interventions, the school district must:
 - Obtain consent for and conduct the evaluation and complete the general education interventions concurrently with the evaluation but prior to the determination of the student's eligibility; or
 - Provide the parent with written notice of its refusal to conduct the evaluation.

- c) The school district ensures that initial evaluations of students suspected of having a disability are completed within 60 school days (cumulative) of which the student is in attendance, after the school district's receipt of the parental consent for evaluation.
- d) The determination of whether a student is "in attendance" must be made consistent with the school board's policies implementing Rule 6A-1.044, F.A.C., which requires the reporting of students' attendance.
- e) The 60-day timeline for evaluation does not apply if:
 - The parent repeatedly fails or refuses to produce the student for the evaluation
 - A student enrolls in a school served by the school district after the timeline has begun and prior to a determination by the student's previous school district as to whether the student has a disability

This exception only applies when the current school district is making sufficient progress to ensure a prompt completion of the evaluation and the parent agrees to a specific time when the evaluation will be completed.

Assessments of students who transfer within the same school year must be coordinated between schools to ensure prompt completion of evaluations.

- f) The school board ensures that students suspected of being gifted are evaluated within a reasonable period of time. The district makes every effort to complete evaluations for students suspected of being gifted within the timeframe described below:



3. Parent consent

- a) The school district will provide notice to the parent that describes any evaluation procedures the school district proposes to conduct. The school district will obtain informed consent from the parent of a student to determine whether the student is a student with a disability or is gifted before the evaluation is conducted.

Parental consent for evaluation is not construed as consent for initial provision of specially designed instruction and related services.

- b) The school district is not required to obtain informed consent from the parent for an initial evaluation if the child is a ward of the State and is not residing with the parent if:
 - The school district cannot discover the whereabouts of the parent,
 - The rights of the parent have been terminated, or
 - The rights of the parent to make educational decisions have been subrogated by a judge and consent for initial evaluation has been given by an individual appointed by the judge to represent the student.
- c) If the parent refuses consent for an evaluation to determine eligibility as a student with a disability, the school district may continue to pursue consent for the evaluation by using the mediation or due process procedures. A district is not required to pursue an initial evaluation when the parent refuses consent and does not violate its child find or evaluation obligations if it declines to do so.
- d) The school district may not use a parent's refusal to consent to initial evaluation to deny the parent or student any other service of the school district, except as provided by Rule 6A-6.0331.

4. Evaluation procedures

- a) In conducting an evaluation, the school district:
 - Uses a variety of assessment tools and strategies to gather relevant functional, developmental, and academic information about the student, including information provided by the parents that helps determine eligibility and assists in writing an individual educational plan (IEP), educational plan (EP), or individualized family support plan (IFSP). The evaluation should include information that enables a student with a disability to be involved and progress in the general curriculum (or for a prekindergarten child, to participate in appropriate activities), or identifies a gifted student's needs beyond the general curriculum
 - Does not use any single measure or assessment as the sole criteria for determining eligibility or educational programming
 - Uses technically sound instruments that assess the relative contribution of cognitive and behavioral factors, in addition to physical and developmental factors
 - b) The school district ensures that assessments and other evaluation materials used to assess a student are:
 - Selected and administered so as not to discriminate on a racial or cultural basis
 - Provided and administered in the student's native language, or other mode of communication, and in the form that most accurately measures what the student knows and can do
 - Used for purposes for which the measures are reliable and valid
 - Administered by trained and knowledgeable personnel in accordance with instructions provided by the producer of the assessments
 - c) Assessments are selected and administered to best ensure that if administered to a student with impaired sensory, manual, or speaking skills, the assessment results accurately reflect the student's aptitude or achievement level, or whatever other factors the test purports to measure, rather than reflecting the student's sensory, manual, or speaking skills unless those are the factors being measured.
 - d) Assessments and other evaluation materials include measures that assess specific areas of educational need rather than those merely designed to provide a single general intelligence quotient. The school district uses assessment tools and strategies that provide relevant information that directly assists in determining the educational needs of the student.
 - e) The student is assessed in all areas of the suspected exceptionality, including, if appropriate, health; vision; hearing; social/emotional status; general intelligence; academic performance; communicative status; and motor abilities. The evaluation is sufficiently comprehensive to identify all of the student's specially designed instruction and related service needs, whether or not commonly linked to the eligibility category for which the student is identified.
5. If the parent obtains an independent educational evaluation at his/her own expense, the results shall be considered by the school district when making decisions regarding the student, if the evaluation meets school district criteria.
 6. Following completion of the student's evaluation, the school district shall not unreasonably delay the determination of a student's eligibility for specially designed instruction.

Procedures for Reevaluation

1. Frequency of reevaluation

- a) The school district ensures that a reevaluation is conducted if the district determines that the educational or related services needs of the student warrant a reevaluation or if the student's parent or teacher requests it.

- b) Reevaluation of the student may not occur more than once a year, unless the parent and the school district agree otherwise, and must occur at least once every three years, unless the parent and the school district agree that reevaluation is not needed.
- c) Reevaluation is required prior to the determination that the student is no longer a student with a disability in need of specially designed instruction and related services.
- d) Reevaluation is not required for a student before termination of eligibility due to graduation with a standard diploma or exiting upon reaching the student's twenty-second birthday. However, the school district will provide the student with a summary of the student's academic achievement and functional performance, including recommendations to assist the child in meeting the child's postsecondary goals.

2. Review of information

- a) The IEP team conducts a review that includes the examination of existing data on the student, including evaluations and information provided by the parents of the student and the student, as appropriate, current classroom-based assessments and observations, and teacher and related services providers' observations.
- b) This review may be conducted without a meeting. If the review is conducted without a meeting, there will be documentation to verify this. If the review is conducted during a meeting, the parent will be invited.
- c) The team will identify what additional data, if any, is needed, and provide the parent with written notice of its proposal regarding reevaluation.
- d) The following rules require the administration of specific assessments as a part of a student's reevaluation:
 - Rule 6A-6.03013, F.A.C., Special Programs for Students Who Are Deaf or Hard-of Hearing
 - Rule 6A-6.03014, F.A.C., Special Programs for Students Who Are Visually Impaired
 - Rule 6A-6.03022, F.A.C., Special Programs for Students Who Are Dual-Sensory Impaired
 - Rule 6A-6.03020, F.A.C., Specially Designed Instruction for Students Who Are Homebound or Hospitalized

For students determined eligible under these rules, the administration of formal assessments at reevaluation must be completed in accordance with the requirements of these rules.

3. Parent consent

- a) The school district will provide notice to the parent that describes any reevaluation procedures the school district proposes to conduct.
- b) The school district will obtain informed consent from the parent of the student prior to administering a test or other instrument that is not administered to all students.
- c) Informed parental consent is not required for reevaluation if the parents fail to respond to reasonable attempts to obtain consent.

4. Determination of continued need for specially designed instruction and related services

- a) A meeting of the individual educational plan team is convened to review all available information about the student, including reports from the additional evaluations, and to determine whether the student continues to be a student with a disability in need of specially designed instruction and related services. If the student continues to be an eligible student, the student's individual educational plan is reviewed and revised, as appropriate, to incorporate the results of the reevaluation.
- b) If the reevaluation indicates that the student is no longer a student with a disability or that specially designed instruction and related services are no longer needed, the applicable dismissal procedures are followed.

- c) If the reevaluation indicates that the student's disability has changed (i.e., adding, deleting, or changing a disability category), the applicable eligibility staffing procedures are followed.
5. Reevaluation is not required for a student before termination of eligibility due to graduation with a regular diploma or exiting school upon reaching the student's twenty-second birthday. The school district will provide the student with a summary of the student's academic achievement and functional performance, which will include recommendations on how to assist the student in meeting the student's postsecondary goals.

Part I. General Policies and Procedures

Section I: Qualified Evaluators

Statutory and Regulatory Citations

Title 34 Code of Federal Regulations (CFR) §§ 300.304–305
Section 490, Florida Statutes (F.S.)
Rule 6A-6.0331, Florida Administrative Code (F.A.C.)

Procedures

1. Responsibilities of the school district
 - a) The school district is responsible for ensuring that competent evaluation specialists conduct evaluations for students suspected of having a disability. Examiners must be qualified in the professional's field as evidenced by a valid Florida license or certificate, and must have adequate training and knowledge to administer the particular assessment instrument. Tests of intellectual functioning must be administered and interpreted by a certified school psychologist or professional licensed under Chapter 490, F.S.
 - b) Unless statutory restrictions apply, the responsibility for determining who is qualified to administer and interpret a particular assessment instrument lies with the local school district. In determining qualified evaluators, districts should consider:
 - State Board of Education rules and the requirements of the Individuals with Disabilities Education Act (IDEA)
 - Testing standards (i.e., *Standards for Educational and Psychological Testing*)
 - User qualifications recommended by the publisher in the test manual
 - Level of training, supervision, experience, and certification of the individual administering and/or interpreting the instrument
 - Purpose of the evaluation (e.g., eligibility or monitoring/educational planning)
2. Professional standards and test manuals distinguish between professionals who are qualified to administer and score tests under supervision, and professionals who are qualified to interpret and report test results. Evaluators with no formal, graduate-level training in educational evaluation may administer limited categories of assessment instruments when trained to do so, either under supervision or when the evaluation is used for monitoring and educational planning purposes. Evaluators who do not have graduate-level training in educational evaluation should not interpret test results when these are used to determine eligibility.
3. Evaluators qualified to interpret and report test results for eligibility purposes should:
 - a) Have completed a graduate-level program with training in educational, psychological, or clinical evaluation and assessment
 - b) Have had supervised clinical experience
 - c) Be certified or licensed in a profession that includes educational evaluation and interpretation as part of its formal training
4. There are categories of evaluation instruments that may be administered by multiple professionals with formal academic training (e.g., achievement, language, early childhood) and others that are limited to specific evaluators. Evaluation instruments that are primarily psychological in nature (i.e., measures of intellectual/cognitive ability and measures of personality and behavior) can only be administered and interpreted by a psychologist or school psychologist. Clinical measures of speech

(articulation, voice, fluency) can only be administered and interpreted by a speech pathologist. Licensed occupational and physical therapists must administer evaluations for occupational and physical therapy services. Students with low incidence disabilities may require evaluations by individuals with specialized training.

- The table below is designed to assist in making decisions about qualified evaluators. Because there are multiple types of evaluation instruments within a category, a check does not automatically qualify (or disqualify) an evaluator to administer and interpret all measures in that category. There are other assessment tools and strategies that are components of a comprehensive evaluation (e.g., observations, social/developmental histories) not covered in the table.

Table 1: Qualified Evaluators and Categories of Evaluation Instruments

Qualified Evaluator	<i>Intelligence & Cognitive Ability</i>	<i>Nonverbal Ability</i>	<i>Adaptive Behavior</i>	<i>Early Childhood/Developmental</i>	<i>Neuropsychological, Vis-Mot-Per</i>	<i>Achievement</i>	<i>Social/Emotional and Behavioral</i>	<i>Language</i>	<i>Articulation, Voice, and Fluency</i>	<i>Deaf/Hard-of-Hearing</i>	<i>Vision</i>
<i>Psychologist/School Psychologist (Department of Education Certified or Licensed)</i>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
<i>Speech Pathologist</i>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
<i>School Social Worker</i>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
<i>Educational Diagnostician</i>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
<i>Exceptional Student Education Teacher</i>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
<i>Occupational Therapist/Physical Therapist</i>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
<i>Audiologist</i>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
<i>Other Specialist (e.g., counselor, early childhood specialist, behavior specialist)</i>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>

Note: When selecting qualified evaluators, the district should consult with the test manual to determine whether the evaluator meets the training and experience criteria established by the test publisher.

Part I. General Policies and Procedures

Section J: Evaluation Instruments

Statutory and Regulatory Citations

Title 34 Code of Federal Regulations (CFR) §§ 300.304 and 300.305
Rule 6A-6.0331, Florida Administrative Code (F.A.C.)

Purpose

The purpose of this section is to provide a *representative* list of some of the individually administered, standardized instruments available for conducting comprehensive evaluations and diagnostic assessments. The assessment instruments listed were selected based on technical adequacy (e.g., reliability, validity), appropriateness of standardization, and recency of test development. The section is organized by cognitive and developmental areas and has a *Specialized Evaluations* section that addresses evaluation instruments unique to specific disability classifications. In addition, a description of the procedures for conducting a social/developmental history is provided. The determination of what constitutes a comprehensive evaluation is made by a group of qualified professionals based on the reason for referral, student performance data and records, and other relevant information.

Note: School districts are not limited to, or required to use, the instruments included in this section.

Procedures

1. School districts are responsible for administering assessments in accordance with 34 CFR § 300.304 and Rule 6A-6.0331, F.A.C., evaluation procedures, established ethical/professional standards (e.g., *Standards for Educational and Psychological Testing*), and the test publisher's instructions. The evaluation procedures used should provide information to help determine whether the student is a student with a disability and must be sufficiently comprehensive to identify all of a student's exceptional education needs.
2. Districts must use a variety of assessment tools and strategies to gather information, use technically sound instruments, and not use any single assessment tool as the sole criteria for determining eligibility. Standardized evaluation instruments should be used in conjunction with informal assessment strategies, student progress monitoring and response to intervention data, and other evaluation data when making decisions about eligibility and educational need.
3. In the selection and administration of evaluation instruments, districts must ensure that the formal and informal evaluation methods used are:
 - a) Selected and administered so as not to be discriminatory on a racial or cultural basis
 - b) Provided and administered in the child's native language and in the form likely to yield accurate information on what the child knows and can do
 - c) Used for the purposes for which the assessments are valid and reliable
 - d) Administered by trained and knowledgeable personnel
 - e) Administered in accordance with instructions provided by the test developer
4. For children with known impairments (i.e., sensory, manual, or speaking), the school district must ensure that assessment results accurately reflect the child's aptitude or achievement rather than reflecting the impaired sensory, manual, or speaking skills.

Social/Developmental History

1. The Social/Developmental History is the appraisal of interpersonal, familial, and environmental factors that may influence a student's ability to learn and function optimally in school. It is a process, which requires data gathering and data synthesis of the following components:
 - a) Family composition and dynamics
 - b) Educational history
 - c) Health and developmental history
 - d) Current emotional and behavioral status
 - e) Environment and cultural influence
2. The purpose of the Social/Developmental History is to obtain information about a student which extends beyond the school environment for use by the multidisciplinary team in order to effectively problem solve presenting academic and/or behavioral issues. In this context, data are gathered through a structured interview with the student's parent/guardian in the home setting or at the school or other agreeable location when a home visit is not possible. Other data sources for the social history are the student's cumulative record, teacher interview(s) and student interview.

3. Procedures

The process includes:

- a) The process includes:
 - Establishing communication with the parent/guardian which could result in identifying the need to institute more frequent and cooperative home/school communications
 - Identifying conditions that may require additional evaluation, referral or intervention
 - Assisting parent/guardian in defining child-focused issues and their supporting role
 - Ensuring that the parent/guardian understands due process and safeguard guarantees
- b) Required skills
 - Interviewing techniques
 - Identifying and interpreting family dynamics that affect a student's learning
 - Identification and use of non-biased evaluative instruments and/or formats
- c) Qualified evaluators

Evaluation Specialists include persons authorized to practice such professional skills as evidenced by a certificate or license to practice in Florida, who have training in conducting a social/developmental history, usually a school social worker, but may include other trained and certified or licensed persons as indicated.

EVALUATION INSTRUMENTS

INTELLIGENCE & COGNITIVE ABILITY

Evaluation Instrument	Publisher	Ages/Grades
<i>Cognitive Assessment System (CAS) 1997</i>	<i>Riverside Publishing</i>	<i>5 to 17.11</i>
<i>Differential Abilities Scales – Second Edition (DAS-II) 2006</i>	<i>Pearson/PsychCorp</i>	<i>2.6 to 17.11</i>
<i>Kaufman Adolescent and Adult Intelligence Test (KAIT) 1993</i>	<i>Pearson</i>	<i>11 to 85+</i>
<i>Kaufman Assessment Battery for Children, Second Edition (KABC-II) 2004</i>	<i>Pearson</i>	<i>3 to 18</i>
<i>Reynolds Intellectual Assessment Scale (RIAS) 2003</i>	<i>PAR</i>	<i>3 to 94</i>
<i>Stanford-Binet Intelligence Scale – Fifth Edition (SB5) 2003</i>	<i>Riverside Publishing</i>	<i>2 to 85+</i>
<i>Stanford-Binet Intelligence Scales for Early Childhood – Fifth Edition (Early SB5) 2005</i>	<i>Riverside Publishing</i>	<i>2 to 5.11</i>
<i>Wechsler Adult Intelligence Scale – Fourth Edition (WAIS-IV) 2008</i>	<i>Pearson/PsychCorp</i>	<i>16 to 90</i>
<i>Wechsler Intelligence Scale for Children – Fourth Edition (WISC-IV) 2003</i>	<i>Pearson/PsychCorp</i>	<i>6 to 16.11</i>
<i>Wechsler Preschool and Primary Scale of Intelligence, Third Edition (WPPSI-III) 2002</i>	<i>Pearson/PsychCorp</i>	<i>2.6 to 7.3</i>
<i>Woodcock-Johnson III Tests of Cognitive Abilities (WJIII) 2001</i>	<i>Riverside Publishing</i>	<i>2 to 90</i>

NONVERBAL TESTS OF INTELLIGENCE/NONVERBAL ABILITY

Evaluation Instrument	Publisher	Ages/Grades
<i>Comprehensive Test of Nonverbal Intelligence (C-TONI) 1996</i>	<i>ProEd</i>	<i>6 to 18.11</i>
<i>Leiter International Performance Scale – Revised (Leiter-R) 1997</i>	<i>Stoelting Company</i>	<i>2 to 18</i>
<i>Naglieri Nonverbal Ability Test – Individual Administration (NNAT Individual) 2003</i>	<i>Pearson/PsychCorp</i>	<i>5.0 to 17.11</i>
<i>Naglieri Nonverbal Ability Test – Second Edition (NNAT -2) 2007</i>	<i>Pearson/PsychCorp</i>	<i>K-12</i>
<i>Ravens Progressive Matrices – Colored (CPM) and Standard (SPM) Progressive Matrices 1998</i>	<i>Pearson/PsychCorp</i>	<i>5 to adult</i>
<i>Test of Nonverbal Intelligence-3 (TONI-3)1997</i>	<i>ProEd</i>	<i>6.0 to 85.11</i>
<i>Universal Nonverbal Intelligence Test (UNIT) 1998</i>	<i>Riverside Publishing</i>	<i>5.0 to 17.11</i>
<i>Wechsler Nonverbal Scale of Ability (WNV) 2006</i>	<i>Pearson/PsychCorp</i>	<i>4.0 to 21.11</i>

ADAPTIVE BEHAVIOR

Evaluation Instrument	Publisher	Ages/Grades
<i>Adaptive Behavior Assessment System, Second Edition (ABAS, 2nd) 2003</i>	<i>Pearson/PsychCorp</i>	<i>5 to 21</i>
<i>Scales of Independent Behavior – Revised (SIB-R) 1996</i>	<i>Riverside Publishing</i>	<i>infancy to 80+</i>
<i>Vineland Adaptive Behavior Scales – Second Edition (Vineland-II) 2005</i>	<i>Pearson</i>	<i>birth to 90</i>

EARLY CHILDHOOD/DEVELOPMENTAL

Evaluation Instrument	Publisher	Ages/Grades
<i>Battelle Developmental Inventory (BDI-2, Fall 2004)</i>	<i>Riverside Publishing</i>	<i>birth to 8</i>
<i>Bayley Scales of Infant Development, Third Edition (BSID-III) 2005</i>	<i>Pearson/PsychCorp</i>	<i>1 to 42 months</i>
<i>Bracken Basic Concept Scale – Third Edition: Expressive (BBCS-3:E) 2006</i>	<i>Pearson/PsychCorp</i>	<i>3 to 6.11</i>
<i>Bracken Basic Concept Scale – Third Edition: Receptive (BBCS-3:R) 2006</i>	<i>Pearson/PsychCorp</i>	<i>3 to 6.11</i>
<i>Brigance Inventory of Early Development – Revised 1999</i>	<i>Curriculum Associates</i>	<i>birth to 7</i>
<i>Developmental Assessment of Young Children (DAYC)</i>	<i>ProEd</i>	<i>birth to 5.11</i>
<i>Developmental Profile 3 (DP-3) 2007</i>	<i>Western Psychological Services</i>	<i>birth to 12.11</i>
<i>Kaufman Survey of Early Academic and Language Skills (K-SEALS) 1993</i>	<i>Pearson</i>	<i>3.0 to 6.11</i>
<i>Mullen Scales of Early Learning 1995</i>	<i>Pearson</i>	<i>birth to 68 months</i>
<i>Peabody Developmental Motor Scale, Second Edition (PDMS-2) 2000</i>	<i>ProEd</i>	<i>birth to 6.11</i>

NEUROPSYCHOLOGICAL, VISUAL-MOTOR-PERCEPTUAL

Evaluation Instrument	Publisher	Ages/Grades
<i>Behavior Rating Inventory of Executive Function (BRIEF) 2000</i>	PAR	5 to 18
<i>Bender Visual-Motor Gestalt Test, Second Edition (Bender-Gestalt II) 2003</i>	Riverside Publishing	4 to 85
<i>BOT-2: Bruininks-Oseretsky Test of Motor Proficiency, 2nd Edition</i>	Pearson	4 to 21
<i>Children's Memory Scale (CMS) 1997</i>	Pearson/PsychCorp	5 to 16
<i>Dean-Woodcock Neuropsychological Battery (DW) 2003</i>	Riverside Publishing	4 to adult
<i>Delis-Kaplan Executive Function System (D-FES) 2001</i>	Pearson/PsychCorp	8 to 89
<i>Developmental Test of Visual-Motor Integration, 5th Edition (VMI-5) 2003</i>	Pearson	2 to 18
<i>NEPSY: A Developmental Neuropsychological Assessment 1997</i>	Pearson/PsychCorp	3 to 12
<i>Scales of Cognitive Ability for Traumatic Brain Injury (SCATBI) 1993</i>	ProEd	3 to 9.0
<i>Test of Auditory-Processing Skills – 3rd Edition (TAPS-3)</i>	ProEd	4 to 13
<i>Test of Visual-Perceptual Skills – 3rd Edition (TVPS-3)</i>	Academic Therapy Publications	4 to 13
<i>Wide Range Assessment of Memory & Learning, 2nd Edition (WRAML2) 2003</i>	PAR	5 to 90
<i>Wide Range Assessment of Visual Motor Ability (WRAVMA)</i>	PAR	3 to 17.11

GENERAL ACHIEVEMENT

Evaluation Instrument	Publisher	Ages/Grades
<i>Basic Achievement Skills Inventory (BASl)</i>	<i>Pearson</i>	<i>8 to 80</i>
<i>Brigance Comprehensive Inventory of Basic Skills – Revised (CIBS-R)</i>	<i>Curriculum Associates</i>	<i>PreK - 9</i>
<i>Diagnostic Achievement Battery – Third Edition (DAB-3) 2001</i>	<i>ProEd</i>	<i>6 to 14.11</i>
<i>Kaufman Test of Educational Achievement, Second Edition (KTEA-II) 2004</i>	<i>Pearson</i>	<i>4.6 to 90</i>
<i>Wechsler Individual Achievement Test - Second Edition (WIAT-II) 2001</i>	<i>Pearson/PsychCorp</i>	<i>4 to 85</i>
<i>Wechsler Fundamentals: Academic Skills 2008</i>	<i>Pearson/PsychCorp</i>	<i>K-12</i>
<i>Wide Range Achievement Test 4 (WRAT4) 2006</i>	<i>PAR</i>	<i>5 to 94</i>
<i>Woodcock – Johnson III Tests of Achievement (WJ-III) 2001</i>	<i>Riverside Publishing</i>	<i>2 to 90</i>

MATH ACHIEVEMENT

Evaluation Instrument	Publisher	Ages/Grades
<i>Early Math Diagnostic Assessment (EMDA) 2002</i>	<i>Pearson/PsychCorp</i>	<i>PreK - 3</i>
<i>Key Math – 3: Diagnostic Assessment 2007</i>	<i>Pearson</i>	<i>4.6 to 21.11</i>
<i>Test of Early Mathematics – Second Edition (TEMA-2) 1990</i>	<i>ProEd</i>	<i>3.0 to 8.11</i>
<i>Test of Mathematical Abilities (TOMA-2) 1994</i>	<i>Riverside Publishing</i>	<i>8.0 to 18.11</i>

READING, ORAL LANGUAGE, WRITTEN LANGUAGE

Evaluation Instrument	Publisher	Ages/Grades
READING/LITERACY		
<i>Comprehensive Test of Phonological Processing (CTOPP) 1999</i>	<i>ProEd</i>	<i>5.0 to 24.11</i>
<i>Dynamic Indicators of Basic Early Literacy Skills (DIBELS)</i>	<i>University of Oregon FCRR</i>	<i>K - 6</i>
<i>Early Reading Diagnostic Assessment, Second Edition (ERDA) 2003</i>	<i>Pearson/PsychCorp</i>	<i>K - 3</i>
<i>Florida Assessments for Instruction in Reading 2008</i>	<i>FCRR</i>	<i>K - 12</i>
<i>Gray Oral Reading Tests: Fourth Edition (GORT-4) 2001</i>	<i>ProEd</i>	<i>6.0 to 18.11</i>
<i>Test of Phonological Awareness – Second Edition Plus (TOPA-2+) 2004</i>	<i>ProEd</i>	<i>K - 2</i>
<i>Test of Reading Comprehension – Fourth Edition (TORC-4) 2009</i>	<i>ProEd</i>	<i>7.0 to 17.11</i>
<i>Test of Word Reading Efficiency (TOWRE) 1999</i>	<i>ProEd</i>	<i>6.0 to 24.11</i>
<i>The Phonological Awareness Test, Second Edition 2007</i>	<i>LinguiSystems</i>	<i>5 to 10 +</i>
<i>WJ III Diagnostic Reading Battery (WJ III DRB) 2004</i>	<i>Riverside Publishing</i>	<i>K - College</i>
<i>Woodcock Reading Mastery Tests – Revised (WRMT-R/NU) 1998</i>	<i>Pearson</i>	<i>5 to adult</i>
LANGUAGE/ORAL LANGUAGE		
<i>Clinical Evaluation of Language Fundamentals, 4th Edition (CELF-4) 2006</i>	<i>Pearson/Psych Corp</i>	<i>5.0 to 21.11</i>
<i>Comprehensive Assessment of Spoken Language (CASL) 1999</i>	<i>Pearson</i>	<i>3 to 21</i>

READING/ORAL & WRITTEN LANGUAGE (cont.)

Evaluation Instrument	Publisher	Ages/Grades
LANGUAGE/ORAL LANGUAGE (cont.)		
<i>Comprehensive Receptive and Expressive Vocabulary Test, 2nd Edition (CREVT-2) 2002</i>	<i>ProEd</i>	<i>4 to 89</i>
<i>Expressive Language Test (ELT) 1998</i>	<i>LinguiSystems</i>	<i>5 to 11</i>
<i>Expressive One-Word Picture Vocabulary Test (EOWPVT-R) 2000</i>	<i>Pearson</i>	<i>2.0 to 18.11</i>
<i>Expressive Vocabulary Test, 2nd Edition (EVT-II) 2006</i>	<i>Pearson</i>	<i>2.6 to 90</i>
<i>Language Processing Test, 3rd Edition: Elementary (LPT-3:Elementary) 2005</i>	<i>LinguiSystems</i>	<i>5 to 11</i>
<i>Oral and Written Language Scales (OWLS) 1996</i>	<i>Pearson</i>	<i>3.0 to 21.11</i>
<i>Peabody Picture Vocabulary Test – Fourth Edition (PPVT-IV) 2006</i>	<i>Pearson</i>	<i>2.6 to 90</i>
<i>Preschool Language Scale, 4th Edition (PLS-4) 2002</i>	<i>Pearson/PsychCorp</i>	<i>birth to 6.11</i>
<i>Receptive One Word Picture Vocabulary Test (ROWPVT) 2000</i>	<i>Pearson</i>	<i>2 to 18.11</i>
<i>Test of Adolescent & Adult Language – Fourth Edition (TOAL-4) 2007</i>	<i>ProEd</i>	<i>12 to 24.11</i>
<i>Test of Auditory Comprehension of Language – Third Edition (TACL-3) 1999</i>	<i>Pearson</i>	<i>3.0 to 9.11</i>
<i>Test of Early Language Development – Third Edition (TELD-3) 1999</i>	<i>ProEd</i>	<i>2 to 7.11</i>
<i>Test of Language Development – Intermediate, Fourth Edition (TOLD-I:4) 2008</i>	<i>ProEd</i>	<i>8.0 to 17.11</i>
<i>Test of Language Development – Primary, Fourth Edition (TOLD-P:4) 2008</i>	<i>ProEd</i>	<i>4 to 8.11</i>
<i>Test of Pragmatic Language – 2nd Edition (TOPL-2) 2007</i>	<i>Harcourt</i>	<i>6 to 18.11</i>

READING/ORAL & WRITTEN LANGUAGE (cont.)

Evaluation Instrument	Publisher	Ages/Grades
LANGUAGE/ORAL LANGUAGE (cont.)		
<i>Test of Semantic Skills – Primary (TOSS-P) 2002</i>	<i>LinguiSystems</i>	<i>4 to 8</i>
<i>Test of Word Finding, Second Edition (TWF-2) 2000</i>	<i>Pearson</i>	<i>6.6 to 12.11</i>
<i>Token Test for Children, 2nd Edition (TTFC-2) 2007</i>	<i>ProEd</i>	<i>3.0 to 12.11</i>
<i>Utah Test of Language Development – Fourth Edition (UTLD-4)</i>	<i>ProEd</i>	<i>3.0 to 9.11</i>
<i>Woodcock Language Proficiency Battery – Revised, (WLPB-R) 1991</i>	<i>Riverside Publishing</i>	<i>2 to adult</i>
<i>Word Test – 2: Elementary 2004</i>	<i>ProEd</i>	<i>6.0 to 11.11</i>
<i>Word Test – 2: Adolescent 2005</i>	<i>ProEd</i>	<i>12.0 and up</i>
<i>Diagnostic Evaluation of Language Variation (DELV) Screening Test 2003, Criterion-Referenced Test 2003, or Norm-Referenced Test 2005</i>	<i>Pearson/ PsychCorp</i>	<i>4-9 years</i>
WRITTEN LANGUAGE		
<i>Oral and Written Language Scales (OWLS) 1996</i>	<i>Pearson</i>	<i>3 to 21</i>
<i>Test of Early Written Language – Second Edition (TEWL-2) 1996</i>	<i>ProEd</i>	<i>3 to 10.11</i>
<i>Test of Written Language – Fourth Edition (TOWL-4) 2009</i>	<i>ProEd</i>	<i>9 to 17.11</i>
<i>Test of Written Spelling – Fourth Edition (TWS-4)</i>	<i>ProEd/ Pearson</i>	<i>Grades 1-12</i>
<i>Spelling Performance Evaluation for Language & Literacy- Second Edition (SPELL-2)</i>	<i>Learning by Design</i>	<i>Grade 2-Adult</i>
<i>Test of Written Expression (TOWE) 1995</i>	<i>Pearson</i>	<i>6.6 to 14.11</i>

SOCIAL/EMOTIONAL AND BEHAVIORAL

Evaluation Instrument	Publisher	Ages/Grades
<i>Achenbach System of Empirically Based Assessment (ASEBA) 2003</i>	ASEBA	1.5 to 59
<i>Beck Youth Inventories – 2nd Edition (BYI-II) 2005</i>	Pearson/PsychCorp	7 to 18.11
<i>Behavior Assessment System for Children, Second Edition (BASC-II) 2004</i>	Pearson	4 to 18
<i>Behavior Rating Profile – 2 (BRP-2)</i>	ProEd	6.6 to 18.6
<i>Conners Third Edition (Conners 3) 2008</i>	MHS	6 to 17.11
<i>Conners Comprehensive Behavior Rating Scales (Conners CBRS) 2008</i>	MHS	6 to 17.11
<i>Clinical Assessment of Behavior (CAB) 2004</i>	PAR	5 to 18
<i>Devereaux Scales of Mental Disorders (DSMD) 1994</i>	Pearson/PsychCorp	5 to 18
<i>Emotional Disturbance Decision Tree (EDDT) 2007</i>	PAR	5 to 18
<i>School Social Behavior Scales Second Edition (SSBS-2) 2002</i>	Paul Brookes	5 to 18
<i>Social Skills Improvement System (SSIS) 2008</i>	Pearson/PsychCorp	PreK - 12

ARTICULATION, VOICE, AND FLUENCY

Evaluation Instrument	Publisher	Ages/Grades
<i>Arizona Articulation Proficiency Scale, 3rd Edition (Arizona-3) 1999</i>	<i>ProEd</i>	<i>1.5 to 18.0 years</i>
<i>Clinical Assessment of Articulation and Phonology (CAAP) 2004</i>	<i>ProEd</i>	<i>2.6 to 8.11 years</i>
<i>Goldman – Fristoe Test of Articulation-2 (G-FTA-2) 2000</i>	<i>ProEd</i>	<i>2 to 21 years</i>
<i>Kahn-Lewis Phonological Analysis, 2nd Edition (KLPA-2) 2002</i>	<i>Pearson</i>	<i>2 to 21 years</i>
<i>Photo-Articulation Test, 3rd Edition (PAT-3) 1997</i>	<i>Pearson</i>	<i>3 to 8 years</i>
<i>*Boone Voice Program for Children, 2nd Edition 1980</i>	<i>ProEd</i>	<i>3 to 14 years</i>
<i>Voice Assessment Protocol for Children and Adults (VAP) 1987</i>	<i>ProEd</i>	<i>all ages</i>
<i>*Cooper Personalized Fluency Control Therapy for Children, Third Edition (PFCT-3) 2002</i>	<i>ProEd</i>	<i>preschool and school-age children</i>
<i>Stuttering Prediction Instrument for Young Children (SPI) 1981</i>	<i>ProEd</i>	<i>3 to 8 years</i>
<i>Stuttering Severity Instrument for Children and Adults, 3rd Edition (SSI-3) 1994</i>	<i>ProEd</i>	<i>2.10 years to adult</i>

***Please note that some of the evaluation instruments listed are part of a comprehensive program involving evaluation and treatment.**

SPECIALIZED EVALUATIONS

Evaluation Instrument	Publisher	Ages/Grades
AUTISM SPECTRUM DISORDERS (ASD)		
<i>Autism Diagnostic Interview – Revised (ADI-R) 1994</i>	<i>Western Psychological Services</i>	<i>2 to adult</i>
<i>Autism Diagnostic Observation Schedule (ADOS) 1989</i>	<i>Western Psychological Services</i>	<i>2 to adult</i>
<i>Asperger’s Syndrome Diagnostic Scale (ASDS) 2000</i>	<i>ProEd</i>	<i>5 to 18</i>
<i>CARS: Childhood Autism Rating Scale (CARS) 1999</i>	<i>Western Psychological Services</i>	<i>2 to adult</i>
<i>GADS: Gilliam Asperger’s Disorder Scale (GADS) 2000</i>	<i>ProEd</i>	<i>3 to 22</i>
<i>GARS-2: Gilliam Autism Rating Scale, Second Edition (GARS-2) 1995</i>	<i>ProEd</i>	<i>3 to 22</i>
<i>PEP–3: Psychoeducational Profile – Third Edition (PEP-3) 2005</i>	<i>ProEd/Western Psychological Services</i>	<i>6 months to 6.11</i>
<i>Pervasive Developmental Disorders Screening Test–II (PDDST–II) 2004</i>	<i>Pearson/PsychCorp</i>	<i>18 months to 48 months</i>
<i>Social Responsiveness Scale (SRS)</i>	<i>Western Psychological Services</i>	<i>4 to 18</i>
GIFTED		
<i>Gifted and Talented Evaluation Scales (GATES)</i>	<i>ProEd</i>	<i>5 to 18</i>
<i>Gifted Evaluation Scale (GES) 1998</i>	<i>Hawthorne</i>	<i>5 to 18</i>
<i>Gifted Rating Scale (GRS) 2003</i>	<i>Pearson/PsychCorp</i>	<i>4 to 13.11</i>
<i>Scales for Rating the Behavioral Characteristics of Superior Students (SRBCSS)</i>	<i>Creative Learning Press</i>	<i>grades 3 to 12</i>

SPECIALIZED EVALUATIONS (cont.)

Evaluation Instrument	Publisher	Ages/Grades
DEAF/HARD-OF- HEARING		
<i>Carolina Picture Vocabulary Test 1985</i>	<i>ProEd</i>	<i>4 to 11.5</i>
<i>Craig Lipreading Inventory 1971</i>	<i>Western Pennsylvania School for the Deaf/Educational Testing Services (ETS)</i>	<i>2 to 15</i>
<i>ESP: Early Speech Perception</i>	<i>Central Institute for the Deaf</i>	<i>2 to 8</i>
<i>Grammatical Analysis of Elicited Language</i> - <i>Pre-Sentence Level (GAEL-PS) 1983</i> - <i>Simple Sentence Level (GAEL-S) 1985</i> - <i>Complex Sentence Level (GAEL-C) 1980</i>	<i>Central Institute for the Deaf</i>	<i>3 to 12</i>
<i>Phonetic Phonologic Speech Evaluation 2002</i>	<i>A.G. Bell Association</i>	<i>children</i>
<i>Teacher Assessment of Grammatical Structures</i> - <i>Pre-Sentenced Level (TAGS-P)</i> - <i>Simple Sentence Level (TAGS-S)</i> - <i>Complex Sentence Level (TAGS-C)</i>	<i>Central Institute for the Deaf</i>	<i>children</i>
<i>Test of Early Reading Ability – Deaf or Hard-of-Hearing 1991</i>	<i>ProEd</i>	<i>grades 3 to 13</i>
VISION		
<i>Assessment of Braille Literacy Skills (ABLS) 1995</i>	<i>Region IV Education Service Center</i>	<i>all</i>
<i>Assessment Kit 1997</i>	<i>Texas School for the Blind and Visually Handicapped</i>	<i>all</i>
<i>Callier-Azusa Scale: G Edition 1978</i> <i>Callier-Azusa Scale: H Edition 1984</i>	<i>University of Texas-Dallas</i>	<i>PreK to 12</i> <i>(deaf-blind and multiple disabilities)</i>

SPECIALIZED EVALUATIONS (cont.)

Evaluation Instrument	Publisher	Ages/Grades
VISION (cont.)		
<i>Evaluating Visually Impaired Students Using Alternate Learning Strategies (EVALS) 2007 (Includes TAPS Comprehensive and Ongoing Assessment)</i>	<i>Texas School for the Blind and Visually Impaired</i>	<i>all</i>
<i>Functional Vision and Learning Media Assessment</i>	<i>American Printing House for the Blind</i>	<i>all</i>
<i>Individualized Systematic Assessment of Visual Efficiency (ISAVE)</i>	<i>American Printing House for the Blind</i>	<i>all (students with additional disabilities)</i>
<i>Learning Media Assessment 1993</i>	<i>Texas School for the Blind and Visually Handicapped</i>	<i>all</i>
<i>McDowell Vision Screening Kit</i>	<i>Western Psychological Services</i>	<i>2 1/2 to 5 1/2</i>
<i>Minnesota Braille Skills Inventory 1995</i>	<i>Minnesota Dept of Education</i>	<i>all</i>
<i>Oregon Project for Visually Impaired and Blind Preschool Children (6th Edition)</i>	<i>Southern Oregon Education Service District, Medford, Oregon</i>	<i>grades PreK to 2</i>
<i>Program to Develop Efficiency in Visual Functioning: Diagnostic Assessment Procedure (DAP) 1978</i>	<i>American Printing House for the Blind</i>	<i>all</i>
<i>Sensory Learning Kit</i>	<i>American Printing House for the Blind</i>	<i>students with developmental level of 0-2 years</i>
<i>SIB-R Short Form for the Visually Impaired 1996</i>	<i>Riverside Publishing</i>	<i>infancy to 80+</i>
<i>TAPS: Orientation Mobility Curriculum for Students with Visual Impairments 1995</i>	<i>Texas School for the Blind & Visually Impaired</i>	<i>3 to 21</i>
<i>Visual Functioning Assessment Tool (VFAT) 1989</i>	<i>Stoelting Company</i>	<i>all</i>

BILINGUAL/SPANISH

Evaluation Instrument	Publisher	Ages/Grades
<i>Adaptive Behavior Assessment System, Second Edition (ABAS, 2nd) 2003</i>	<i>Pearson/PsychCorp</i>	<i>5 to 21</i>
<i>Assessment of Basic Skills – Revised (ABS-R) (Brigance CIBS-R Spanish Edition)</i>	<i>Curriculum Associates</i>	<i>K to 8</i>
<i>Behavior Assessment System for Children (BASC-2) 2003 PRS, SRP, SDH</i>	<i>Pearson</i>	<i>2.0 to 21.11</i>
<i>Bateria III Woodcock-Muñoz 2005</i>	<i>Riverside Publishing</i>	<i>2.0 to 90</i>
<i>Battelle Developmental Inventory (BDI-2 Spanish) 2005</i>	<i>Riverside Publishing</i>	<i>birth to 7.11</i>
<i>Bilingual Verbal Ability Test – Normative Update (BVAT-NU) 2005</i>	<i>Riverside Publishing</i>	<i>5.0 to adult</i>
<i>Bracken Basic Concept Scale Third Edition (BBCS-E:R) and Bracken Basic Concept Scale: Receptive (BBCS:E) 2002</i>	<i>Pearson/PsychCorp</i>	<i>3.0 to 6.11</i>
<i>Bracken School Readiness Assessment (BSRA) 2002</i>	<i>Pearson/PsychCorp</i>	<i>2.6 to 7.11</i>
<i>Clinical Evaluation of Language Fundamentals (CELF-4 Spanish) 2006</i>	<i>Pearson/PsychCorp</i>	<i>5 to 21</i>
<i>Expressive and Receptive One Word Picture Vocabulary Tests (EOWPVT) & (ROWPVT) 2000</i>	<i>Academic Therapy</i>	<i>2 to 18.11</i>
<i>Pervasive Developmental Disorders Screening Test-II (PDDST-II) 2004</i>	<i>Pearson/PsychCorp</i>	<i>18 months to 48 months</i>
<i>Preschool Language Scale, Spanish Edition (PLS-4) 2002</i>	<i>Pearson/PsychCorp</i>	<i>birth to 6.11</i>
<i>Test de Vocabulario en Imagenes Peabody (TVIP) 1990</i>	<i>Pearson</i>	<i>2.6 to 17.11</i>
<i>Test of Phonological Awareness in Spanish (TPAS)</i>	<i>ProEd</i>	<i>4.0 to 10.11</i>

BILINGUAL/SPANISH (cont.)

Evaluation Instrument	Publisher	Ages/Grades
<i>Wechsler Intelligence Scale for Children – Fourth Edition Spanish (WISC-IV Spanish) 2004</i>	<i>Pearson/PsychCorp</i>	<i>6.0 to 16.11</i>
<i>Woodcock Language Proficiency Battery – Revised Spanish Form (WLPB-R Sp) 1995</i>	<i>Riverside Publishing</i>	<i>2 to adult</i>
<i>Woodcock-Muñoz Language Survey – Revised (WMLS-R) 2005</i>	<i>Riverside Publishing</i>	<i>2.0 to adult</i>

Part II
Policies and Procedures for Students
with Disabilities

Part II. Policies and Procedures for Students with Disabilities

Section A: Instructional Program

The following applies to the instructional program for students with disabilities in general. In addition to the philosophical, curricular, and instructional support issues included here, there are disability-specific expectations or requirements for certain categories of disability. That information is provided in the relevant *Exceptional Student Education Eligibility* sections of this document.

Philosophy

1. Each student with a disability is entitled to receive a free appropriate public education (FAPE) in the least restrictive environment that will enable the student to progress in the general curriculum to the maximum extent possible.
2. Special education, which refers to specially designed instruction and related services, is provided to meet the unique needs of the student that result from the student's disability and to prepare the student for further education, employment, and independent living.
3. Specially designed instruction means adapting, as appropriate, the content, methodology, and/or delivery of instruction.
4. Specially designed instruction may employ universal design for learning, assistive technology, accommodations, and/or modifications.

Curriculum

1. To maximize accessibility to the curriculum, students will access the State standards/Access Points through appropriate programming, support from special education and regular education teachers, support in the use of assistive technology, and through the use of universal design principals.
2. For most students with disabilities, these supports provide progress toward a standard high school diploma.

Instructional Support

1. Students receive instructional support through specially designed instruction and related services as determined through the individual educational plan (IEP) process.
2. Teachers are trained in designing and implementing individualized programs to address the learning needs of each student.
3. Teachers are provided with administrative support to assure reasonable class size/workload, adequate funds for materials, and professional development.
4. Teachers instruct students in the unique skills necessary to access and benefit from the core curriculum. These skills may include, but are not limited to, curriculum and learning strategies, compensatory skills, independent functioning, social/emotional behavior, use of assistive technology, and communication.
5. A range of service delivery options is available to meet the student's needs: consultation, itinerant instruction, resource room, special class, residential placement, homebound or hospitalized, and community-based or home-based services.
6. School districts may provide professional development for teachers in coordination with community agencies, the Florida School for the Deaf and the Blind, discretionary projects funded by the Bureau of Exceptional Education and Student Services, and other agencies of state and local government, including, but not limited to, the Division of Blind Services, the Division of Vocational Rehabilitation, Department of Children and Families, and the Department of Health, Children's Medical Services, as appropriate.

Part II. Policies and Procedures for Students with Disabilities

Section B.1: Exceptional Student Education Eligibility for Students with Autism Spectrum Disorder

Statutory and Regulatory Citations

Title 34 Code of Federal Regulations (CFR) § 300.8
Sections 1003.01 and 1003.57, Florida Statutes (F.S.)
Rules 6A-6.03023 and 6A-6.0331, Florida Administrative Code (F.A.C.)

Definition

Autism spectrum disorder (ASD) is defined as a range of pervasive developmental disorders that adversely affects a student's functioning and results in the need for specially designed instruction and related services. ASD is characterized by an uneven developmental profile and a pattern of qualitative impairments in social interaction and communication and the presence of restricted repetitive and/or stereotyped patterns of behavior, interests, or activities. These characteristics may manifest in a variety of combinations and range from mild to severe. ASD may include autistic disorder, pervasive developmental disorder not otherwise specified, Asperger's syndrome, or other related pervasive developmental disorders.

Eligibility Criteria

A student is eligible for specially designed instruction and related services as a student with autism spectrum disorder if the following criteria are met:

1. Uneven developmental profile as evidenced by inconsistencies in the development of language, social interaction, adaptive behavior, and/or cognitive skills. These inconsistencies can be evidenced across or within these developmental domains.
2. Impairment in social interaction as evidenced by the delayed, absent, or atypical ability to relate to people or the environment. These may include one or more of the following behavioral indicators, such as: limited joint attention and limited use of facial expressions directed toward others; lack of showing or bringing things to others to indicate an interest in the activity; difficulties in relating to people, objects, and events; a gross impairment in ability to make and keep friends; significant vulnerability and safety issues due to social naiveté; preference for isolated or solitary activities; misinterpretation of others' behaviors and social cues.
3. Impairment in verbal and/or nonverbal language or social communication skills as evidenced by one or more behavioral indicators, such as: lack of spontaneous imitations or lack of varied imaginative play; absence or delay of spoken language; limited understanding and use of nonverbal communication skills, such as gestures, facial expressions, or voice tone; odd production of speech, including intonation, volume, rhythm, or rate; repetitive or idiosyncratic language or inability to initiate or maintain a conversation when speech is present; lack of using a finger to point or request.
4. Restrictive repetitive and/or stereotyped patterns of behavior, interests, or activities as evidenced by one or more behavioral indicators, such as: insistence on following rules or rituals; demonstration of distress or resistance to changes in activity; repetitive hand or body mannerisms; lack of true imaginative play versus reenactment; over-reaction or under-reaction to sensory stimuli; rigid or rule-bound thinking; encompassing preoccupation with one or more stereotyped or restricted patterns of interest that are abnormal either in intensity or focus.
5. The student demonstrates a need for special education.

Student Evaluation

1. The minimum student evaluations shall include all of the following:
 - a) Documented and dated behavioral observations conducted by members of the evaluation team targeting social interaction, communication skills, and stereotyped patterns of behavior, interests, or activities, across settings. Activities conducted prior to referral may be used to meet this criterion, if the activities address the elements identified in this section
 - b) A comprehensive social/developmental history compiled with the parents(s) or guardian(s) that addresses the core features of autism spectrum disorder
 - c) A comprehensive psychological evaluation to identify present levels of performance and uneven patterns of development in language, social interaction, adaptive behavior, and cognitive skills
 - d) A comprehensive speech/language evaluation
2. Medical information provided shall be considered.

Unique Philosophical, Curricular, or Instructional Considerations

1. While students with autism spectrum disorder share instructional needs with other students, there are characteristics that are specific to ASD, including the development and use of language and communication skills, the development of appropriate social skills, and the development of appropriate behavioral skills. The need to tailor instruction to the individual learning styles and needs of each student requires that teachers of students with ASD be knowledgeable in a variety of educational strategies.
2. Inherent in a program for students with ASD is the recognition that ASD is a developmental disability that severely impacts the student’s communication, social, and behavioral skills. It is important to take into consideration the student’s strengths and needs in all three areas when tailoring an educational program for the student.

The school district has the option to include additional information regarding evaluations, qualified evaluators, or unique philosophical, curricular, or instructional considerations for students with autism spectrum disorders.

<p>_____ The school district has provided additional information for this section in Appendix B of this document.</p> <p>_____ There is no additional information for this section.</p>
--

Part II. Policies and Procedures for Students with Disabilities

Section B.2: Exceptional Student Education Eligibility for Students who are Deaf or Hard-of-Hearing

Statutory and Regulatory Citations

Title 34 Code of Federal Regulations (CFR) §§ 300.8, 300.34, and 300.113
Sections 1003.01, 1003.55, and 1003.57, Florida Statutes (F.S.)
Rules 6A-6.03013 and 6A-2.0010, Florida Administrative Code (F.A.C.)

Definition

Deafness means a hearing impairment that is so severe that a student is impaired in processing linguistic information through hearing, with or without amplification, and that adversely affects the student's educational performance. A hearing impairment means an impairment in hearing, whether permanent or fluctuating, that adversely affects a student's educational performance but that is not included under the definition of deafness.

Eligibility Criteria

A student is eligible for specially designed instruction as a student who is deaf or hard-of-hearing if the following criteria are met:

1. Medical: An audiological evaluation documents a permanent or fluctuating hearing threshold level that interferes with progress in any one of the following areas: developmental skills or academic performance, social-emotional development, or linguistic and communicative skills as evidenced by:
 - a) 25 decibel (dB) \pm 5 dB or greater based on pure tone average of 500, 1000, and 2000 Hz unaided in the better ear; or
 - b) A high frequency hearing threshold level of 25 dB \pm 5 dB or greater based on pure tone average of 1000, 2000, and 3000 Hz unaided in the better ear; or
 - c) A unilateral hearing threshold level of 50 dB \pm 5 dB or greater based on pure tone average of 500, 1000, and 2000 Hz unaided; or
 - d) Auditory Evoked Potential responses evidencing permanent hearing loss at multiple frequencies equivalent to or in excess of the decibel hearing loss threshold criteria for pure tone audiometric testing specified above, and
2. The student demonstrates a need for special education.

Student Evaluation

Selection of assessment instruments shall take into consideration the student's functioning level, degree of hearing loss, and method of communication. The minimum evaluations necessary for determining eligibility shall include all of the following components:

1. Audiological evaluation
2. Evaluation of developmental skills or academic achievement, including information on the student's academic strengths and weaknesses
3. Evaluation of social development
4. Evaluation of receptive and expressive communication
5. Individual assessment of intellectual functioning, including comprehensive nonverbal or developmental scales if more appropriate for students under age six

Student Reevaluation

A reevaluation shall occur at least every three years and shall include at a minimum an audiological evaluation.

Unique Philosophical, Curricular, or Instructional Considerations

1. All students who are identified as deaf or hard-of-hearing will be screened for Usher syndrome at least one time between grades 6 and 12. Qualified evaluators include: teachers of the deaf or hard-of-hearing, speech/language pathologists, audiologists, teachers of the blind/visually impaired, and school health personnel who have been trained in Usher's screening procedures.
2. Students shall have access to instruction using the method of communication most readily understood by the student. Each student who is deaf or hard-of-hearing shall have the opportunity to develop expressive and receptive language skills using any or all of the following:
 - a) Residual hearing
 - b) Speech reading
 - c) Manual communication systems
 - d) Speech
 - e) Appropriate amplification
3. The school district shall consider the communication and language needs of students who are deaf or hard-of-hearing, including opportunities for direct communication with peers and professional personnel in the student's language and communication mode, academic level, and full range of needs, and opportunities for direct instruction in the student's language and communication mode.
4. Routine checking of hearing aids worn in school by students with hearing loss and the external components of surgically implanted medical devices (i.e., cochlear implants) is required to ensure that these devices are functioning properly.
5. Assistive technology and related services do not include a medical device that is surgically implanted, or the replacement of such device. Although cochlear implants are not considered assistive technology, children with cochlear implants maintain the right to receive related services that are determined by the individual educational plan (IEP) team to be necessary for the student. School districts are responsible for providing appropriate services for the students. However, appropriate services do not include maintaining, optimizing (i.e., mapping), or replacing cochlear implants.
6. Interpreting services includes the following, when used with respect to children who are deaf or hard-of-hearing: oral transliteration services; cued language transliteration services; sign language transliteration and interpreting services, and transcription services, such as communication access real-time translation (CART), C-Print, and TypeWell; and special interpreting services for children who are deaf-blind.
7. Each learning environment shall have appropriate acoustic treatment, lighting, and auditory amplification equipment to meet the individual needs of each student. Auditory equipment shall be made available through the school district (e.g., personal or Soundfield FM systems, infrared systems, induction loop systems, and other assistive listening devices). Auditory equipment will be calibrated annually, maintained, and considered for replacement on a five-year cycle. Visual alarm devices shall be provided in all areas where students who are deaf or hard-of-hearing may be separated from persons with normal hearing—group bathrooms, corridors, specific areas designated for the deaf, etc., in accordance with Rule 6A-2.0010, F.A.C.

The school district has the option to include additional information regarding evaluations, qualified evaluators, or unique philosophical, curricular, or instructional considerations for students who are deaf or hard-of-hearing.

_____ The school district has provided additional information for this section in **Appendix B** of this document.

_____ There is no additional information for this section.

Part II. Policies and Procedures for Students with Disabilities

Section B.3: Exceptional Student Education Eligibility for Prekindergarten Children with Developmental Delay

Statutory and Regulatory Citations:

Title 34 Code of Federal Regulations (CFR) §§ 300.8 and 303.16
Sections 1003.01, 1003.21, and 1003.57, Florida Statutes (F.S.)
Rules 6A-6.03027 and 6A-6.03031, Florida Administrative Code (F.A.C.)

Definition

1. For a child from birth through two years of age, developmental delay is defined as delay in one or more of the following areas: adaptive or self-help development; cognitive development; communication development; social or emotional development; or physical motor development.
2. For a child three through five years of age, developmental delay is defined as a delay in one or more of the following areas: adaptive or self-help development; cognitive development; communication development; social or emotional development; or physical motor development, including fine, gross, or perceptual motor development.

Eligibility Criteria

1. For a child three through five years of age

A child is eligible for the special program for children who are developmentally delayed when the following criteria are met:

- a) The child is three through five years of age
- b) There is documentation of one of the following:
 - A score of two standard deviations (SD) below the mean or a 25 percent delay on measures yielding scores in months in at least one area of development; or
 - A score of 1.5 SD below the mean or a 20 percent delay on measures yielding scores in months in at least two areas of development; or
 - Based on informed clinical opinion, the eligibility staffing committee makes a recommendation that a developmental delay exists and exceptional student education services are needed.
- c) The eligibility staffing committee/multidisciplinary team, which includes the invited parent(s), makes a determination concerning the effects of the environment, cultural differences, or economic disadvantage.

2. For a child birth through two years of age (below 36 months)

A child is eligible for the special program for children who are developmentally delayed when the following criteria are met:

- a) The child is below the age of 36 months
- b) There is documentation of one of the following:
 - A score of 1.5 standard deviations below the mean in at least one area of development. For children below the age of 24 months, the delay shall be defined in accordance with the child's corrected age; or
 - A 25 percent delay on measures yielding scores in months in at least one area of development. For children below the age of 24 months, the delay shall be defined in accordance with the child's corrected age; or

- Based on informed clinical opinion and the observation of atypical functioning, the multidisciplinary team makes a recommendation that a developmental delay exists and exceptional student educational services are needed.
- c) The eligibility staffing committee/multidisciplinary team, which includes the invited parent(s), makes a determination concerning the effects of the environment, cultural differences, or economic disadvantage.

Child Evaluation

1. For a child three through five years of age
 - a) Delay is documented by a multidisciplinary team using multiple measures of assessment, which include:
 - Standardized instruments, judgement-based assessments, criterion-referenced instruments, systematic observation, functional skills assessments, or other procedures selected in consultation with the parent(s); or
 - Informed clinical opinion using qualitative and quantitative information to determine the need for early intervention services; and
 - Parent report, which can confirm or modify information obtained and describe behavior in environments that the district may not be able to access
 - b) When a developmental delay cannot be verified by the use of standardized instruments, the delay(s) may be established through observation of atypical functioning in any one or more of the developmental areas. A report shall be written documenting the evaluation procedures used, the results obtained, the reasons for overriding those results from standardized instruments, and the basis for recommending eligibility.
2. For a child birth through two years of age (below 36 months)

Before eligibility determination, the following activities are completed:

 - a) A review of existing medical, psychological, and social information and other related data
 - b) A screening for vision and hearing
 - c) Documentation of a delay by a multidisciplinary team, using at least one measure of assessment, which includes: standardized instruments, judgement-based assessments, criterion-referenced instruments, functional skills assessments, or other procedures selected in consultation with the parent(s)
 - d) A parent report of the child's development and behavior to assist in determining the early intervention services needed
 - e) When determined necessary by the multidisciplinary evaluation team, and in consultation with the parent, procedures for evaluation may also include, but not be limited to, a speech and language evaluation, physical therapy evaluation, additional medical evaluations, psychological evaluation, audiological evaluation, social work evaluation, and/or occupational therapy evaluation; and
 - f) When a developmental delay cannot be verified by use of a standardized instrument, the delay(s) may be established through informed clinical opinion and the observation of atypical functioning in one or more of the developmental areas. A report shall be written documenting the evaluation procedures used, the results obtained, and the basis for recommending eligibility.

Continued Eligibility for ESE Services

1. For a child three through five years of age, continued eligibility as a student with a disability under another category will be determined before the child is six years old.
2. For a child birth through two years of age (below 36 months), continued eligibility as a child with a disability will be determined before the child's third birthday.

Unique Philosophical, Curricular, or Instructional Considerations

1. For a child three through five years of age
 - a) The individualized family support plan (IFSP) or individual educational plan (IEP) shall be developed through interagency collaboration with the family and other providers of services to the child and family and in accordance with Rules 6A-6.03026, 6A-6.03028, and 6A-6.03029, F.A.C.
 - b) Because of the rapid development of young children, on-going observations and assessments shall be conducted as needed to plan for IFSP or IEP modifications.
2. For a child birth through two years of age (below 36 months)
 - a) The IFSP shall be developed in collaboration with the family and other providers of service to the child and family and in accordance with Rules 6A-6.030326, 6A-6.03029, and 6A-6.0331, F.A.C.
 - b) Because of the rapid development of young children and the changing needs of families, ongoing observations and/or assessments shall be conducted at least every six months for the purpose of completing the periodic review of the IFSP.

The school district has the option to include additional information regarding evaluations, qualified evaluators, or unique philosophical, curricular, or instructional considerations for prekindergarten children with developmental delays.

<p>_____ The school district has provided additional information for this section in Appendix B of this document.</p> <p>_____ There is no additional information for this section.</p>
--

Part II. Policies and Procedures for Students with Disabilities

Section B.4: Exceptional Student Education Eligibility for Students with Dual-Sensory Impairments

Statutory and Regulatory Citations

Title 34 Code of Federal Regulations (CFR) §§ 300.8, 300.34, 300.113, and 300.172
Sections 1003.55, 1003.57, and 1003.575, Florida Statutes (F.S.)
Rule 6A-6.03022, Florida Administrative Code (F.A.C.)

Definition

A dual-sensory impairment means concomitant hearing and visual impairments, the combination of which causes such severe communication and other developmental and educational needs that they cannot be accommodated in special education programs solely for students with deafness or students with blindness, or a degenerative condition that will lead to such an impairment. A dual-sensory impairment causes a serious impairment in the student's abilities to acquire information, communicate, or function within the environment.

Eligibility Criteria

A student is eligible for specially designed instruction and related services as a student with a dual-sensory impairment if the following criteria are met:

1. One or more of the following visual impairments:
 - a) A visual acuity of 20/70 or less in the better eye after best correction;
 - b) A peripheral field loss;
 - c) A progressive vision loss; or,
 - d) Other documented visual conditions, including, but not limited to, extreme light sensitivity or lack of contrast sensitivity; and,
2. One or more of the following hearing impairments:
 - a) Hearing impairment of 30 decibel (dB) or greater unaided in the better ear;
 - b) Other documented auditory conditions, including, but not limited to, monaural loss or an inability to screen out auditory background sounds; or,
 - c) A progressive hearing loss; and,
3. A combination of the visual and auditory impairments as specified above that adversely affects, or has the potential to adversely affect the student's abilities to acquire information, communicate, or function within the environment, unless special instruction, materials, adaptations, or counseling are provided; or
4. A diagnosed degenerative condition or syndrome that will lead to dual-sensory impairment and is likely to adversely affect the areas listed above.

Student Evaluation

The minimum student evaluations include:

1. For students with a suspected degenerative condition or syndrome that will lead to dual-sensory impairment: a medical statement confirming the existence of such a condition or syndrome and its prognosis

2. For children who are under the age of three years:
 - a) A medical eye exam describing etiology, diagnosis, and prognosis
 - b) Documented observation of functional vision that includes possible impediments to visual use
 - c) An audiological exam
 - d) Documented observation of auditory functioning
3. For students who are over the age of three years:
 - a) A medical eye exam describing etiology, diagnosis, and prognosis
 - b) Documented observation of functional vision that includes possible impediments to visual use
 - c) An audiological exam
 - d) Documented observation of auditory functioning
 - e) An assessment of speech and language functioning that includes a differential diagnosis of the student's linguistic abilities and of modality strengths and preferences
 - f) An assessment of intellectual functioning, developmental level, or academic functioning

Student Reevaluation

1. A reevaluation shall occur at least every three years and shall include a minimum of the evaluations required in Rule 6A-6.03022, F.A.C., and any other evaluations specified by an evaluation specialist and an exceptional student teacher after examination of available information in all areas addressed in the initial evaluation or in subsequent reevaluations of the student in accordance with Rule 6A-6.0331, F.A.C.
2. The medical aspect of reevaluation for students with bilateral anophthalmia may be waived by a written recommendation of a physician.

Qualified Evaluators

The following are qualified evaluators for specialized evaluations:

1. Medical eye exam: optometrist or ophthalmologist
2. Functional vision assessment: teacher of the visually impaired, orientation and mobility specialist, or low vision specialist
3. Audiological evaluation: audiologist
4. Functional auditory observation: teacher of the deaf or hard-of-hearing, speech and language pathologist, or audiologist

Unique Philosophical, Curricular, or Instructional Considerations

1. All students with visual impairments, including students with dual-sensory impairment, are registered for services from the Florida Instructional Materials Center for the Visually Impaired. Additionally, information regarding all students who are dual-sensory impaired shall be submitted to the state's registry of students with dual-sensory impairments.
2. In accordance with 34 CFR § 300.324, students will be provided with instruction in braille unless otherwise determined by the individual educational plan (IEP) team. This determination is based upon the student's present reading and writing skills, functional vision assessment, and learning media assessment, as well as documentation indicating the need for instruction or use of braille in the future.

3. Orientation and mobility is a related service, provided to blind or visually impaired students, if determined necessary by the individual educational plan (IEP) team, that enables those students to attain systematic orientation to and safe movement within their environments in school, home, and community. Orientation and mobility instruction encompasses skill and conceptual awareness that includes, but is not limited to: spatial awareness, use of sensory information to maintain orientation, use of mobility devices (i.e., long cane, distance low vision aids, assistive technology), and other skills and techniques used to travel safely and efficiently across a variety of settings.
4. School districts shall consider the communication and language needs of students who are deaf or hard-of-hearing, including opportunities for direct communication with peers and professional personnel in the student's language and communication mode, academic level, and full range of needs, including opportunities for direct instruction in the student's language and communication mode in accordance with 34 CFR § 300.324.
5. Students shall have access to instruction using the method of communication most readily understood by the student. Each student who is deaf or hard-of-hearing shall have the opportunity to develop expressive and receptive language skills using any or all of the following:
 - a) Residual hearing
 - b) Speech reading
 - c) Manual communication systems
 - d) Speech
 - e) Appropriate amplification
6. Routine checking of hearing aids worn in school by students with hearing loss and the external components of surgically implanted medical devices (i.e., cochlear implants) is required to ensure that these devices are functioning properly.
7. Assistive technology and related services do not include a medical device that is surgically implanted, or the replacement of such device. Although cochlear implants are not considered assistive technology, children with cochlear implants maintain the right to receive related services that are determined by the IEP team to be necessary for the student. School districts are responsible for providing appropriate services for the students. However, appropriate services do not include maintaining, optimizing (i.e., mapping), or replacing cochlear implants.
8. Interpreting services include the following, when used with respect to children who are deaf or hard-of-hearing: oral transliteration services; cued language transliteration services; sign language transliteration and interpreting services; transcription services, such as communication access real-time translation (CART), C-Print, and TypeWell; and special interpreting services for children who are deaf-blind.
9. Each learning environment shall have appropriate acoustic treatment, lighting, and auditory amplification equipment to meet the individual needs of each student. Auditory equipment shall be made available through the school district (e.g., personal or Soundfield FM systems, infrared systems, induction loop systems, and other assistive listening devices). Auditory equipment will be calibrated annually, maintained, and considered for replacement on a five-year cycle. Visual alarm devices shall be provided in all areas where students who are deaf or hard-of-hearing may be separated from persons with normal hearing, such as group bathrooms, corridors, specific areas designated for the deaf, etc., in accordance with Rule 6A-2.0010, F.A.C.
10. The school district will provide information describing the Florida School for the Deaf and the Blind and all other programs and methods of instruction available to the parent of a student with sensory impairments. This information will be provided annually. Additionally, in accordance with Rule 6A-6.03014, F.A.C., cooperative planning with the Division of Blind Services (DBS) may occur for students eligible for DBS services, with parent participation and agreement.

The school district has the option to include additional information regarding evaluations, qualified evaluators, or unique philosophical, curricular, or instructional considerations for students with dual-sensory impairments.

_____ The school district has provided additional information for this section in **Appendix B** of this document.

_____ There is no additional information for this section.

Part II. Policies and Procedures for Students with Disabilities

Section B.5: Exceptional Student Education Eligibility for Students with Emotional/Behavioral Disabilities

Statutory and Regulatory Citations

Title 34 Code of Federal Regulations (CFR) § 300.8
Sections 1003.01 and 1003.57, Florida Statutes (F.S.)
Rule 6A-6.03016, Florida Administrative Code (F.A.C.)

Definition

A student with an emotional/behavioral disability (E/BD) has persistent (is not sufficiently responsive to implemented evidence-based interventions) and consistent emotional or behavioral responses that adversely affect performance in the educational environment that cannot be attributed to age, culture, gender, or ethnicity.

Eligibility Criteria

A student is eligible for specially designed instruction and related services as a student with emotional/behavioral disabilities if the following criteria are met:

1. A student with an emotional/behavioral disability must demonstrate an inability to maintain adequate performance in the educational environment that cannot be explained by physical, sensory, socio-cultural, developmental, medical, or health (with the exception of mental health) factors; and must demonstrate one or more of the five characteristics listed here:
 - a) Internal factors characterized by:
 - Feelings of sadness or frequent crying or restlessness or loss of interest in friends and/or school work, or mood swings, or erratic behavior
 - The presence of symptoms, such as fears, phobias, or excessive worrying and anxiety, regarding personal or school problems
 - Behaviors that result from thoughts and feelings that are inconsistent with actual events or circumstances, or difficulty maintaining normal thought processes, or excessive levels of withdrawal from persons or events
 - b) External factors characterized by:
 - An inability to build or maintain satisfactory interpersonal relationships with peers, teachers, and other adults in the school setting
 - Behaviors that are chronic and disruptive, such as noncompliance, verbal and/or physical aggression, and/or poorly developed social skills, and are manifestations of feelings, symptoms, or behaviors as specified above, in section 1.a above.
2. The characteristics as described in 1.a and/or b must be present for a minimum of six months duration and in two or more settings, including, but not limited to, school, educational environment, transition to and/or from school, or home/community settings. At least one setting must be school.
3. The student demonstrates a need for special education.
4. In extraordinary circumstances, activities prior to referral for evaluation and the criteria for eligibility described in 2 above may be waived when immediate intervention is required to address an acute onset of an internal emotional/behavioral characteristic as listed in 1.a above.

Student Evaluation

1. The minimum evaluation shall include the following:
 - a) A review of the functional behavioral assessment (FBA) previously completed to assist in the development of individual interventions. The FBA should identify the conditions under which the behavior is most and least likely to occur, identify the functions of the student's behavior, and document the student's response to implemented interventions. It may be necessary to revise the FBA as part of the evaluation. If a formal functional behavioral assessment has not been completed, one must be completed as part of the evaluation.
 - b) A psychological evaluation conducted in accordance with Rule 6A-6.0031, F.A.C. The psychological evaluation should include assessment procedures necessary to identify the factors contributing to the development of an emotional/behavioral disability, which include behavioral observations and interview data relative to the referral concerns, and assessment of emotional and behavioral functioning, and may also include information on developmental functioning and skills. The psychological evaluation shall include a review of evidence-based interventions that have already been implemented and the criteria used to evaluate their success.
 - c) A review of educational data that includes information on the student's academic levels of performance, and the relationship between the student's academic performance and the emotional/behavioral disability; additional academic evaluation may be completed if needed.
 - d) A social/developmental history compiled from a structured interview with the parent or guardian that addresses developmental, familial, medical/health, and environmental factors impacting learning and behavior, and which identifies the relationship between social/developmental and socio-cultural factors, and the presence or nonpresence of emotional/behavioral responses beyond the school environment.
2. A medical evaluation must be conducted when it is determined by the administrator of the exceptional student program or the designee that the emotional/behavioral responses may be precipitated by a physical problem.

Unique Philosophical, Curricular, or Instructional Considerations

1. When making a distinction between students with internalized or externalized characteristics, the individual educational plan (IEP) team will consider these presenting manifestations as they determine the needs of the students when recommending: goals and short-term objectives or benchmarks, if appropriate; specially designed instruction and related services; and the location of such services.
2. Services for students with E/BD provide an integrated curriculum of academic, affective, and behavioral interventions. These services are designed to support the improvement of academic and social functioning through academic (e.g., differentiated instruction, mastery learning), affective (e.g., individual or group counseling, parent education and support), and behavioral (e.g., behavior support; consultation from mental health, medical, or other professionals) interventions. Student improvement is measured through continuous progress monitoring of responses to intervention. A critical component of effective E/BD services is parent involvement and on-going communication about implementation and outcomes of interventions.
3. When students with emotional/behavioral disabilities receive services for the full school week in a comprehensive public school or center school setting, the results of prior interventions and progress monitoring data support the need for: a lower adult-to-pupil ratio than offered in other exceptional student education (ESE) delivery models; a highly structured academic and affective curriculum; extensive support services that shall include individual or group counseling, and parent education and support; and, when appropriate, consultation from mental health, medical, or other professionals. The IEP team must determine that services cannot be provided in a less restrictive environment.

The school district has the option to include additional information regarding evaluations, qualified evaluators, or unique philosophical, curricular, or instructional considerations for students with emotional/behavioral disabilities.

_____ The school district has provided additional information for this section in **Appendix B** of this document.

_____ There is no additional information for this section.

Part II. Policies and Procedures for Students with Disabilities

Section B.6: Exceptional Student Education Eligibility for Children Birth through Two Years Old with Established Conditions

Statutory and Regulatory Citations

Title 34 Code of Federal Regulations (CFR) §§ 303.16, 303.300, and 303.322
Sections 1003.21, 1003.01, and 1003.57, Florida Statutes (F.S.)
Rule 6A-6.03030, Florida Administrative Code (F.A.C.)

Definition

A child with an established condition is defined as a child from birth through two years of age with a diagnosed physical or mental condition known to have a high probability of resulting in developmental delay or disability. Such conditions include genetic disorders, metabolic disorders, neurological abnormalities and insults, or severe attachment disorder.

Eligibility Criteria

A child is eligible for special education and related services as a child with an established condition if the following criteria are met:

1. The child is below the age of 36 months
2. A licensed physician(s), qualified to assess the child's physical or mental condition, makes a diagnosis or suspected diagnosis of a condition that has a high probability of resulting in developmental delay or disability

Continued Eligibility

Continued eligibility for exceptional student education programs will be determined before the child's third birthday.

Child Evaluation

The minimum child evaluation shall include the following:

1. A review of existing medical, psychological, and social information and other related data.
2. A screening for vision and hearing.
3. A report of a medical examination within the previous six-month period, from a licensed physician(s) qualified to assess the child's physical or mental condition. Such a report will include a written statement of the child's diagnosis or suspected diagnosis.
4. A developmental assessment conducted by the multidisciplinary team that includes the parent to determine the unique needs of the child. Such an assessment will include the parent's report of the child's development and behavior and will assist in determining the early intervention services needed.
5. When determined necessary by the multidisciplinary evaluation team, and in consultation with the parent, the evaluation may also include, but not be limited to, an audiological evaluation, psychological evaluation, speech and language evaluation, physical therapy evaluation, additional medical evaluations, social work evaluation, and/or an occupational therapy evaluation.
6. For a child with a severe attachment disorder, a psychological evaluation completed by a licensed psychologist must be included in the evaluation.

Development of the Family Support Plan

1. The family support plan is developed in collaboration with the family and other providers of service to the child and family and in accordance with Rules 6A-6.03026, 6A-6.03029, and 6A-6.0331, F.A.C.
2. Because of the rapid development of young children and the changing needs of families, ongoing observations and/or assessments are conducted at least every six months for the purpose of completing the periodic review of the family support plan.

Unique Philosophical, Curricular, or Instructional Considerations

1. Services to provide the parent, guardian, or primary caregiver the opportunity to acquire specific skills and knowledge that will enable them to enhance the child's cognitive, physical, social, communication, and adaptive behavior are available, as applicable.
2. In the provision of an appropriate educational program for eligible children with disabilities ages birth through two years, home instruction may include direct instruction of the parent, guardian, or primary caregiver.

The school district has the option to include additional information regarding evaluations, qualified evaluators, or unique philosophical, curricular, or instructional considerations for children birth through two years old with established conditions.

<p>_____ The school district has provided additional information for this section in Appendix B of this document.</p> <p>_____ There is no additional information for this section.</p>
--

Part II. Policies and Procedures for Students with Disabilities

Section B.7: Exceptional Student Education Eligibility for Students who are Homebound or Hospitalized

Statutory and Regulatory Citations

Title 34 Code of Federal Regulations (CFR) § 300.115
Sections 1003.01 and 1003.57, Florida Statutes (F.S.)
Rule 6A-6.03020, Florida Administrative Code (F.A.C.)

Definitions

1. A homebound or hospitalized student is a student who has a medically diagnosed physical or psychiatric condition that is acute or catastrophic in nature, or a chronic illness or a repeated intermittent illness due to a persisting medical problem, which confines the student to home or hospital and restricts activities for an extended period of time. The medical diagnosis shall be made by a licensed physician.
2. Licensed physician is defined in Chapters 458 and 459, F.S., as one who is qualified to assess the student's physical or psychiatric condition.

Eligibility Criteria

A student is eligible for specially designed instruction and related services as a student who is homebound or hospitalized if the following criteria are met:

1. A licensed physician must certify:
 - a) That the student is expected to be absent from school due to a physical or psychiatric condition for at least 15 consecutive school days (or the equivalent on a block schedule), or due to a chronic condition for at least 15 school days (or the equivalent on a block schedule), which need not run consecutively
 - b) That the student is confined to home or hospital
 - c) That the student will be able to participate in and benefit from an instructional program
2. The student is under medical care for illness or injury that is acute, catastrophic, or chronic in nature.
3. The student can receive an instructional program without endangering the health and safety of the instructor or other students with whom the instructor may come in contact
4. The student is in kindergarten through twelfth grade and is enrolled in a public school prior to the referral for homebound or hospitalized services, unless the student meets criteria for eligibility under Rules 6A-6.03011, 6A-6.03012, 6A-6.03013, 6A-6.03014, 6A-6.030151, 6A-6.030152, 6A-6.030153, 6A-6.03016, 6A-6.03018, 6A-6.03022, 6A-6.03023, and 6A-6.03027, F.A.C.
5. A parent, guardian, or primary caregiver signs parental agreement concerning homebound or hospitalized policies and parental cooperation

Student Evaluation

The minimum evaluation for determining eligibility shall include:

1. An annual medical statement from a Florida physician(s) (i.e., licensed in accordance with Chapter 458 and 459, F.S.) that includes a description of the disabling condition or diagnosis with any medical implications for instruction. This report must state that the student is unable to attend school, describe the plan of treatment, provide recommendations regarding school re-entry, and give an estimated

duration of condition or prognosis. The team determining eligibility may require additional evaluation data. This additional evaluation data must be provided at no cost to the parent.

2. A physical reexamination and a medical report by a licensed physician(s) may be requested by the administrator of exceptional student education or the administrator's designee on a more frequent basis than required in this rule, and may be required if the student is scheduled to attend school part of a day during a recuperative period of readjustment to a full school schedule. This physical examination and medical report shall be at no cost to the parent.

The school district has the option to include additional information regarding evaluations, qualified evaluators, or unique philosophical, curricular, or instructional considerations for students who are homebound or hospitalized.

_____ The school district has provided additional information for this section in **Appendix B** of this document.

_____ There is no additional information for this section.

Part II. Policies and Procedures for Students with Disabilities

Section B.8: Exceptional Student Education Eligibility for Students with Intellectual Disabilities

Statutory and Regulatory Citations

Title 34 Code of Federal Regulations (CFR) § 300.8
Sections 1003.57 and 1003.01, Florida Statutes (F.S.)
Rule 6A-6.03011, Florida Administrative Code (F.A.C.)

Definition

An intellectual disability is defined as significantly below average general intellectual and adaptive functioning manifested during the developmental period, with significant delays in academic skills. Developmental period refers to birth to 18 years of age.

Eligibility Criteria

A student is eligible for specially designed instruction and related services as a student with an intellectual disability if the following criteria are met:

1. The measured level of intellectual functioning is more than two standard deviations below the mean on an individually measured, standardized test of intellectual functioning.
2. The level of adaptive functioning is more than two standard deviations below the mean on the adaptive behavior composite or on two out of three domains on a standardized test of adaptive behavior. The adaptive behavior measure shall include parental or guardian input.
3. The level of academic or pre-academic performance on a standardized test is consistent with the performance expected of a student of comparable intellectual functioning.
4. The social/developmental history identifies the developmental, familial, medical/health, and environmental factors impacting student functioning and documents the student's functional skills outside of the school environment.
5. The student demonstrates a need for special education.

Student Evaluation

1. In addition to the procedures identified in Rule 6A-6.0331, F.A.C., the minimum evaluation for determining eligibility shall include all of the following:
 - a) A standardized individual test of intellectual functioning individually administered by a professional person qualified in accordance with Rule 6A-4.0311, F.A.C., or licensed under Chapter 490, F.S.
 - b) A standardized assessment of adaptive behavior to include parental or guardian input.
 - c) An individually administered standardized test of academic or pre-academic achievement. A standardized developmental scale shall be used when a student's level of functioning cannot be measured by an academic or pre-academic test.
 - d) A social/developmental history that has been compiled directly from the parent, guardian, or primary caregiver.
2. Eligibility is determined by a group of qualified professionals and the parent or guardian in accordance with Rule 6A-6.0331, F.A.C. The documentation of the determination of eligibility must include a written summary of the group's analysis of the data that incorporates the following information:

- a) The basis for making the determination, including an assurance that the determination has been made in accordance with Rule 6A-6.0331, F.A.C.
- b) Noted behavior during the observation of the student and the relationship of that behavior to the student's academic and intellectual functioning.
- c) The educationally relevant medical findings, if any.
- d) The determination of the group concerning the effects on the student's achievement level of a visual, hearing, motor, or emotional/behavioral disability; cultural factors; environmental or economic factors; an irregular pattern of attendance or high mobility rate; classroom behavior; or limited English proficiency.
- e) The signature of each group member certifying that the documentation of determination of eligibility reflects the member's conclusion. If it does not reflect the member's conclusion, the group member must submit a separate statement presenting the member's conclusion.

The school district has the option to include additional information regarding evaluations, qualified evaluators, or unique philosophical, curricular, or instructional considerations for students with intellectual disabilities.

_____ The school district has provided additional information for this section in **Appendix B** of this document.

_____ There is no additional information for this section.

Part II. Policies and Procedures for Students with Disabilities

Section B.9: Exceptional Student Education Eligibility for Students who are Physically Impaired with Orthopedic Impairment

Statutory and Regulatory Citations

Title 34 Code of Federal Regulations (CFR) § 300.8
Sections 1003.01 and 1003.57, Florida Statutes (F.S.)
Rule 6A-6.030151, Florida Administrative Code (F.A.C.)

Definition

Orthopedic impairment means a severe skeletal, muscular, or neuromuscular impairment. The term includes impairments resulting from congenital anomalies (e.g., including, but not limited to, skeletal deformity or spina bifida) and impairments resulting from other causes (e.g., including, but not limited to, cerebral palsy or amputations).

Eligibility Criteria

A student is eligible for specially designed instruction and related services as a student with an orthopedic impairment if the following criteria are met:

1. There is evidence of an orthopedic impairment that adversely affects the student's performance in the educational environment in any of the following: ambulation, hand movement, coordination, or daily living skills.
2. The student demonstrates a need for special education.

Student Evaluation

In addition to the provisions in Rule 6A-6.0331, F.A.C., the minimum student evaluations shall include all of the following:

1. A report of a medical examination, within the previous 12-month period, from a Florida physician(s) (i.e., licensed in accordance with Chapter 458 or 459, F.S.) who is qualified to assess the student's orthopedic impairment. The physician's report must provide a description of the impairment and any medical implications for instruction.
2. An educational evaluation that identifies educational and environmental needs.

The school district has the option to include additional information regarding evaluations, qualified evaluators, or unique philosophical, curricular, or instructional considerations for students who are physically impaired with orthopedic impairment.

- _____ The school district has provided additional information for this section in **Appendix B** of this document.
- _____ There is no additional information for this section.

Part II. Policies and Procedures for Students with Disabilities

Section B.10: Exceptional Student Education Eligibility for Students who are Physically Impaired with Other Health Impairment

Statutory and Regulatory Citations

Title 34 Code of Federal Regulations (CFR) § 300.8
Sections 1003.01 and 1003.57, Florida Statutes (F.S.)
Rule 6A-6.030152, Florida Administrative Code (F.A.C.)

Definition

Other health impaired means having limited strength, vitality, or alertness, including a heightened alertness to environmental stimuli that results in limited alertness with respect to the educational environment that is due to chronic or acute health problems. This includes, but is not limited to, asthma, attention deficit disorder or attention hyperactivity disorder, Tourette syndrome, diabetes, epilepsy, a heart condition, hemophilia, lead poisoning, leukemia, nephritis, rheumatic fever, sickle cell anemia, and acquired brain injury.

Eligibility Criteria

A student is eligible for specially designed instruction and related services as a student with an other health impairment if the following criteria are met:

1. There is evidence of a health impairment that results in reduced efficiency in schoolwork and adversely affects the student's performance in the educational environment.
2. The student demonstrates a need for special education.

Student Evaluation

1. In addition to the provisions in Rule 6A-6.0331, F.A.C., the minimum student evaluations shall include all of the following:
 - a) A report of a medical examination, within the previous 12-month period, from a Florida physician(s) (i.e., licensed in accordance with Chapter 458 or 459, F.S.) who is qualified to assess the student's health impairment. The physician's report must provide a description of the impairment and any medical implications for instruction.
 - b) An educational evaluation that identifies educational and environmental needs.

The school district has the option to include additional information regarding evaluations, qualified evaluators, or unique philosophical, curricular, or instructional considerations for students who are physically impaired with other health impairment.

_____ The school district has provided additional information for this section in **Appendix B** of this document.

_____ There is no additional information for this section.

Part II. Policies and Procedures for Students with Disabilities

Section B.11: Exceptional Student Education Eligibility for Students who are Physically Impaired with Traumatic Brain Injury

Statutory and Regulatory Citations

Title 34 Code of Federal Regulations (CFR) § 300.8
Sections 1003.01 and 1003.57, Florida Statutes (F.S.)
Rule 6A-6.030153, Florida Administrative Code (F.A.C.)

Definition

A traumatic brain injury means an acquired injury to the brain caused by an external physical force resulting in total or partial functional disability or psychosocial impairment, or both, that adversely affects educational performance. The term applies to mild, moderate, or severe open or closed head injuries resulting in impairments in one or more areas, such as cognition; language; memory; attention; reasoning; abstract thinking; judgment; problem solving; sensory, perceptual and motor abilities; psychosocial behavior; physical functions; information processing; or speech. The term includes anoxia due to trauma. The term does not include brain injuries that are congenital, degenerative, or induced by birth trauma.

Eligibility Criteria

A student is eligible for specially designed instruction and related services as a student with a traumatic brain injury if the following criteria are met:

1. There is evidence of a traumatic brain injury that impacts one or more of the areas identified in the definition.
2. The student demonstrates a need for special education.

Student Evaluation

1. In addition to the provisions in Rule 6A-6.0331, F.A.C., the minimum student evaluations shall include the following:
 - a) A report of a medical examination, within the previous 12-month period, from a Florida physician(s) (i.e., licensed in accordance with Chapter 458 or 459, F.S.) who is qualified to assess the student's traumatic brain injury. The physician's report must provide a description of the traumatic brain injury and any medical implications for instruction; and
 - b) Documented evidence by more than one person, including the parent, guardian, or primary caregiver, in more than one situation. The documentation shall include evidence of a marked contrast of pre- and post-injury capabilities in one or more of the following areas: cognition; language; memory; attention; reasoning; abstract thinking; judgment; problem solving; sensory, perceptual, and motor abilities; psychosocial behavior; physical functions; information processing or speech; and
 - c) An educational evaluation that identifies educational and environmental needs.
2. The evaluation may also include a neuropsychological evaluation when requested by the exceptional student education administrator or designee.

The school district has the option to include additional information regarding evaluations, qualified evaluators, or unique philosophical, curricular, or instructional considerations for students who are physically impaired with traumatic brain injury.

_____ The school district has provided additional information for this section in **Appendix B** of this document.

_____ There is no additional information for this section.

Part II. Policies and Procedures for Students with Disabilities

Section B.12: Exceptional Education Eligibility for Students with Specific Learning Disabilities

Statutory and Regulatory Citations

Title 34, Code of Federal Regulations (CFR) § 300.8
Section 1003.57, Florida Statutes (F.S.)
Rule 6A-6.03018, Florida Administrative Code (F.A.C.)

Definition

A specific learning disability is defined as a disorder in one or more of the basic learning processes involved in understanding or in using language, spoken or written, that may manifest in significant difficulties affecting the ability to listen, speak, read, write, spell, or do mathematics. Associated conditions may include, but are not limited to, dyslexia, dyscalculia, dysgraphia, or developmental aphasia. A specific learning disability does not include learning problems that are primarily the result of a visual, hearing, motor, intellectual, or emotional/behavioral disability, limited English proficiency, or environmental, cultural, or economic factors.

Eligibility Criteria

A student is eligible for specially designed instruction and related service as a student with a specific learning disability if all of the following criteria are met.

1. Evidence of specific learning disability

The student's parent(s) or guardian(s) and group of qualified personnel may determine that a student has a specific learning disability if there is evidence of each of the following:

a) When provided with learning experiences and instruction appropriate for the student's chronological age or grade-level standards in accordance with Rule 6A-1.09401, F.A.C., the student does not achieve adequately for the student's chronological age or does not meet grade-level standards as adopted in Rule 6A-1.09401, F.A.C., in **one or more** of the following areas based on the review of multiple sources that may include group and/or individual criterion or norm-referenced measures, including individual diagnostic procedures:

- Oral expression
- Listening comprehension
- Written expression
- Basic reading skills
- Reading fluency skills
- Reading comprehension
- Mathematics calculation
- Mathematics problem solving

b) The student does not make adequate progress to meet chronological age or grade-level standards adopted in Rule 6A-1.09401, F.A.C., in one or more of the areas identified in section 1.a) (above) as determined through:

- A process based on the student's response to scientific, research-based intervention, consistent with the comprehensive evaluation procedures in Rule 6A-6.0331 F.A.C.; **or**

- A process based on the student's response to scientific, research-based intervention, and the student exhibits a pattern of strengths and weaknesses in performance, achievement, or both, relative to age, grade-level standards in accordance with Rule 6A-1.09401, F.A.C., or intellectual development, that is determined by the group to be relevant to the identification of a specific learning disability, using appropriate assessments, consistent with the comprehensive evaluation procedures in Rule 6A-6.0331, F.A.C.

Note: This process becomes obsolete effective July 1, 2010.

- c) The group determines that its findings under paragraph (a) of this subsection are not primarily the result of one or more of the following:
- A visual, hearing, or motor disability
 - Intellectual disability
 - Emotional/behavioral disability
 - Cultural factors
 - Irregular pattern of attendance and/or high mobility rate
 - Classroom behavior
 - Environmental or economic factors
 - Limited English proficiency

Student Evaluation

The evaluation procedures shall include the following:

1. The school district must promptly request parental or guardian consent to conduct an evaluation to determine if the student needs specially designed instruction in the following circumstances:
 - a) The student does not make adequate progress when:
 - Prior to a referral, the student has not made adequate progress after an appropriate period of time when provided appropriate instruction and intense, individualized interventions; or
 - Prior to referral, intensive interventions are demonstrated to be effective but require sustained and substantial effort that may include the provision of specially designed instruction and related services; and
 - b) Whenever a referral is made to conduct an evaluation to determine the student's need for specially designed instruction and the existence of a disability.
2. Observation requirement

In determining whether a student needs specially designed instruction and has a specific learning disability, and in order to document the relationship between the student's classroom behavior and academic performance, the group must:

 - a) Use information from an observation in routine classroom instruction and monitoring of the student's performance that was completed before referral for an evaluation; or
 - b) Have at least one member of the group conduct an observation of the student's performance in the student's typical learning environment, or in an environment appropriate for a student of that chronological age, after referral for an evaluation and parental or guardian consent has been obtained.
3. In addition to the procedures identified in Rule 6A-6.0331, F.A.C., the evaluation must also include the procedures identified in the district's Exceptional Student Education (ESE) Policies and Procedures as required by Rule 6A-6.03411, F.A.C. The evaluation must adhere to the timeframe

required by Rule 6A-6.0331, F.A.C., unless extended by mutual written agreement of the student's parent(s) or guardian(s) and a group of qualified professionals.

Procedures

1. General education intervention procedures and activities

- a) In order to ensure that lack of academic progress is not due to lack of appropriate instruction, a group of qualified personnel must consider:
 - Data that demonstrate that the student was provided well-delivered scientific, research-based instruction and interventions addressing the identified area(s) of concern and delivered by qualified personnel in general education settings; and
 - Data-based documentation, which was provided to the student's parent(s) or guardian(s), of repeated measures of achievement at reasonable intervals, graphically reflecting the student's response to intervention during instruction.
- b) General education activities and interventions conducted prior to referral in accordance with Rule 6A-6.0331(1), F.A.C., may be used to satisfy the requirements of this rule.

2. Members of the group determining eligibility

The determination of whether a student suspected of having a specific learning disability is a student who demonstrates a need for specially designed instruction and related services and meets the eligibility criteria must be made by the student's parents or guardians and a group of qualified professionals, which must include, but are not limited to, all of the following:

- a) The student's general education teacher; if the student does not have a general education teacher, a general education teacher qualified to teach a student of his or her chronological age;
- b) At least one person qualified to conduct and interpret individual diagnostic examinations of students, including, but not limited to, a school psychologist, speech-language pathologist, or reading specialist; and,
- c) The district administrator of exceptional student education or designee.

3. Documentation of determination of eligibility

For a student suspected of having a specific learning disability, the documentation of the determination of eligibility must include a written summary of the group's analysis of the data that incorporates the following information:

- a) The basis for making the determination, including an assurance that the determination has been made in accordance with Rule 6A-6.0331, F.A.C.
- b) Noted behavior during the observation of the student and the relationship of that behavior to the student's academic functioning
- c) The educationally relevant medical findings, if any
- d) Whether the student has a specific learning disability as evidenced by response to intervention data confirming each of the following:
 - Performance discrepancy
The student's academic performance is significantly discrepant for the chronological age or grade level in which the student is enrolled, based on multiple sources of data when compared to multiple groups, which include the peer subgroup, classroom, school, district, and state level comparison groups
 - Rate of progress
When provided with well-delivered scientific, research-based general education instruction and interventions of reasonable intensity and duration with evidence of implementation

fidelity, the student's rate of progress is insufficient or requires sustained and substantial effort to close the achievement gap with typical peers or academic expectations for the chronological age or grade level in which the student is currently enrolled; and

- Educational need

The student continues to need interventions that significantly differ in intensity and duration from what can be provided solely through general education resources to make or maintain sufficient progress.

- e) The determination of the group concerning the effects on the student's achievement level of a visual, hearing, motor, intellectual, or emotional/behavioral disability; cultural factors; environmental or economic factors; an irregular pattern of attendance or high mobility rate; classroom behavior; or limited English proficiency
- f) Documentation based on data derived from a process that assesses the student's response to well-delivered scientific, research-based instruction and interventions including:
 - Documentation of the specific instructional interventions used, the support provided to the individual(s) implementing interventions, adherence to the critical elements of the intervention design and delivery methods, the duration and frequency of intervention implementation (e.g., number of weeks, minutes per week, sessions per week), and the student-centered data collected
 - Documentation that the student's parent(s) or guardian(s) were notified about the state's policies regarding the amount and nature of student performance data that would be collected and the general education services that would be provided; interventions for increasing the student's rate of progress; and the parental or guardian right to request an evaluation
- g) The signature of each group member certifying that the documentation of determination of eligibility reflects the member's conclusion. If it does not reflect the member's conclusion, the group member must submit a separate statement presenting the member's conclusions.

4. Implementation

- a) The district's ESE Policies and Procedures document, as required by Rule 6A-6.03411, F.A.C., identifies the applicable process described in 1.b) of Eligibility Criteria above, on a school-by-school basis. As applicable, this information may be provided categorically (e.g., "all elementary schools"), to the extent that the eligibility criterion applied in a given school is clear to all involved.
- b) For schools using the second eligibility process described in 1.b) of Eligibility Criteria above, until July 1, 2010, a description of the pattern of strengths and weaknesses that is determined by the group to be relevant to the identification of a specific learning disability must be documented in the required written summary of the group's analysis.

Additional Information Required

_____ **A.** In **all** schools, the district uses a process based on the student's response to scientific, research-based intervention to determine a student's eligibility as a student with a specific learning disability.

_____ **B.** In the schools identified on page 83, until July 1, 2010, the district will use a process based on the student's response to scientific, research-based intervention, **and** the pattern of strengths and weaknesses in performance, achievement, or both, relative to age, grade-level standards or intellectual development, that is determined by the group to be relevant to the identification of a specific learning disability, to determine a student's eligibility as a student with a specific learning disability (see pages 82-83).

If option B was selected on page 81, the district must complete pages 82-83.

B.1. A process based on the student's response to scientific, research-based intervention, consistent with the comprehensive evaluation procedures in Rule 6A-6.0331 F.A.C., will be used to determine a student's eligibility as a student with a specific learning disability in the following schools:

B.2. Until July 4, 2010, a process based on the student's response to scientific, research-based intervention, **and** the pattern of strengths and weaknesses in performance, achievement, or both, relative to age, grade-level standards in accordance with Rule 6A-1.09401, F.A.C., or intellectual development, that is determined by the group to be relevant to the identification of a specific learning disability, consistent with the comprehensive evaluation procedures in Rule 6A-6.0331, F.A.C., will be used to determine a student's eligibility as a student with a specific learning disability in the following schools:

The school district has the option to include additional information regarding evaluations, qualified evaluators, or unique philosophical, curricular, or instructional considerations for students with specific learning disabilities.

_____ The school district has provided additional information for this section in **Appendix B** of this document.

_____ There is no additional information for this section.

Part II. Policies and Procedures for Students with Disabilities

Section B.13: Exceptional Student Education Eligibility for Students with Speech and Language Impairments

Statutory and Regulatory Citations

Title 34 Code of Federal Regulations (CFR) §§ 300.8, 300.306, and 300.34
Sections 1003.01 and 1003.57, Florida Statutes (F.S.)
Rule 6A-6.03012, Florida Administrative Code (F.A.C.)

Definitions

1. Speech and language impairments are defined as disorders of language, articulation, fluency, or voice that interfere with communication, pre-academic or academic learning, vocational training, or social adjustment.
2. An impairment in the language system is an abnormal processing or production of:
 - b. Form, including phonology, syntax, and morphology;
 - c. Content, including semantics; or
 - d. Function, including pragmatics.
3. An impairment in articulation is the substitution, distortion, or omission of speech sounds that are of a nonmaturational nature.
4. An impairment in fluency is the abnormal flow of speech that impairs rate and rhythm and may be accompanied by struggle behavior.
5. An impairment in voice is the absence or abnormal production of voice quality, pitch, loudness, resonance, or duration.

Eligibility Criteria

A student is eligible for specially designed instruction and related services as a student with a speech or language impairment if the student meets the criteria for one or more of the following disorders:

1. A language disorder is present when:
 - a) For students below age five, there is a significant language delay based on criteria presented in the test or evaluation manual and at least one of the following is met:
 - There is a significant difference between language performance and other developmental behaviors; or
 - There is a significant difference between receptive and expressive language abilities
 - b) For students ages five and above, the language scores on standardized tests are more than one standard deviation below the mean for the student's chronological age and at least one of the following is met:
 - There is a significant difference (as specified in test manual) between language performance and nonverbal performance; or
 - There is a significant difference (as specified in test manual) between receptive and expressive language scores; or
 - Two or more, but not all, components of the language system are rated moderately or severely impaired on a language severity rating scale.

2. An articulation disorder is present when at least one of the following is met:
 - a) Based on normative data, the frequency of incorrect sound production and the delay of correct sound production are significant; or
 - b) The error pattern is characteristic of disordered rather than delayed acquisition; or
 - c) Articulation is rated as moderately or severely impaired on an articulation severity rating scale.
3. A fluency disorder is present when:
 - a) Fluency is rated as mildly, moderately, or severely impaired on a fluency severity rating scale; and
 - b) There are supportive data presented by a primary caregiver, a teacher-educator, or the student, when appropriate, in addition to a speech-language pathologist, that a disorder exists.
4. A voice disorder is present when:
 - a) Voice is rated as moderately or severely impaired on a voice severity rating scale; and
 - b) There are supportive data presented by a primary caregiver, a teacher-educator, or the student, when appropriate, in addition to a speech-language pathologist, that a disorder exists.
5. Additional eligibility criteria
Children below age three who meet other program eligibility as stated in Rules 6A-6.03031 and 6A-6.03030, F.A.C., may receive speech/language services.
6. A speech-language pathologist shall be a member of any eligibility staffing committee reviewing speech and language evaluation data.

Screening

1. Students being considered for language or speech programs shall be screened for hearing and vision.
2. Students being considered for exceptional student programs, excluding gifted and homebound or hospitalized who may be screened on a referral basis, shall be screened for language, articulation, fluency, and voice disorders prior to staffing for eligibility.

Student Evaluation

Minimum student evaluations are:

1. Speech-language pathologists shall be responsible for implementing and conducting diagnostic assessments of language, articulation, fluency, or voice disorders.
2. A case history shall be included as part of the assessment data when determined appropriate by the speech-language pathologist.
3. Medical and psychological evaluations shall be requested by the speech-language pathologist when appropriate.

Unique Philosophical, Curricular, or Instructional Considerations

A speech-language pathologist shall be involved in the development of the individual educational plans for eligible students with speech and language impairments.

The school district has the option to include additional information regarding evaluations, qualified evaluators, or unique philosophical, curricular, or instructional considerations for students with speech and language impairments.

_____ The school district has provided additional information for this section in **Appendix B** of this document.

_____ There is no additional information for this section.

Part II. Policies and Procedures for Students with Disabilities

Section B.14: Exceptional Student Education Eligibility for Students with Visual Impairment

Statutory and Regulatory Citations

Title 34 Code of Federal Regulations (CFR) §§ 300.8, 300.34, 300.172, 300.324, and 300.324
Sections 1003.55, 1003.57, and 1003.575, Florida Statutes (F.S.)
Rule 6A-6.03014, Florida Administrative Code (F.A.C.)

Definition

1. Students who are visually impaired include the following:
 - a) A student who is blind, has no vision, or has little potential for using vision.
 - b) A student who has low vision.
2. The term visual impairment does not include students who have learning problems that are primarily the result of visual perceptual and/or visual motor difficulties.

Eligibility Criteria

A student is eligible for special education and related services if the following medical and educational criteria are met:

1. A licensed ophthalmologist or optometrist has documented an eye condition that causes an impairment as manifested by at least one of the following:
 - a) A visual acuity of 20/70 or less in the better eye after best possible correction;
 - b) A peripheral field so constricted that it affects the student's ability to function in an educational setting;
 - c) A progressive loss of vision that may affect the student's ability to function in an educational setting, not including students who have learning problems that are primarily the result of visual perceptual and/or visual motor difficulties; or
 - d) For children birth to five years of age or students who are otherwise unable to be assessed, bilateral lack of central, steady, or maintained fixation of vision with an estimated visual acuity of 20/70 or less after best possible correction; bilateral central scotoma involving the perimacula area (20/80–20/200); bilateral grade III, IV, or V retinopathy of prematurity (ROP); or documented eye impairment as stated in paragraph (3)(a) of this rule.
2. The student demonstrates a need for special education.

Student Evaluation

The minimum procedures necessary for determining eligibility shall include:

1. A medical eye examination describing: etiology; diagnosis; treatment regimen; prognosis; near/distance; corrected/uncorrected acuity measures for left eye, right eye; and both eyes; measure of field of vision; and recommendations for lighting levels, physical activity, aids, or use of glasses, as appropriate.
2. For children birth to five years of age or students who are otherwise unable to be assessed, a medical assessment describing visual functioning shall be documented when standard visual acuities and measure of field of vision are unattainable.

3. If a medical criterion listed in paragraph (4)(a) of Rule 6A-6.03014, F.A.C., is met, then in addition to the provisions of Rule 6A-6.0331, F.A.C., a comprehensive assessment of skills known to be impacted by visual impairment shall include, but is not limited to: functional vision evaluation, learning media assessment, and, if appropriate, orientation and mobility assessment.

Reevaluation

1. Reevaluation shall occur at least every three years and shall include a minimum of a medical eye examination within the last calendar year, functional vision assessment, learning media assessment, and, if appropriate, any other formal evaluations addressed in the initial evaluation in accordance with Rule 6A-6.0331, F.A.C.
2. The medical aspect of a reevaluation for students with bilateral anophthalmia may be waived by a written recommendation of a physician.

Specialized Evaluations: Qualified Evaluators

The following specialized evaluations are required to be administered by the individuals listed. All evaluators must hold a valid license or certificate in the state of Florida, in accordance with Rule 6A-6.0331, F.A.C.

1. Medical eye exam: ophthalmologist or optometrist
2. Functional vision assessment: teacher of the visually impaired, orientation and mobility specialist, or low vision specialist
3. Learning Media Assessment: teacher of the visually impaired
4. Orientation and mobility (as appropriate): orientation and mobility specialist

Unique Philosophical, Curricular, or Instructional Considerations

1. All students with visual impairments are registered for services from the Florida Instructional Materials Center for the Visually Impaired. Students will be provided with instruction in braille unless otherwise determined by the individual educational plan (IEP) team. This determination is based upon the student's present reading and writing skills, functional vision assessment, and learning media assessment, as well as documentation indicating the need for instruction or use of braille in the future.
2. Orientation and mobility is a related service, provided to blind or visually impaired students by qualified personnel if the IEP team determines that it is necessary in order for the student to benefit from specially designed instruction, that enables the student to attain systematic orientation to and safe movement within their environments in school, home, and community. Orientation and mobility instruction encompasses skill and conceptual awareness that includes, but is not limited to: spatial awareness, use of sensory information to maintain orientation, the use of mobility devices (i.e., long cane, distance low vision aids, assistive technology), and other skills and techniques used to travel safely and efficiently across a variety of settings.
3. The school district will provide information describing the Florida School for the Deaf and the Blind and all other programs and methods of instruction available to the parent of a student with sensory impairments. This information will be provided annually. Additionally, in accordance with Rule 6A-6.03014, F.A.C., cooperative planning with the Division of Blind Services (DBS) may occur for students eligible for DBS services, with parent participation and agreement.

The school district has the option to include additional information regarding evaluations, qualified evaluators or unique philosophical, curricular, or instructional considerations for students with visual impairments.

- The school district has provided additional information for this section in **Appendix B** of this document.
- There is no additional information for this section.

Part II. Policies and Procedures for Students with Disabilities

Section B.15: Exceptional Student Education Eligibility for Students who Need Occupational Therapy

Statutory and Regulatory Citations

Title 34 Code of Federal Regulations (CFR) § 300.34
Section 1003.57, Florida Statutes (F.S.)
Rule 6A-6.03025, Florida Administrative Code (F.A.C.)

Definition

Occupational therapy (OT) means services provided by a qualified occupational therapist; and includes: improving, developing, or restoring functions impaired or lost through illness, injury, or deprivation; improving ability to perform tasks for independent functioning if functions are impaired or lost; and preventing, through early intervention, initial or further impairment or loss of function.

Eligibility Criteria

An exceptional student is eligible for occupational therapy if the student's physical motor or neurological deficits result in significant dysfunction in daily living skills, academic learning skills, or adaptive social or emotional behaviors to a degree not otherwise provided for in the exceptional student education instructional environment.

Student Evaluation

The need for OT as a related service is determined by the student's individual education plan (IEP) team. The minimum evaluation shall include an evaluation by an occupational therapist licensed in Florida. Although a medical prescription is not required, appropriate medical records and social history may be reviewed as a part of the evaluation process.

Unique Philosophical, Curricular, or Instructional Considerations

1. Individual educational plan (IEP)
 - a) An occupational therapist shall annually evaluate the student's progress in meeting annual goals, short-term objectives, or benchmarks in the IEP related to occupational therapy.
2. Instructional program
 - a) The instructional program shall be based on the student's individual educational plan and the plan of treatment developed by an occupational therapist.
 - b) Occupational therapy may be provided by either a licensed occupational therapist or a licensed occupational therapy assistant in accordance with the provisions of s. 468.203, F.S.

The school district has the option to include additional information regarding evaluations, qualified evaluators or unique philosophical, curricular or instructional considerations for students who need occupational therapy.

_____ The school district has provided additional information for this section in **Appendix B** of this document.

_____ There is no additional information for this section.

Part II. Policies and Procedures for Students with Disabilities

Section B.16: Exceptional Student Education Eligibility for Students who Need Physical Therapy

Statutory and Regulatory Citations

Title 34 Code of Federal Regulations (CFR) § 300.34
Section 1003.57, Florida Statutes (F.S.)
Rule 6A-6.03024, Florida Administrative Code (F.A.C.)

Definition

Physical therapy (PT) means services provided by a qualified physical therapist, and includes: a specially prescribed program directed toward the development, improvement, or restoration of neuromuscular or sensorimotor function, relief of pain, or control of postural deviations to attain the exceptional student's functional performance in an educational setting.

Eligibility Criteria

An exceptional student is eligible for physical therapy as a related service if the student has one or both of the following:

1. Identified physical impairments, motor deficits, or developmental delays that significantly interfere with the achievement of learning
2. Muscular or neuromuscular conditions, skeletal deformities, trauma, and physically debilitating conditions that limit the student's ability to attain functional performance within the educational setting.

Student Evaluation

The need for PT as a related service is determined by the student's individual educational plan (IEP) team. The minimum evaluation for the student as required by Rule 6A-6.03024, F.A.C., shall include an evaluation by a physical therapist licensed in this state. Prior to the determination of eligibility and in the event of a change in medical condition of the student, the school district shall have a written medical prescription for physical therapy signed by a health care practitioner, in accordance with the provisions of s. 486.021, F.S.

Unique Philosophical, Curricular, or Instructional Considerations

1. Individual educational plan (IEP)
A physical therapist shall annually evaluate the student's progress in meeting the annual goals, short-term objectives, or benchmarks stated in the IEP related to physical therapy.
2. Instructional program
 - a) The instructional program shall be based on the student's individual educational plan and the plan of treatment developed by a physical therapist.
 - b) Physical therapy may be provided by either a licensed physical therapist or a licensed physical therapist assistant in accordance with the provisions of s. 486.021, F.S.

The school district has the option to include additional information regarding evaluations, qualified evaluators, or unique philosophical, curricular, or instructional considerations for students who need physical therapy.

_____ The school district has provided additional information for this section in **Appendix B** of this document.

_____ There is no additional information for this section.

Part II. Policies and Procedures for Students with Disabilities

Section C: Dismissal

Statutory and Regulatory Citations

Title 34 Code of Federal Regulations (CFR) § 300.305
Section 1003.57, Florida Statutes (F.S.)
Rule 6A-6.0331, Florida Administrative Code (F.A.C.)

Dismissal from Exceptional Student Education for Students with Disabilities

1. A student must be dismissed from exceptional student education (ESE) services for students with disabilities if:
 - a) Upon reevaluation, the student is determined no longer to be a student with a disability in need of special education and related services, or
 - b) The parent of the student revokes consent for services
2. The school district ensures that a reevaluation is conducted if the district determines that the educational or related services needs of the student warrant a reevaluation or if the student's parent or teacher requests it. The procedures for reevaluation are described in the *Student Evaluations and Reevaluations* section of this document.
3. If the parent of a student with a disability revokes consent for services in writing to the district, the district must not delay cessation of special education and related services. See the *Parental Revocation of Consent for Special Education and Related Services* section of this document for additional information.
4. Dismissal from exceptional student education is considered a change in eligibility, for which prior written notice must be provided.
5. If a student is determined no longer to be eligible under one disability category, but is eligible under another disability category, this does not result in dismissal. For example, if upon reevaluation it is determined that the student no longer has a speech impairment (SI) but continues to have a specific learning disability (SLD), the student's eligibility as SI is discontinued, but the student continues to be eligible for specially designed instruction and related services as SLD.

Part II. Policies and Procedures for Students with Disabilities

Section D: Individual Educational Plan

Statutory and Regulatory Citations

Title 34 Code of Federal Regulations (CFR) §§ 300.320 and 300.328
Sections 1001.02, 1003.01, and 1003.57, Florida Statutes (F.S.)
Rule 6A-6.03028, Florida Administrative Code (F.A.C.)

Definition

An individual educational plan (IEP) is a written statement for a student with a disability that is developed, reviewed, and revised in accordance with Rule 6A-6.03028, F.A.C. Parents are partners with schools and district personnel in developing, reviewing, and revising the IEP. The procedures for the development of IEPs for students with disabilities are as follows:

Procedures

1. Role of parents

The role of the parents in developing IEPs includes, but is not limited to:

- a) Providing critical information regarding the strengths of their student
- b) Expressing their concerns for enhancing the education of their student so that their student can receive a free and appropriate public education (FAPE)
- c) Participating in discussions about the student's need for special education and related services
- d) Participating in deciding how the student will be involved and progress in the general curriculum, including participation in state and district assessments
- e) Participating in the determination of what services the district will provide to their student and in what setting
- f) Participating in the determination of whether the student is pursuing a course of study leading to a standard diploma or a special diploma

2. Parent participation in IEP team meetings

The district shall establish procedures that provide for parents, guardians, surrogate parents, or persons acting in loco parentis to participate in decisions concerning the individual educational plan. Parents of each student with a disability must be members of any group that makes decisions on the educational placement of their child.

- a) In order to ensure that parents are present at each meeting, or are afforded the opportunity to participate at each meeting:
 - Parents are notified of the meeting early enough to ensure that they have an opportunity to attend
 - The meeting is scheduled at a mutually agreed upon time and place
- b) A written notice to the parent indicates the purpose, time, location of the meeting, who, by title or position, will be in attendance, and includes a statement informing the parents that they have the right to invite individuals with special knowledge or expertise about their child.
 - Parents may also request that a Part C service coordinator or other representative of the Part system be invited to attend the initial IEP team meeting for a child previously receiving early intervention services under Part C of the Individuals with Disabilities Education Act (IDEA).

- Decisions as to which particular teacher(s) or special education provider(s) are members of the IEP team are made by the district, based on the needs of the student.
 - The written notice to the parent clearly indicates which persons invited to the IEP team meeting are required members of the team and, thus, would require excusal as described in "IEP team member excusal" below.
- c) No later than the first IEP to be in effect when the student turns 14 (or younger, if determined appropriate by the IEP team), the notice must also indicate that a purpose of the meeting will be to identify transition services needs of the student and that the district will invite the student.
 - d) Not later than the first IEP to be in effect when the student turns 16 (or younger, if determined appropriate by the IEP team), the notice must also indicate that a purpose of the meeting will be consideration of the postsecondary goals and transition services for the student, that the district will invite the student and will identify any other agency that will be invited to send a representative to the meeting.
 - e) If neither parent can attend, the district uses other methods to ensure parent participation, including individual or conference telephone calls or video conferencing.
 - f) A meeting may be conducted without a parent in attendance if the district is unable to obtain the attendance of the parent. In this case, the district maintains a record of its attempts to arrange a mutually agreed upon time and place. These records include such items as:
 - Detailed records of telephone calls made or attempted, and the results of those calls
 - Copies of correspondence sent to the parents and any responses received
 - Detailed records of visits made to the parent's home or place of employment, and the results of those visits
 - g) The district takes whatever action is necessary to ensure that the parents and the student, beginning at age 14, understand the proceedings at a meeting, including arranging for an interpreter for parents and students who are deaf or whose native language is other than English.
 - h) A meeting does not include informal or unscheduled conversations involving school district personnel and conversations on issues such as teaching methodology, lesson plans, or coordination of service provision. A meeting also does not include preparatory activities that school district personnel engage in to develop a proposal or response to a parent proposal that will be discussed at a later meeting.
 - i) The district provides the parent with a copy of the IEP at no cost to the parent.

3. IEP team participants

The IEP team, with a reasonable number of participants, shall include:

- a) The parents of the student
- b) At least one regular education teacher of the student, if the student is or may be participating in the regular education environment. The regular education teacher of a student with a disability participates, to the extent appropriate, in the development, review, and revision of the student's IEP, including assisting in the determination of:
 - Appropriate positive behavioral interventions and supports and other strategies for the student
 - Supplementary aids and services, classroom accommodations, modifications, or supports for school personnel to be provided for the student
- c) At least one special education teacher of the student, or, where appropriate, one special education provider of the student
- d) A representative of the school district who is qualified to provide or supervise the provision of specially designed instruction to meet the unique needs of students with disabilities, is knowledgeable about the general curriculum, and is knowledgeable about the availability of

resources of the district. At the discretion of the district, the student's special education teacher may be designated to also serve as the representative of the district if the teacher meets these requirements.

- e) An individual who can interpret the instructional implications of evaluation results. This role may be fulfilled by another member of the IEP team.
- f) At the discretion of the parent or the school district, other individuals who have knowledge or special expertise regarding the student, including related services personnel. The determination of the knowledge or special expertise shall be made by the party who invited the individual to participate in the IEP team meeting.
- g) The student, if appropriate, and in all cases where a purpose of the meeting will be the identification of the student's transition services needs or consideration of postsecondary goals for the student and the transition services needed to assist the student in reaching those goals. If the student does not attend the IEP team meeting to identify transition services needs or consider postsecondary goals and transition services, the district takes other steps to ensure that the student's preferences and interests are considered.
- h) Agency representatives. If a purpose of the IEP team meeting will be the consideration of the postsecondary goals for the student and the transition services needed to assist the student in reaching the postsecondary goals, the district invites a representative of any participating agency that may be responsible for providing or paying for transition services. Parental consent or the consent of a student who has reached the age of majority must be obtained before inviting agency representatives and before personally identifiable information is released to officials of participating agencies providing or paying for transition services.
- i) In the case of a student who was previously served and received early intervention services under Part C of the IDEA, the Part C service coordinator or other representatives of the Part C system must be invited to the initial IEP team meeting, at the request of the parent, to assist with the smooth transition of services;
- j) The district will determine the specific personnel to fill the roles under a) through e) above.

4. IEP team member excusal

- a) A member of the IEP team is not required to attend an IEP team meeting, in whole or in part, if the parent of a student with a disability and the school district agree, in writing, that the attendance of the member is not necessary because the member's area of curriculum or related services is not being modified or discussed in the meeting.
- b) A member of the IEP team also may be excused from attending an IEP team meeting, in whole or in part, when the meeting involves a modification to or discussion of the member's area of the curriculum or related services, if the parent, in writing, and the school district consent to the excusal and the member submits, in writing to the parent and the IEP team, input into the development of the IEP prior to the meeting.
- c) The district has designated the following individual(s), by name or position, as having the authority to make the agreement with the parent, or provide consent on behalf of the district, to excuse an IEP team member from attending an IEP team meeting:

--

- d) If a required IEP team member is unable to attend the meeting as scheduled, the parent can agree to continue with the meeting and request an additional meeting if more information is needed, or request that the meeting be rescheduled.
5. Transition of children with disabilities from the infants and toddlers early intervention program
- a) An IEP or an IFSP must be developed and implemented by the third birthday of a child who has been participating in the early intervention program for infants and toddlers with disabilities.
 - b) Each school district shall participate in transition planning conferences arranged by the state lead agency for the infants and toddlers with disabilities early intervention program.
 - c) If the child's third birthday occurs during the summer, the child's IEP team shall determine the date when services under the IEP or IFSP will begin.

6. IEP timelines

Timelines for IEPs include the following:

- a) An IEP that has been reviewed, and, if appropriate, revised periodically, but not less than annually, is in effect at the beginning of each school year for each eligible student with a disability within the district's jurisdiction.
- b) An IEP must be developed within 30 calendar days following the determination of a student's eligibility for special education and related services and be in effect prior to the provision of these services.
- c) A meeting shall be held at least annually to review, and revise, as appropriate, each IEP.

7. Considerations in IEP development, review, and revision

The IEP team considers the following factors in the development, review, and revision of the IEP:

- a) Strengths of the student and concerns of the parents for enhancing the education of their child
- b) Results of the initial or most recent evaluation or reevaluation
- c) As appropriate, results of the student's performance on state or districtwide assessments
- d) Academic, developmental, and functional needs of the student
- e) In the case of a student whose behavior impedes the student's learning or the learning of others, strategies, including the use of positive behavioral interventions, supports, and other strategies to address that behavior
- f) In the case of a student with limited English proficiency, the language needs of the student as related to the IEP
- g) In the case of a student who is blind or visually impaired, provision of instruction in braille and the use of braille unless the IEP team determines, after an evaluation of the student's reading and writing skills, needs including future needs and appropriate reading and writing media (including an evaluation of the student's future need for instruction in braille or the use of braille), that instruction in braille or the use of braille is not appropriate for the student
- h) The communication needs of the student
 - i) In the case of a student who is deaf or hard-of-hearing, the student's language and communication needs, opportunities for direct communications with peers and professional personnel in the student's language and communication mode, academic level, and full range of needs, including opportunities for direct instruction in the student's language and communication mode
 - j) Whether the student needs assistive technology devices or services. On a case-by-case basis, the use of school-purchased assistive technology devices in a student's home or other settings is required if the IEP team determines that the student needs access to those devices in order to receive a FAPE.

- k) At least annually, whether extended school year (ESY) services are necessary for the provision of a FAPE to the student if the IEP team determines, on an individual basis, that the services are necessary. School districts may not limit ESY to particular categories of a disability or unilaterally limit the type, amount, or duration of those services.
- l) If, after considering all the factors mentioned above, the IEP team determines that a student needs a particular device or service, including an intervention, accommodation, or other modification, in order to receive a FAPE, the IEP includes a statement to that effect.

8. Content of the IEP

Each IEP must include the following:

- a) A statement of the student's present levels of academic achievement and functional performance, including how the student's disability affects the student's involvement and progress in the general curriculum, or for prekindergarten children, as appropriate, how the disability affects the student's participation in appropriate activities.
- b) A statement of measurable annual goals, including academic and functional goals designed to meet the student's needs that result from the student's disability to enable the student to be involved in and make progress in the general curriculum or for preschool children, as appropriate, to participate in appropriate activities and meeting each of the student's other educational needs that result from the student's disability.
- c) A description of benchmarks or short-term objectives for students with disabilities who take an alternate assessment aligned to alternate achievement standards, or any other student with a disability, at the discretion of the IEP team.
- d) A statement of the special education and related services, and supplementary aids and services, based on peer-reviewed research to the extent practicable, to be provided to the student, or on behalf of the student.
- e) A statement of the classroom accommodations, modifications, or supports for school personnel that will be provided for the student to advance appropriately toward attaining the annual goals; be involved and progress in the general curriculum; to participate in extracurricular and other nonacademic activities; and to be educated and participate with other students with disabilities and nondisabled students in the activities described in this section (A parent must provide signed consent for a student to receive instructional accommodations that would not be permitted on the statewide assessments and must acknowledge in writing that he or she understands the implications of such accommodations.)
- f) An explanation of the extent, if any, to which the student will not participate with nondisabled students in the regular class or in the activities described above.
- g) A statement addressing any individual appropriate accommodations necessary to measure the academic achievement and functional performance of the student on the state or district assessments. Accommodations that negate the validity of a statewide assessment are not allowable in accordance with s. 1008.22, F.S. If the IEP team determines that the student will take an alternate assessment instead of the regular state or district assessment of student achievement, the IEP must include a statement of why the student cannot participate in the regular assessment and why the alternate assessment is appropriate for the student. If a student does not participate in the regular state assessment, the district must notify the student's parent and provide the parent with information regarding the implications of such nonparticipation.
- h) The projected date for the beginning of the special education, services, accommodations, and modifications described and the anticipated frequency, location, and duration of those services.
- i) A statement of how the student's progress toward meeting the annual goals will be measured and when periodic reports on the progress the student is making toward meeting the annual goals (such as through the use of quarterly or other periodic reports, concurrent with the issuance of report cards) will be provided.

- j) During the student's eighth grade year or during the school year of the student's 14th birthday, whichever comes first, a statement of whether the student is pursuing a course of study leading to a standard diploma or a special diploma.
 - k) In order to ensure transition planning and services, IEP teams shall begin the process of identifying transition services needs of students beginning no later than age 14, so that needed postsecondary goals may be identified and in place by age 16.
 - l) Beginning no later than the first IEP to be in effect when the student turns 16, or younger, if determined appropriate by the IEP team and updated annually:
 - A statement of appropriate measurable postsecondary goals based upon age-appropriate transition assessments related to training, education, employment, and, where appropriate, independent living skills and the transition services (including courses of study) needed to assist the student in reaching those goals
 - The consideration of instruction or the provision of information in the area of self-determination to assist the student to be able to actively and effectively participate in the IEP team meeting and self-advocate, if appropriate.
 - m) If a participating agency responsible for transition services, other than the school district, fails to provide the transition services described in the IEP, the school district must reconvene the IEP team to identify alternative strategies to meet the transition objectives for the student set out in the IEP. However, this does not relieve any participating agency, including the Division of Vocational Rehabilitation Services (VR), of the responsibility to provide or pay for any transition service that the agency would otherwise provide to students with disabilities who meet the eligibility criteria of that agency.
 - n) Beginning at least one year before the student's 18th birthday, a statement that the student has been informed of his or her rights that will transfer from the parent to the student on reaching the age of majority, which is 18 years of age.
9. Least restrictive environment (LRE) and placement determinations:
- a) To the maximum extent appropriate, students with disabilities, including those in public or private institutions or other facilities, are educated with nondisabled students.
 - b) Special classes, separate schooling, or other removal of students with disabilities from the regular educational environment occurs only if the nature or severity of the disability is such that education in regular classes with the use of supplementary aids and services cannot be achieved satisfactorily.
 - c) A continuum of alternative placements must be available to meet the needs of students with disabilities for special education and related services, including instruction in regular classes, special classes, special schools, home instruction, and instruction in hospitals and institutions and a school district must make provision for supplementary services (such as resource room or itinerant instruction) to be provided in conjunction with regular class placement.
 - d) In determining the educational placement of a student with a disability, including a preschool child with a disability, each school district must ensure that:
 - The placement decision is made by a group of persons, including the parents, and other persons knowledgeable about the student, the meaning of the evaluation data, and the placement options.
 - The placement decision is made in accordance with the provisions listed above.
 - The student's placement is determined at least annually, is based on the student's IEP, and is as close as possible to the student's home.
 - Unless the IEP of a student with a disability requires some other arrangement, the student is educated in the school that he or she would attend if nondisabled.

- In selecting the LRE, consideration is given to any potential harmful effect on the student or on the quality of services that he or she needs.
 - A student with a disability is not removed from education in age-appropriate regular classrooms solely because of needed modifications in the general education curriculum.
- e) In providing or arranging for the provision of nonacademic and extracurricular services and activities (including meals, recess periods, counseling services, athletics, transportation, health services, recreational activities, special interest groups or clubs sponsored by the school district, referrals to agencies that provide assistance to individuals with disabilities, and employment of students, including both employment by the school district and assistance in making outside employment available), each school district must ensure that each student with a disability participates with nondisabled peers to the maximum extent appropriate. The school district must ensure that each student with a disability has the supplementary aids and services determined by the student's IEP team to be appropriate and necessary for the student to participate in nonacademic settings.

10. Review and revision of the IEP

The district ensures that the IEP team:

- a) Reviews the IEP periodically, but not less than annually, to determine whether the annual goals for the student are being achieved
- b) Revises the IEP as appropriate to address:
 - Any lack of expected progress toward the annual goals and in the general curriculum, if appropriate
 - Results of any reevaluation conducted
 - Information about the student provided to, or by, the parents
 - The student's anticipated needs or other matters
 - Consideration of the factors described earlier in number 7(a-l)
- c) Responds to a parent's right to ask for revision of the student's IEP
- d) Encourages the consolidation of reevaluation meetings for the student and other IEP team meetings for the student, to the extent possible

11. Changes to the IEP

Generally, changes to the IEP must be made by the entire IEP team at an IEP team meeting and may be made by amending the IEP rather than by redrafting the entire IEP. However, in making changes to the IEP after the annual IEP team meeting for a school year, the parent and school district may agree not to convene an IEP team meeting for purposes of making those changes, and instead may develop a written document to amend or modify the student's current IEP. If changes are made to the student's IEP without a meeting, the district must ensure that the student's IEP team is informed of those changes. Upon request, a parent will be provided a revised copy of the IEP with the amendments incorporated.

12. Students with disabilities in adult prisons

The requirements relating to participation in general assessments do not apply to students with disabilities who are convicted as adults under State law and incarcerated in adult prisons. In addition, the requirements relating to transition planning and services do not apply with respect to those students whose eligibility for services under Part B of the IDEA will end because of their age before they will be eligible to be released from prison based on consideration of their sentence and eligibility for early release. The IEP team may modify the student's IEP or placement if the State has demonstrated a bona fide security or compelling penological interest that cannot otherwise be accommodated. The requirements relating to the IEP content and LRE do not apply with respect to such modifications made.

13. IEP implementation and accountability

The school district is responsible for providing special education to students with disabilities in accordance with the students' IEPs. However, it is not required that the school district, teacher, or other person be held accountable if a student does not achieve the growth projected in the annual goals and benchmarks or objectives. An IEP will be in effect before special education and related services are provided to an eligible student and will be implemented as soon as possible following the IEP team meeting. In addition, the IEP will be accessible to each regular education teacher, special education teacher, related service provider, and other service provider who is responsible for its implementation. All teachers and providers will be informed of their specific responsibilities related to the implementation of the IEP and the specific accommodations, modifications, and supports that must be provided for the student in accordance with the IEP. The district will make a good faith effort to assist the student in achieving the goals and objectives or benchmarks listed on the IEP.

14. IEPs and meetings for students with disabilities placed in private schools or community facilities by the school district

If a student with a disability is placed in a private school by the school district, in consultation with the student's parents, the school district will ensure that the student has the same rights as a student with a disability served by the school district. Before placing the student, the school district initiates and conducts a meeting to develop an IEP or IFSP for the student. The district will ensure the attendance of a representative of the private school at the meeting. If the representative cannot attend, the district will use other methods to ensure participation by the private school, including individual or conference telephone calls. After a student with a disability enters a private school or facility, any meetings to review and revise the student's IEP may be initiated and conducted by the private school or facility at the discretion of the school district. The school district must ensure that the parents and a school district representative are involved in decisions about the IEP and agree to proposed changes in the IEP before those changes are implemented by the private school. Even if a private school or facility implements a student's IEP, responsibility for compliance with State Board Rules remains with the school district. These requirements apply only to students who are or have been placed in or referred to a private school or facility by a school district as a means of providing FAPE. If placement in a public or private residential program is necessary to provide special education to a student with a disability, the program, including non-medical care and room and board, must be at no cost to the parents of the student.

15. Access to instructional materials

The school district will take all reasonable steps to provide instructional materials in accessible formats to students with disabilities who need those instructional materials at the same time as other students receive instructional materials.

16. Physical education

Physical education services, specially designed if necessary, will be made available to every student with a disability receiving FAPE, unless the school district does not provide physical education to nondisabled students in the same grades. Each student with a disability will be afforded the opportunity to participate in the regular physical education program available to nondisabled students unless the student is enrolled full-time in a separate facility or the student needs specially designed physical education, as prescribed in the student's IEP. If specially designed physical education is prescribed in a student's IEP, the school district will provide the services directly or make arrangements for those services to be provided through other public or private programs.

17. Treatment of charter school students

Students with disabilities who attend public charter schools and their parents retain all rights under Rules 6A-6.03011 through 6A-6.0361, F.A.C. The school district will serve students with disabilities attending those charter schools in the same manner as the district serves students with disabilities in its other schools. This includes the following:

- providing supplementary and related services on site at the charter school to the same extent to which the school district has a policy or practice of providing such services on the site to its other public schools
- providing funds under Part B of the IDEA to those charter schools on the same basis as the school district provides funds to the school district's other public schools:
 - i. including proportional distribution based on relative enrollment of students with disabilities
 - ii. at the same time as the school distributes other federal funds to its other public schools

18. Program options

The school district will take steps to ensure that students with disabilities have available to them the variety of educational programs and services available to nondisabled students in the area served by the school district, including art, music, industrial arts, consumer and homemaking education, and vocational education.

The school district has the option to include additional information regarding the development and implementation of IEPs.

_____ The school district has provided additional information for this section in **Appendix B** of this document.

_____ There is no additional information for this section.

Part II. Policies and Procedures for Students with Disabilities

Section E: Discipline

Statutory and Regulatory Citations

Title 34 Code of Federal Regulations (CFR) §§ 300.530 – 300.537
Sections 893.02, 893.03, 1002.20, 1003.01, 1003.31, 1003.57, and 1006.09, Florida Statutes (F.S.)
Rule 6A-6.03312, Florida Administrative Code (F.A.C.)

Definitions

1. Change of placement because of disciplinary removals

For the purpose of removing a student with a disability from the student's current educational placement as specified in the student's individual educational plan (IEP) under Rule 6A-6.03312, F.A.C., a change of placement occurs when:

- a) The removal is for more than ten consecutive school days, or
- b) The student has been subjected to a series of removals that constitutes a pattern that is a change of placement because the removals cumulate to more than ten school days in a school year, because the student's behavior is substantially similar to the student's behavior in previous incidents that resulted in the series of removals, and because of additional factors, such as the length of each removal, the total amount of time the student has been removed, and the proximity of the removals to one another. A school district determines on a case-by-case basis whether a pattern of removals constitutes a change of placement, and this determination is subject to review through due process and judicial proceedings.

2. Controlled substance

A controlled substance is any substance named or described in Schedules I–V of s. 893.03, F.S.

3. Illegal drug

An illegal drug means a controlled substance but does not include a substance that is legally possessed or used under the supervision of a licensed health care professional or that is legally possessed or used under any other authority under the Controlled Substances Act, 21 U.S.C. 812(c), or under any other provision of federal law.

4. Serious bodily injury

Serious bodily injury means bodily injury that involves a substantial risk of death; extreme physical pain; protracted and obvious disfigurement; or protracted loss or impairment of the function of a bodily member, organ, or mental faculty.

5. Weapon

Weapon means a weapon, device, instrument, material, or substance, animate or inanimate, that is used for, or is readily capable of, causing death or serious bodily injury, except that such term does not include a pocket knife with a blade that is less than 2 1/2 inches in length.

6. Manifestation determination

A manifestation determination is a process by which the relationship between the student's disability and a specific behavior that may result in disciplinary action is examined.

7. Interim alternative educational setting

An interim alternative educational setting (IAES) is a different location where educational services are provided for a specific time period due to disciplinary reasons and that meets the requirements of Rule 6A-6.03312, F.A.C.

Procedures

1. For students with disabilities whose behavior impedes their learning or the learning of others, strategies, including positive behavioral interventions and supports to address that behavior, will be considered in the development of their IEPs. School personnel may consider any unique circumstances on a case-by-case basis when determining whether a change in placement, consistent with the requirements and procedures in Rule 6A-6.03312, is appropriate for a student with a disability who violates the Code of Student Conduct.

2. Authority of school personnel

Consistent with the school district's Code of Student Conduct and to the extent that removal would be applied to nondisabled students, school personnel may:

- a) Remove a student with a disability who violates a code of student conduct from the student's current placement for not more than ten consecutive school days
- b) Further remove a student with a disability for not more than ten consecutive school days in that same school year for separate incidents of misconduct, as long as those removals do not constitute a change in placement as defined in Rule 6A-6.03312, F.A.C.

3. Manifestation determination

A manifestation determination, consistent with the following requirements, will be made within ten days of any decision to change the placement of a student with a disability because of a violation of a code of student conduct.

- a) In conducting the review, the school district, the parent, and relevant members of the IEP team (as determined by the parent and the school district) will:
 - Review all relevant information in the student's file, including any information supplied by the parents of the student, any teacher observations of the student, and the student's current IEP
 - Determine whether the conduct in question was caused by, or had a direct and substantial relationship to, the student's disability or whether the conduct in question was the direct result of the school district's failure to implement the IEP
- b) If the school district, the parent, and relevant members of the IEP team determine that the conduct in question was caused by, or had a direct and substantial relationship to, the student's disability or that the conduct in question was the direct result of the school district's failure to implement the IEP, the conduct will be determined to be a manifestation of the student's disability and the school district will take immediate steps to remedy those deficiencies.
- c) If the school district, the parent, and relevant members of the IEP team determine that the conduct was a manifestation of the student's disability, the IEP team will either:
 - Conduct a functional behavioral assessment (FBA), unless the school district had conducted a FBA before the behavior that resulted in the change of placement occurred, and implement a behavioral intervention plan (BIP) for the student; or
 - If a BIP has already been developed, review and modify it, as necessary, to address the behavior; and
 - Except as provided in number 6 below, return the student to the placement from which the student was removed, unless the parent and the school district agree to a change in placement as part of the modification of the BIP.

- d) For disciplinary changes of placement, if the behavior that gave rise to the violation of a Code of Student Conduct is determined not to be a manifestation of the student's disability, the relevant disciplinary procedures applicable to nondisabled students may be applied to the student in the same manner and for the same duration in which they would be applied to nondisabled students, except that services necessary to provide a free appropriate public education (FAPE) will be provided to the student with a disability, as described in number 5 below.
 - e) If a parent disagrees with the manifestation determination decision made by the IEP team pursuant to this rule, the parent may appeal the decision by requesting an expedited due process hearing as described in number 7.
4. On the date a decision is made to make a removal that constitutes a change of placement of a student with a disability because of a violation of a code of student conduct, the school district will notify the parent of the removal decision and provide the parent with a copy of the notice of procedural safeguards.
 5. FAPE for students with disabilities who are suspended or expelled or placed in an IAES
 - a) A school district is not required to provide services to a student with a disability during removals totaling ten school days or fewer in that school year, if services are not provided to nondisabled students who are similarly removed.
 - b) Students with disabilities who are suspended or expelled from school or placed in an IAES will continue to receive educational services in accordance with s. 1003.01, F.S., including homework assignments, to enable the student to continue to participate in the general curriculum, although in another setting, and to progress toward meeting the goals in the student's IEP and receive, as appropriate, a functional behavioral assessment, behavioral intervention services and modifications designed to address the behavior violation so that it does not reoccur.
 - c) After a student with a disability has been removed from the current placement for ten school days in the school year, if the current removal is not more than ten consecutive school days and is not a change of placement under this rule, school personnel, in consultation with at least one of the student's special education teacher(s), will determine the extent to which services are needed to enable the student to continue to participate in the general curriculum, although in another setting, and to progress toward meeting the goals in the student's IEP.
 - d) If the removal is a change of placement under Rule 6A-6.03312, F.A.C., the student's IEP team determines appropriate services under paragraph (b) above.
 6. Special circumstances and interim alternative educational settings (IAES)
 - a) School personnel may remove a student to an IAES for not more than 45 school days without regard to whether the behavior is determined to be a manifestation of the student's disability, if the student:
 - Carries a weapon to or possesses a weapon at school, on school premises, or to a school function under the jurisdiction of a state education agency or a school district;
 - Knowingly possesses or uses illegal drugs or sells or solicits the sale of a controlled substance, while at school, on school premises, or at a school function under the jurisdiction of a state education agency or a school district; or
 - Has inflicted serious bodily injury upon another person while at school, on school premises, or at a school function under the jurisdiction of a state education agency or a school district.
 - b) On the date which a decision is made to make a removal that constitutes a change of placement

because of a violation of a code of student conduct, the school district will notify the parent of that decision and provide the parent with a copy of the notice of procedural safeguards.

7. Appeal and expedited hearings

a) An expedited hearing may be requested:

- By the student's parent, if the parent disagrees with a manifestation determination or with any decision not made by an administrative law judge (ALJ) regarding a change of placement under Rule 6A-6.03312, F.A.C.
- By the school district, if it believes that maintaining the current placement of the student is substantially likely to result in injury to the student or to others

b) The school district may repeat the procedures for expedited hearings if it believes that returning the student to the original placement is substantially likely to result in injury to the student or to others.

c) Expedited due process hearings requested under this subsection will be conducted by an ALJ for the Division of Administrative Hearings, Department of Management Services, on behalf of the Department of Education, and will be held at the request of either the parent or the school district regarding disciplinary actions. These hearings will meet the requirements prescribed in Rules 6A-6.03011 through 6A-6.0361, F.A.C., except that the hearing will occur within 20 school days of the date the request for due process is filed and an ALJ will make a determination within ten school days after the hearing. In addition, unless the parents and the school district agree in writing to waive the resolution meeting described herein or agree to use the mediation process set forth in these rules:

- A resolution meeting will occur within seven days of receiving notice of the request for expedited due process hearing
- The expedited due process hearing may proceed unless the matter has been resolved to the satisfaction of both parties within 15 days of the receipt of the request for expedited due process hearing

d) The decision of the ALJ rendered in an expedited hearing may be appealed by bringing a civil action in a federal district or state circuit court, as provided in s. 1003.57(1)(e), F.S.

8. Authority of an ALJ

An ALJ hears and makes a determination regarding an appeal and request for expedited due process hearing under this subsection and, in making the determination:

- a) An ALJ may return the student with a disability to the placement from which the student was removed if the ALJ determines that the removal was a violation of Rule 6A-6.03312, F.A.C., or that the student's behavior was a manifestation of the student's disability; or
- b) Order a change of placement of the student with a disability to an appropriate IAES for not more than 45 school days if the ALJ determines that maintaining the current placement of the student is substantially likely to result in injury to the student or to others.
- c) The procedures under this subsection may be repeated if a school district believes that returning the student to the original placement is substantially likely to result in injury to the student or to others.

9. Student's placement during appeals/expedited due process proceedings

When an appeal as described in number 7 above has been made by either the parent or the school

district, the student will remain in the IAES determined by the IEP team pending the decision of the ALJ or until the expiration of the time period specified by school personnel, including expulsion for a student where no manifestation was found, unless the parent and the Department of Education or school district agree otherwise.

10. Protections for students not determined eligible for special education and related services

A regular education student who has engaged in behavior that violated a code of student conduct may assert any of the protections afforded to a student with a disability under this rule if the school district had knowledge of the student's disability before the behavior that precipitated the disciplinary action occurred.

a) Basis of knowledge

A school district is deemed to have knowledge that a student is a student with a disability if:

- The parent has expressed concern in writing to supervisory or administrative personnel of the appropriate school district, or a teacher of the student, that the student needs special education and related services; or
- The parent has requested an evaluation to determine whether the student is in need of special education and related services; or
- The teacher of the student, or other school district personnel, expressed specific concerns about a pattern of behavior demonstrated by the student directly to the school district's special education director or to other supervisory school district personnel.

b) Exception

A school district would not be deemed to have knowledge of a disability (see above) if:

- The parent of the student has not allowed an evaluation to determine if the student is an eligible student with a disability;
- The parent of the student has refused to provide consent for initial provision of special education and related service;
- The parent of the student revoked consent for the student to receive special education and related services; or
- The school district conducted an evaluation in accordance with Rules 6A-6.03011 through 6A-6.0361, F.A.C., and determined that the student was not a student with a disability.

c) Conditions that apply if no basis of knowledge

- If the school district has no knowledge that the student is a student with a disability prior to disciplinary action, the student may be disciplined in the same manner as a nondisabled student who engages in comparable behaviors.
- If an evaluation request is made for the student during the time period of the disciplinary action, the evaluation will be conducted in an expedited manner. Until the evaluation is completed, the student remains in the educational placement determined by school authorities, which can include suspension or expulsion without educational services. If the student is determined to be a student with a disability, taking into consideration information from the evaluation and information provided by the parents, the school district will provide special education and related services consistent with the requirements of Rule 6A-6.03312, F.A.C.

11. Nothing in Rule 6A-6.03312, F.A.C. prohibits a school district from reporting a crime committed by a student with a disability to appropriate authorities or prevents state law enforcement and judicial authorities from exercising their responsibilities with regard to the application of federal and state law to crimes committed by a student with a disability.

12. Student records in disciplinary procedures

School districts will ensure that the special education and disciplinary records of students with disabilities are transmitted, consistent with the provisions of s. 1002.22, F.S., and Rule 6A-1.0955, F.A.C.:

- a) For consideration by the person making the final determination regarding the disciplinary action
- b) For consideration by the appropriate authorities to whom school districts report crimes

13. Disciplinary records of students with disabilities

School districts will include in the records of students with disabilities a statement of any current or previous disciplinary action that has been taken against the student and transmit the statement to the same extent that the disciplinary information is included in, and transmitted with, the student records of nondisabled students.

- a) The statement may be a description of any behavior engaged in by the student that required disciplinary action, a description of the disciplinary action taken, and any other information that is relevant to the safety of the student and other individuals involved with the student.
- b) If the student transfers from one school to another, the transmission of any of the student's records will include both the student's current IEP and any statement of current or previous disciplinary action that has been taken against the student.

Part II. Policies and Procedures for Students with Disabilities

Section F: Participation in State and District Assessments

Statutory and Regulatory Citations

Title 34 Code of Federal Regulations (CFR) § 300.320
Sections 1003.43, 1003.433, 1003.428, 1008.22, 1008.25, and 1011.62(9), Florida Statutes (F.S.)
Rules 6A-1.0943 and 6A-6.03028, Florida Administrative Code (F.A.C.)

Florida Comprehensive Assessment Test (FCAT)

1. Purpose

The primary purposes of the student assessment program are to provide information needed to improve the public schools by enhancing the learning gains of all students and to inform parents of the educational progress of their public school children.

2. Student participation

- a) Each student with a disability has the opportunity to participate in the FCAT and any districtwide assessment of student achievement with allowable accommodations, if determined appropriate by the individual educational plan (IEP) team and recorded on the student's IEP, or, for students eligible under Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act, if documented on the 504 plan.
- b) Accommodations identified for testing situations are those identified in the test manual and previously used by the student in the classroom.
- c) A parent must provide signed consent for a student to receive instructional accommodations not permitted on statewide assessments and acknowledge in writing the implications of such accommodations.
- d) Students who are identified solely as gifted are not eligible for state assessment accommodations.

3. Allowable accommodations

Allowable accommodations are included in the test administration manual, which is updated with each test administration. Test administration manuals may be accessed via the Web at <http://www.ctb.com/FCAT>. Additional FCAT information is available at <http://fcat.fldoe.org>.

4. Additional diagnostic assessments

For each student who does not meet specific levels of performance as determined by the district school board in reading, writing, science, and mathematics for each grade level, or who scores below Level 3 in reading or math, the school district must provide additional diagnostic assessments to determine the nature of the student's difficulty, the areas of academic need, and strategies for appropriate intervention and instruction. A progress monitoring plan must be developed in consultation with the student's parent and implemented through the IEP. Upon subsequent evaluation, if the documented deficiency has not been remediated, the student may be retained.

5. Remediation

- a) For each year in which a student scores at Level 1 on FCAT Reading, the student must be enrolled in and complete an intensive reading course the following year. Placement of Level 2 readers in either an intensive reading course or a content area course in which reading strategies are delivered shall be determined by diagnosis of reading needs. Reading courses shall be designed and offered pursuant to the comprehensive reading plan required by s. 1011.62(9).

- b) For each year in which a student scores at Level 1 or Level 2 on FCAT Mathematics, the student must receive remediation the following year. These courses may be taught through applied, integrated, or combined courses and are subject to approval by the department for inclusion in Course Code Directory.
- c) Each student who does not meet the minimum performance expectations defined by the Commissioner of Education for the statewide assessment tests in reading, writing, science, and mathematics must continue to be provided with remedial or supplemental instruction until the expectations are met or the student graduates from high school or is not subject to compulsory school attendance.

Waiver of FCAT Graduation Requirement for Students with Disabilities

1. The FCAT graduation waiver process is designed for consideration of students with disabilities who may be eligible for a waiver on one or both sections of the FCAT.

2. District responsibilities

In order for the FCAT graduation requirement to be waived, the IEP team must meet to determine whether or not the FCAT can accurately measure the student's abilities, taking into consideration allowable accommodations.

3. Eligibility criteria

- a) To be considered for a waiver from the FCAT graduation requirement, the student must:

- Be identified as having a disability as defined in s. 1007.02(2), F.S.
- Have an individual educational plan (IEP)
- Have demonstrated proficiency in the core content knowledge and skills needed for a standard high school diploma
- Have taken the Grade 10 FCAT with appropriate, allowable accommodations at least twice (once in grade 10 and once in grade 11)
- Be progressing toward meeting the state's 24 credit/course and 2.0 cumulative grade point average (GPA) requirements and any other district requirements for graduation with a standard diploma

- b) Additionally, to ensure that each student has had every opportunity to pass the FCAT, participation in FCAT during March of the senior year is recommended.

- c) Under s. 1003.433(1), F.S., a student who transfers from another state in 12th grade must pass the grade 10 FCAT or an alternate assessment that is concordant with the FCAT; earn a 2.0 GPA; and meet all requirements of the school, district, or state from which he or she is transferring OR meet Florida's course requirements in order to earn a standard diploma. A transfer student may be considered for the waiver.

Florida Alternate Assessment for Students with Significant Cognitive Disabilities

1. Students with significant cognitive disabilities, for whom the FCAT, even with allowable accommodations, is not appropriate, may be eligible to participate in the statewide assessment program through the Florida Alternate Assessment. Aligned to the State standards, the Florida Alternate Assessment measures student academic performance on the State standards Access Points.

2. Eligibility requirements

Determination of eligibility to participate in the Florida Alternate Assessment is made by the student's IEP team and recorded on the IEP based upon the following criteria:

- a) The student is unable to master the State standards even with appropriate and allowable course accommodations.

- b) The student's demonstrated cognitive ability is the primary reason for the inability to master these standards.
- c) The student is participating in a modified curriculum based on competencies in the State standards Access Points for all academic areas.
- d) The student requires extensive direct instruction in academic and vocational competencies as well as domestic, community living, and leisure activities.
- e) The student has deficits in adaptive behavior, as demonstrated by the inability to function effectively and independently in everyday living skills (interpersonal and social interactions) across a variety of settings.

3. District and IEP team requirements

If it is determined by the IEP team that the student will participate in the statewide assessment through the Florida Alternate Assessment, the IEP should contain a statement of why the FCAT is not appropriate and why the Florida Alternate Assessment is appropriate. It should also indicate that notification was made to the parent and that implications of the student's nonparticipation in the general statewide assessment were provided.

4. Administration of the Florida Alternate Assessment

The assessment will be administered individually by the student's special education teacher. If this is not possible, the test administrator should be a certified teacher or other licensed professional who has worked extensively with the student and is trained in the assessment procedures.

Additional Information Required:

An alternate assessment is required for any districtwide assessment of student achievement.

_____ The district does not administer a districtwide assessment of student achievement.

_____ The district administers the following districtwide assessment(s) of student achievement:

<u>Districtwide Assessment</u>	<u>Corresponding Alternate Assessment</u>

Part II: Policies and Procedures for Students with Disabilities

Section G: Prekindergarten Children with Disabilities

Statutory and Regulatory Citations

Title 34 Code of Federal Regulations (CFR) §§ 300.25 and 300.101
Sections 1003.01, 1003.21, and 1003.57, Florida Statutes (F.S.)
Rule 6A-6.03026, Florida Administrative Code (F.A.C.)

Definition

A prekindergarten child with disabilities is a child who is below five years of age on or before September 1 of the school year and has a sensory, physical, mental, or emotional condition that significantly affects the attainment of normal developmental milestones.

Eligibility Criteria

In accordance with s. 1003.21, F.S., a child is eligible for prekindergarten programs for children with disabilities based upon meeting the eligibility criteria for one or more specific exceptionalities listed below and upon meeting the age requirements shown.

1. The child is below three years of age and meets the criteria for eligibility for any of the following educational programs:
 - a) Deaf or hard-of-hearing
 - b) Visually impaired
 - c) Physically impaired with orthopedic impairment, other health impairment, or traumatic brain injury
 - d) Intellectual disabilities
 - e) Established conditions
 - f) Developmentally delayed
 - g) Dual-sensory impaired
 - h) Autism spectrum disorder
 - i) Speech and language impaired, requiring physical therapy, or requiring occupational therapy, if the student is eligible for one of (a) through (h) listed above
2. The child is age three through five and meets the criteria for eligibility as a child with one or more of the following disabilities:
 - a) Intellectual disabilities
 - b) Speech and language impaired
 - c) Deaf or hard-of-hearing
 - d) Visually impaired
 - e) Physically impaired with orthopedic impairment, other health impairment, or traumatic brain injury
 - f) Emotional/behavioral disabilities
 - g) Specific learning disabilities
 - h) Homebound or hospitalized

- i) Dual-sensory impaired
 - j) Autism spectrum disorder
 - k) Developmentally delayed
3. The child is age five or older on September 1 of the school year, is eligible for one of the programs identified in the section above, and is assigned to a prekindergarten program in accordance with the child's individual educational plan (IEP) or individualized family support plan (IFSP).

Child Evaluation

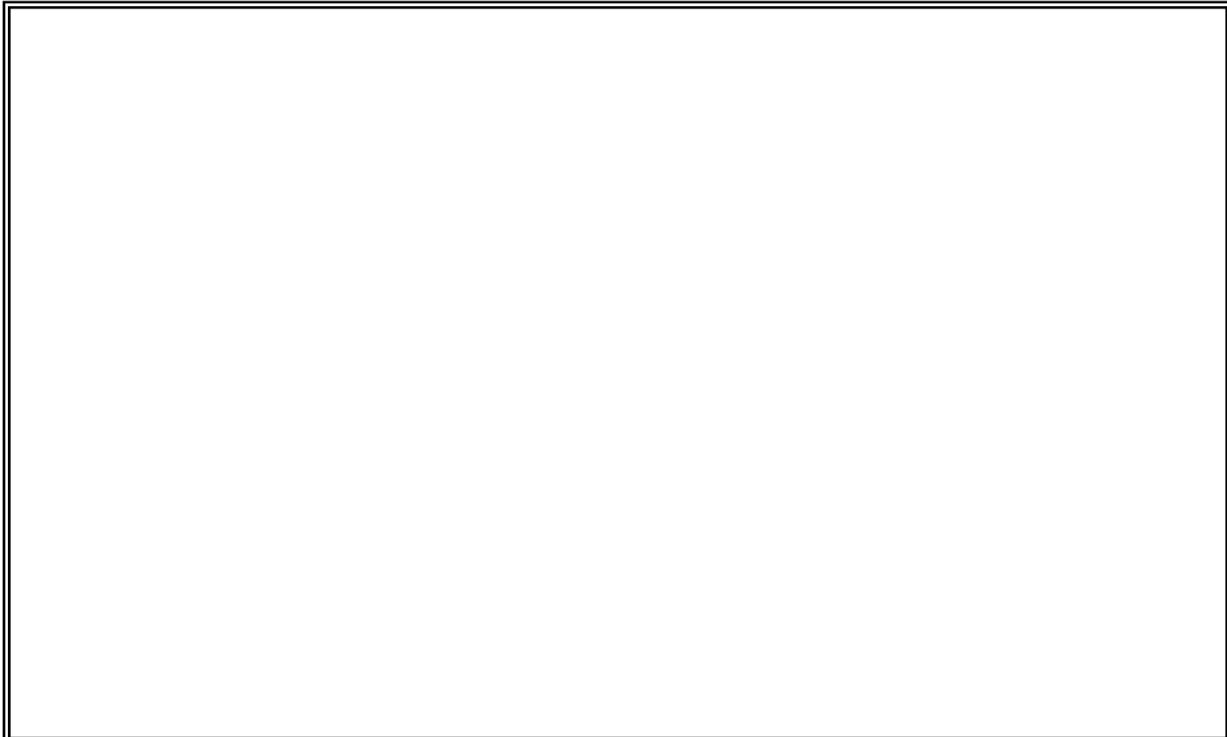
- 1. Evaluations are conducted in accordance with the rule requirements of applicable special program listed here under *Eligibility Criteria*.
- 2. Existing screening and evaluation information available from agencies that previously served the child and family shall be used, as appropriate, to meet evaluation criteria.

Providing an IEP or IFSP

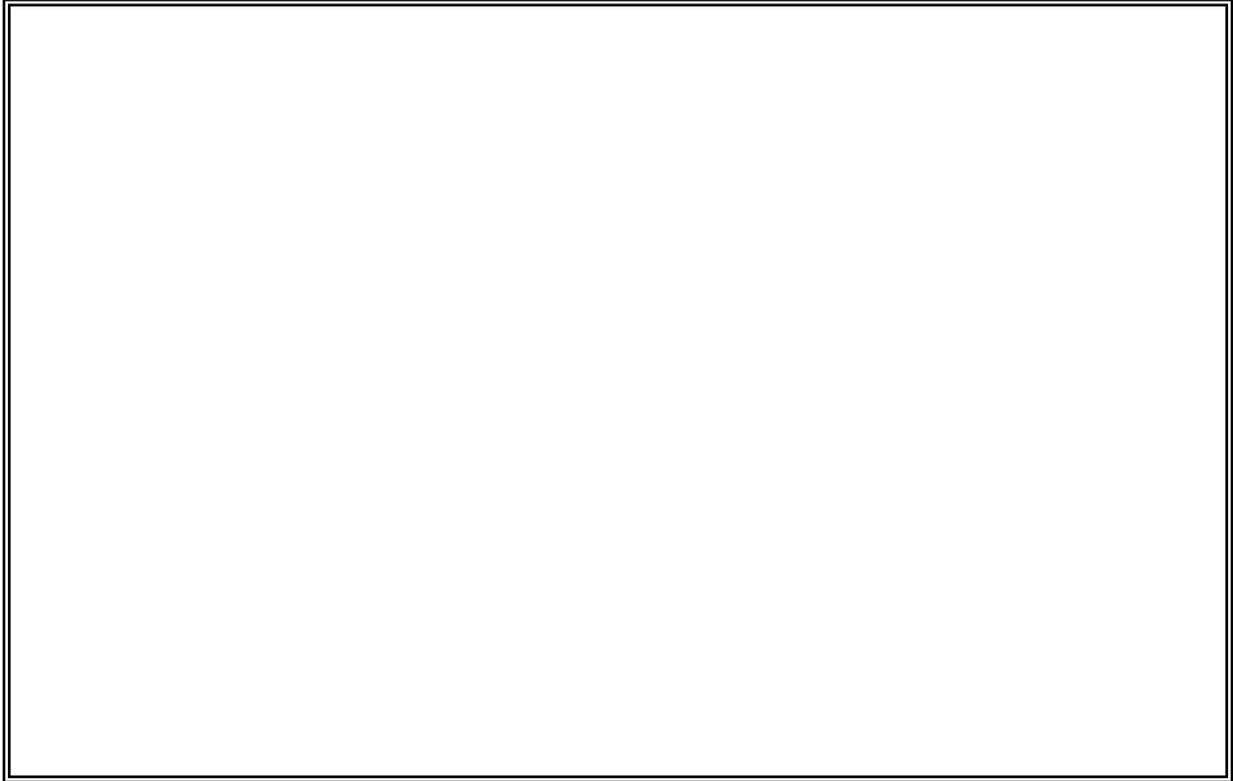
- 1. Effective July 1, 2004, the Early Steps Program has referenced the family support plan as the IFSP.
- 2. Use of an IFSP in accordance with Rule 6A-6.03029, F.A.C., is required for children ages birth through two years.
- 3. For a child age three through five, with the consent of the parent, an IFSP developed in accordance with Rule 6A-6.03029, F.A.C., may be developed in lieu of an IEP.

Transition from Early Steps Part C Services to Part B Services

The district's processes and procedures regarding the transition of eligible children from Early Steps to the Part B Program for Prekindergarten Children with Disabilities, including district procedures that ensure the district's participation in the transition conference and development of the IEP by the third birthday, are described in the space below.



Transition from Early Steps Part C Services to Part B Services (cont.)



Unique Philosophical, Curricular, or Instructional Considerations

1. Philosophy

- a) The prekindergarten program for children with disabilities supports young children by recognizing and respecting their unique abilities, strengths, and needs.
- b) Services for young children with disabilities and their families include a range of educational, developmental, and therapeutic activities that are provided in least restrictive or natural learning environments where children experience learning opportunities that promote and enhance behavioral and developmental competencies.
- c) For a child with disabilities age three through five years, special education, which refers to specially designed instruction and related services, is provided to meet the unique needs of the child. Specially designed instruction means adapting, as appropriate, the content, methodology, and/or delivery of instruction.
- d) Programs and services for prekindergarten children with disabilities are based on practices that are developmentally appropriate for all young children. They acknowledge the importance of collaboration and partnerships with families and view the child in the context of the family and community. Understanding and knowledge of early childhood development serves as a foundation for these practices.

2. Curriculum

- a) Curriculum content, materials, and activities are consistent with the district's program philosophy.
 - For prekindergarten children with disabilities, during the year prior to kindergarten entry, the Florida Voluntary Prekindergarten (VPK) Education Standards are used to guide the selection

of curriculum (curricula) in concert with a knowledge and understanding of the impact of the disability on the growth and development of the child.

- The VPK standards help to create a shared framework and common language between early childhood education and early childhood special education by emphasizing the sequence of development across multiple developmental domains and the importance of the classroom environment to include how curricula, materials, and equipment are selected.
- For children birth to the age of eligibility for the VPK program, Florida's Birth to Three Learning and Developmental Standards and the School Readiness Performance Standards may be used to guide the selection of curriculum, materials, and equipment.

b) Modifications, adaptations, and accommodations of curricula, materials, and activities selected may be needed to meet the unique needs of the child. Ongoing progress monitoring is conducted to ensure that the instruction/interventions provided are effective in attaining the desired outcomes.

3. Instructional support

a) Young children receive instructional support through specially designed instruction and related services as determined by the IEP process or early intervention services as determined through the IFSP process. These services are based on peer-reviewed, research-based practices to the extent practicable.

b) Teachers and related services personnel are trained in how to design and implement individualized programs to address the learning needs of children with disabilities.

c) Teachers and related services personnel are provided with administrative support to assure reasonable class size/workload, adequate funds for materials, and professional development. Teachers provide instruction in the domains of development, including cognitive development, motor development, language and communication, social/emotional development, and adaptive behavior. Instruction and related services may be offered in a continuum of placements/settings that may include regular, resource, or special class settings in public, community-based, or home-based settings.

d) School districts may provide related services to children and professional development for teachers and related services personnel in coordination with community agencies, including other early childhood partners such as Early Learning Coalitions and Head Start. Additionally, support for professional development and related services may, as appropriate, be provided in collaboration with discretionary projects funded by the Bureau of Exceptional Education and Student Services, the Florida School for the Deaf and the Blind, and other agencies of state and local government, including, but not limited to, the Division of Blind Services, the Department of Children and Families, and the Department of Health, Children's Medical Services.

The school district has the option to include additional information regarding evaluations, qualified evaluators, or unique philosophical, curricular, or instructional considerations for prekindergarten children with disabilities.

_____ The school district has provided additional information for this section in **Appendix B** of this document.

_____ There is no additional information for this section.

Part II.	Policies and Procedures for Students with Disabilities
-----------------	---

Section H:	Individualized Family Support Plan for Students with Disabilities Ages Birth to Five Years
-------------------	---

Statutory and Regulatory Citations

Title 34 Code of Federal Regulations (CFR) § 303.340
Sections 1003.21, 1003.03, and 1003.57, Florida Statutes (F.S.)
Rules 6A-6.03029 and 6A-6.0331, Florida Administrative Code (F.A.C.)

Definition

An individualized family support plan (IFSP) is a written plan identifying the specific concerns and priorities of a family of children with disabilities, ages birth through five years, related to enhancing a child's development and the resources to provide early intervention services. A planning process involving the family, professionals, and others is used to prepare the document. An IFSP must be used for children ages birth through two years. At the option of the district and with written parental consent, an IFSP may be used in lieu of an individual educational plan (IEP) for children with disabilities ages three through five years. Parent(s) must be provided with a detailed explanation of the differences between an IFSP and an IEP.

Procedures

1. Content of an IFSP

The IFSP is in writing and includes:

- a) A statement of the child's present levels of physical development (including vision, hearing, and health status), cognitive development, communication development, social or emotional development, and adaptive development based on objective criteria;
- b) With concurrence of the family, a statement of the family's resources, priorities, and concerns related to enhancing the development of the family's child with a disability;
- c) A statement of the measurable results or major outcomes expected to be achieved by the child and the family, including pre-literacy and language skills, as developmentally appropriate for the child, and the criteria, procedures, and timelines used to determine the degree to which progress toward achieving the results or outcomes is being made and whether modifications or revisions of the results or outcomes or services are necessary;
- d) A statement of the specific early intervention services based on peer-reviewed research, to the extent practicable, or, for children ages three through five years, the specially designed instruction and related services necessary to meet the unique needs of the child and the family, including the frequency, intensity, and method of delivering services;
- e) A statement of the natural environments in which early intervention services, or, for children ages three through five years, specially designed instruction and related services are to be provided, and a justification of the extent, if any, to which the services will not be provided in a natural environment;
- f) The projected dates for initiation of services and the anticipated duration of such services; and
- g) The name of the service coordinator from the profession most immediately relevant to the child's or family's needs or the individual who is otherwise qualified to be responsible for the implementation of the plan and coordination with other agencies and persons, including transition services. In meeting this requirement, the district may assign the same service coordinator who

was appointed at the time that the child was initially referred for evaluation to be responsible for implementing a child's and family's IFSP or may appoint a new service coordinator.

2. Content of IFSPs for children ages birth through two years

IFSPs developed for children with disabilities ages birth through two years must also include:

- a) The frequency, intensity, and method of delivery of the early intervention services;
- b) The location of the early intervention services;
- c) The payment arrangements, if any;
- d) Other services to the extent appropriate; and
- e) The steps to be taken to support the transition of the child, upon reaching age three, to preschool services for children with disabilities ages three through five years, to the extent that those services are considered appropriate or other services that may be available, if appropriate. The steps required for transition include:
 - Discussions with parent(s) regarding future placements and other matters related to the child's transition;
 - Procedures to prepare the child for changes in service delivery, including steps to help the child adjust to and function in a new setting; and
 - With parental consent, the sharing of information about the child to the school district to ensure continuity of services, including evaluation and assessment information and copies of IFSPs that have been developed and implemented.

3. Timelines and requirements for IFSPs

- a) Timelines for IFSPs developed for children ages birth through two years include:
 - A meeting to develop the initial IFSP for a child who has been evaluated for the first time and determined eligible must be conducted within 45 days from referral;
 - A review of the IFSP for a child and the child's family must be conducted every six months or more frequently if conditions warrant, or if the family requests such a review. The review may be carried out at a meeting or by another means that is acceptable to the parent(s) and other participants.
- b) The purpose of the periodic review is to determine:
 - The degree to which progress toward achieving the outcomes is being made; and
 - Whether modifications or revision of the outcomes or services are necessary.
- c) A meeting is conducted on at least an annual basis to evaluate the IFSP and, as appropriate, revise its provisions. The results of any current evaluations, and other information available from the ongoing assessment of the child and family, are used in determining what services are needed and will be provided.
- d) IFSP meetings are held in accordance with the following:
 - IFSP meetings are conducted in settings and at times that are convenient to families; and
 - In the native language of the family or other mode of communication used by the family, unless it is clearly not feasible to do so.
- e) Meeting arrangements are made with and written notice provided to the family and other participants early enough before the meeting date to ensure that they will be able to attend.
- f) The contents of the IFSP are fully explained to the parent(s) and informed written consent from the parent(s) is obtained prior to the provisions of early intervention services described in the plan. If the parent(s) do not provide consent with respect to a particular early intervention service,

that service may not be provided. The early intervention services to which parental consent is obtained must be provided.

4. Requirements for IFSPs for children ages three through five are in accordance with the requirements in 6A-6.03028, F.A.C.
5. Participants in IFSP meetings (ages birth through two years)
Participants in the development of IFSPs (both initial and annual) for children with disabilities ages birth through two years include:
 - a) The parent or parent(s) of the child;
 - b) Other family members as requested by the parent(s), if feasible to do so;
 - c) An advocate or person outside of the family, if the parent(s) request that the person participate;
 - d) The service coordinator who has been working with the family since the initial referral of the child for evaluation, or the person designated responsible for implementation of the IFSP;
 - e) For initial IFSP meetings, at least two professionals from two different disciplines directly involved in conducting the evaluations and assessments. For subsequent IFSP meetings, at least two professionals from two different disciplines; and
 - f) As appropriate, persons who will be providing services to the child or family.
6. If any of these participants are unable to attend a meeting, arrangements must be made for the person's involvement through other means, including:
 - a) Participating in a telephone conference call;
 - b) Having a knowledgeable authorized representative attend the meeting; or
 - c) Making pertinent records available at the meeting.
7. Each periodic review provides for the participation of the persons listed above. If conditions warrant, provisions must be made for the participation of other representatives.
8. Participants in IFSP meetings (ages three through five years)
Participants in IFSP meetings for children with disabilities ages three through five years include:
 - a) The parent(s);
 - b) Not less than one regular education teacher, if the child is or may be participating in the regular education environment;
 - c) Not less than one special education teacher;
 - d) A representative of the local district who is qualified to provide or supervise the provision of specially designed instruction for children with disabilities and is knowledgeable about the general curriculum and the availability of resources of the local district;
 - e) An individual who can interpret the instructional implications of the evaluation results. This individual may be a member of the committee as described in (b) through (d) above;
 - f) At the discretion of the parent or the school district, other individuals who have knowledge or special expertise regarding the child, including related services personnel; (Note: The determination of the knowledge or special expertise shall be made by the party who invited the individual to participate in the IFSP meeting); and
 - g) Whenever appropriate, the child.
9. Provision of services before evaluation and assessments are completed
Early intervention services for a child with disabilities ages birth through two years and the child's family may commence before the completion of the evaluation and assessments if the following conditions are met:

- a) Parental consent is obtained;
- b) An interim IFSP is developed that includes the name of the service coordinator who will be responsible for the implementation of the interim IFSP and coordination with other agencies and persons and the services that have been determined to be needed immediately by the child and the family; and
- c) The evaluation and assessments are completed within 45 days from the referral

10. Financial responsibility

- a) For children ages birth through two years, the school district is only responsible for the early intervention services specified and agreed to through the IFSP process.
- b) For children ages three through five years, the school district is only responsible for the provision of specially designed instruction and the related services necessary for the child to benefit from the specially designed instruction.

Part III
Policies and Procedures for Students
who are Gifted

Part III. Policies and Procedures for Students who are Gifted

Section A: Exceptional Student Education Eligibility for Students who are Gifted

Statutory and Regulatory Citations

Sections 1003.01 and 1003.57, Florida Statutes (F.S.)
Rules 6A-6.03019 and 6A-6.030191, Florida Administrative Code (F.A.C.)

Definition

A student who is gifted is one who has superior intellectual development and is capable of high performance.

Eligibility Criteria

A student is eligible for special instructional programs for the gifted from kindergarten through grade 12, if the student meets the criteria under 1. or 2. below:

1. The student demonstrates:
 - a) The need for a special program
 - b) A majority of characteristics of gifted students according to a standard scale or checklist
 - c) Superior intellectual development as measured by an intelligence quotient of two (2) standard deviations or more above the mean on an individually administered standardized test of intelligence
2. The student is a member of an underrepresented group and meets the criteria specified in an approved school district plan for increasing the participation of underrepresented groups in programs for gifted students. Underrepresented groups are defined in Rule 6A-6.03019, F.A.C. as students with limited English proficiency or students from low socio-economic status families.

Additional Information Required

_____ The school district **has** a plan for increasing the participation of underrepresented groups in programs for gifted students. The plan is provided in **Appendix C** of this document.

_____ The school district **does not have** a plan for increasing the participation of underrepresented groups in programs for gifted students.

Student Evaluation

1. The minimum evaluations for determining eligibility address the following:
 - a) Need for a special instructional program
 - b) Characteristics of the gifted
 - c) Intellectual development
 - d) May include those evaluation procedures specified in an approved district plan to increase the participation of students from underrepresented groups in programs for the gifted

2. Evaluations and qualified evaluators for students who are gifted are listed in Part I of this document.

Temporary Break in Service

The team developing the educational plan (EP) may determine that a student's needs may currently be appropriately met through other academic options. The parent or student may indicate that they do not desire service for a period of time. Should the decision be made to waive the services offered on the current educational plan, the student may resume service at any time.

Unique Philosophical, Curricular, or Instructional Considerations

1. Philosophy
 - a) Each student identified as being eligible for gifted services is entitled to receive a free appropriate public education which will enable the student to progress in the general curriculum to the maximum extent appropriate.
 - b) Specially designed instruction, appropriate related services, and programs for students who are gifted shall provide significant adaptations in one or more of the following: curriculum, methodology, materials, equipment, or environment designed to meet the individual and unique needs and goals of each gifted student.
 - c) A range of service delivery options is available to meet the student's special needs. Teachers are trained to provide the unique services identified for each student and are provided with administrative support to assure reasonable class size, adequate funds for materials and inservice training.
2. Curriculum
 - a) Curriculum options include an effective and differentiated curriculum designed for the abilities of the gifted student to ensure that each individual student progresses in the curriculum.
 - b) The curriculum may include, but is not limited to, opportunities for problem solving, problem-based learning, application of knowledge and skills, and other effective instructional strategies.
 - c) The teachers of the gifted are trained to provide a curriculum based on the educational characteristics and needs of the gifted learner.
 - d) Curriculum for each student will be determined by the educational plan (EP) and will focus on the performance levels for the student and needs for developing further skills and abilities, recognizing opportunities to extend the present program through appropriate scaffolding for gifted students.
 - e) The curriculum for the gifted student will assume access to the general curriculum (State standards) with emphasis on what the EP team determines will offer opportunities for growth for the gifted learner based on the student's strengths and present level of performance.
3. Instructional support
 - a) Students identified as eligible for gifted services receive instructional support through the specially designed instruction and related services as determined through the development of the EP.
 - b) Teachers of the gifted provide instruction and support to further develop the student's demonstrated ability.
 - c) Teachers are provided with administrative support to develop an individualized program to meet the goals for each student as determined by the EP.
 - d) Gifted students may indicate a need for special counseling and guidance in understanding their special characteristics.

Part III. Policies and Procedures for Students who are Gifted

Section A: Exceptional Student Education Eligibility for Students who are Gifted

Statutory and Regulatory Citations

Sections 1003.01 and 1003.57, Florida Statutes (F.S.)
Rules 6A-6.03019 and 6A-6.030191, Florida Administrative Code (F.A.C.)

Definition

A student who is gifted is one who has superior intellectual development and is capable of high performance.

Eligibility Criteria

A student is eligible for special instructional programs for the gifted from kindergarten through grade 12, if the student meets the criteria under 1. or 2. below:

1. The student demonstrates:
 - a) The need for a special program
 - b) A majority of characteristics of gifted students according to a standard scale or checklist
 - c) Superior intellectual development as measured by an intelligence quotient of two (2) standard deviations or more above the mean on an individually administered standardized test of intelligence
2. The student is a member of an underrepresented group and meets the criteria specified in an approved school district plan for increasing the participation of underrepresented groups in programs for gifted students. Underrepresented groups are defined in Rule 6A-6.03019, F.A.C. as students with limited English proficiency or students from low socio-economic status families.

Additional Information Required

_____ The school district **has** a plan for increasing the participation of underrepresented groups in programs for gifted students. The plan is provided in **Appendix C** of this document.

_____ The school district **does not have** a plan for increasing the participation of underrepresented groups in programs for gifted students.

Student Evaluation

1. The minimum evaluations for determining eligibility address the following:
 - a) Need for a special instructional program
 - b) Characteristics of the gifted
 - c) Intellectual development
 - d) May include those evaluation procedures specified in an approved district plan to increase the participation of students from underrepresented groups in programs for the gifted

- e) Support services are provided in coordination with local school district student services and community agencies, the Florida Diagnostic and Learning Resources System Associate Centers, special projects funded by the Bureau of Exceptional Education and Student Services, and other agencies of state and local government.
- f) No student may be given special instruction for gifted until after he or she has been properly evaluated, classified, and placed in the manner prescribed.

The school district has the option to include additional information regarding evaluations, qualified evaluators, or unique philosophical, curricular, or instructional considerations for students who are gifted.

<p>_____ The school district has provided additional information for this section in Appendix B of this document.</p> <p>_____ There is no additional information for this section.</p>
--

- e) Support services are provided in coordination with local school district student services and community agencies, the Florida Diagnostic and Learning Resources System Associate Centers, special projects funded by the Bureau of Exceptional Education and Student Services, and other agencies of state and local government.
- f) No student may be given special instruction for gifted until after he or she has been properly evaluated, classified, and placed in the manner prescribed.

The school district has the option to include additional information regarding evaluations, qualified evaluators, or unique philosophical, curricular, or instructional considerations for students who are gifted.

<p>_____ The school district has provided additional information for this section in Appendix B of this document.</p> <p>_____ There is no additional information for this section.</p>
--

Part III. Policies and Procedures for Students who are Gifted

Section B: Educational Plans for Students who are Gifted

Statutory and Regulatory Citation

Sections 1001.02, 1003.01, and 1003.57, Florida Statutes (F.S.)
Rule 6A-6.030191, Florida Administrative Code (F.A.C.)

Procedures

1. The district is responsible for developing educational plans (EP) for students who are identified solely as gifted.
 - a) The EP includes:
 - A statement of the student's present levels of educational performance that may include, but is not limited to, the student's strengths and interests, the student's needs beyond the general curriculum, results of the student's performance on state and district assessments, and evaluation results
 - A statement of goals, including benchmarks or short-term objectives
 - A statement of the specially designed instruction to be provided to the student
 - A statement of how the student's progress toward the goals will be measured and reported to the parents
 - The projected dates for the beginning of services and the anticipated frequency, location, and duration of these services
 - b) The EP team considers the following during development, review, and revision of the EP:
 - The strengths of the student and the needs resulting from the student's giftedness
 - The results of recent evaluations, including class work and state or district assessments
 - In the case of a student with limited English proficiency, the language needs of the student as they relate to the EP
 - c) Timelines for development of the EP include the following:
 - An EP is in effect at the beginning of each school year for each student identified as gifted who is continuing in a special program.
 - An EP is developed within 30 calendar days following the determination of eligibility for specially designed instruction in the gifted program and is in effect prior to the provision of these services.
 - Meetings are held to develop and revise the EP at least once every three years for students in grades K–8 and at least every four years for students in grades 9–12.
 - EPs may be reviewed more frequently, as needed, such as when a student transitions from elementary to middle school or from middle to high school.
 - d) EP participants include:
 - The parents, whose role includes providing strengths of the student, expressing concerns for enhancing the education of their child, participating in discussions about the child's need for specially designed instruction, participating in deciding how the child will be involved and participate in the general curriculum, and participating in the determination of what services the district will provide to the child and in what setting

- At least one teacher of the gifted program
- One regular education teacher of the student who, to the extent appropriate, is involved in the development of the student's EP. Involvement may include the provision of written documentation of a student's strengths and needs for review and revision of the subsequent EPs.
- A representative of the school district who is qualified to provide or supervise the provision of specially designed instruction for students who are gifted and is knowledgeable about the general curriculum and the availability of resources of the school district. At the discretion of the district, one of the student's teachers may be designated to serve as the representative of the district.
- An individual who can interpret the instructional implications of the evaluation results. This individual may be a teacher of the gifted, a regular education teacher, or a representative of the school district as described above.
- At the discretion of the parent or the school district, other individuals who have knowledge or special expertise regarding the student, including related services personnel (Note: The determination of the knowledge or special expertise shall be made by the party who invited the individual to participate in the EP meeting.)
- Whenever appropriate, the student

2. Parent participation in EP meetings

This district takes the following steps to ensure that one or both of the parents of a student identified as gifted is present or provided the opportunity to participate at EP meetings:

- a) Notifying parents of the meeting early enough to ensure that they will have an opportunity to attend
- b) Scheduling the meeting at a mutually agreed on time and place
 - A written notice to the parent indicates the purpose, time, location of the meeting, and who, by title or position, will be in attendance. It also includes a statement informing the parents that they have the right to invite an individual with special knowledge or expertise about their child. If neither parent can attend, the district uses other methods to ensure parent participation, including individual or conference telephone calls.
 - A meeting may be conducted without a parent in attendance if the district is unable to obtain the attendance of the parents. In this case, the district maintains a record of its attempts to arrange a mutually agreed on time and place. These records include such items as:
 - i. Detailed records of telephone calls made or attempted and the results of those calls
 - ii. Copies of correspondence sent to the parents and any responses received
 - iii. Detailed records of visits made to the parent's home or place of employment and the results of those visits
 - The district takes whatever action is necessary to ensure that the parent understands the proceedings at the meeting, including arranging for an interpreter for parents who are deaf or whose native language is other than English. A copy of the EP shall be provided to the parent at no cost.

3. Implementation of the EP

- a) An EP is in effect before specially designed instruction is provided to an eligible student and is implemented as soon as possible following the EP meeting.
- b) The EP is accessible to each of the student's teachers who are responsible for the implementation, and each teacher of the student is informed of specific responsibilities related to the implementation of the EP.

Part IV
Policies and Procedures for Parentally-Placed Private
School Students with Disabilities

Part IV. Policies and Procedures for Parentally-Placed Private School Students with Disabilities

Section A: Provision of Equitable Services to Parentally-Placed Private School Students

Statutory and Regulatory Citations

Title 34 Code of Federal Regulations (CFR) §§ 300.130–300.144
Rule 6A-06.030281, Florida Administrative Code (F.A.C.)

Definition

Parentally-placed private school students with disabilities means students with disabilities enrolled by their parents in private, including religious, non-profit schools or facilities that meet the definition of elementary school or secondary school under Rules 6A-6.03011 through 6A-6.0361, F.A.C., and does not include students with disabilities who are or have been placed in or referred to a private school or facility by the school district as a means of providing special education and related services.

Procedures

1. Policies and procedures for parentally-placed private school students with disabilities

The school district will maintain policies and procedures to ensure the provision of equitable services to students with disabilities who have been placed in private schools by their parents.

2. Child find for parentally-placed private school students with disabilities

The school district will locate, identify, and evaluate all students with disabilities who are enrolled by their parents in private, including religious, elementary and secondary schools located in the school district's jurisdiction. The child find process will be designed to ensure the equitable participation of parentally-placed private school students and an accurate count of those students.

a) Activities

In carrying out the requirements of this section, the school district will undertake activities similar to the activities undertaken for the school district's public school students.

b) Cost

The cost of carrying out the child find requirements, including individual evaluations, may not be considered in determining if the school district has met its obligation.

c) Completion period

The child find process will be completed in a time period comparable to that for other students attending public schools in the school district.

d) Out-of-state students

The school district in which private, including religious, elementary and secondary schools are located will, in carrying out the child find requirements, include parentally-placed private school students who reside in a state other than Florida.

3. Confidentiality of personally identifiable information

If a student is enrolled, or is going to enroll, in a private school that is not located in the school district of the parent's residence, parental consent will be obtained before any personally identifiable information about the child is released between officials in the school district where the private school is located and officials in the school district of the parent's residence.

4. Provision of services for parentally-placed private school students with disabilities – basic requirement

To the extent consistent with the number and location of students with disabilities who are enrolled by their parents in private, including religious, elementary and secondary schools located in the school district's jurisdiction, provision is made for the participation of those students in the program assisted or carried out under Part B of the Individuals with Disabilities Education Act (IDEA) by providing them with special education and related services, including direct services determined in accordance with paragraphs 12 and 13 below, unless the U.S. Secretary of Education has arranged for services to those students under the by-pass provisions in 34 CFR §§ 300.190 through 300.198.

a) Services plan for parentally-placed private school students with disabilities

A services plan will be developed and implemented for each private school student with a disability who has been designated by the school district in which the private school is located to receive special education and related services.

b) Record keeping

The school district will maintain in its records, and provide to the Department of Education (DOE), the following information related to parentally-placed private school students covered:

- The number of students evaluated
- The number of students determined to be students with disabilities
- The number of students served

5. Expenditures

To meet the requirements, the school district will spend the following on providing special education and related services (including direct services) to parentally-placed private school students with disabilities:

- a) For children and students aged three through 21, an amount that is the same proportion of the school district's total subgrant under Section 611 of IDEA as the number of private school students with disabilities aged three through 21 who are enrolled by their parents in private, including religious, elementary, and secondary schools located in the school district's jurisdiction, is to the total number of students with disabilities in its jurisdiction aged three through 21.
- b) For children aged three through five, an amount that is the same proportion of the school district's total subgrant under Section 619 of IDEA as the number of parentally-placed private school students with disabilities aged three through five who are enrolled by their parents in private, including religious, elementary and secondary schools located in the school district's jurisdiction, is to the total number of students with disabilities in its jurisdiction aged three through five.
- c) Children aged three through five are considered to be parentally-placed private school students with disabilities enrolled by their parents in private, including religious, elementary schools, if they are enrolled in a private school that meets the definition of elementary school under Florida law.
- d) If the school district has not expended for equitable services all of the funds described in paragraphs (a) and (b) above by the end of the fiscal year for which Congress appropriated the funds, the school district will obligate the remaining funds for special education and related services (including direct services) to parentally-placed private school students with disabilities during a carry-over period of one additional year.

6. Calculating proportionate amount

In calculating the proportionate amount of federal funds to be provided for parentally-placed private school students with disabilities, the school district, after timely and meaningful consultation with representatives of private schools, will conduct a thorough and complete child find process to determine the number of parentally-placed students with disabilities attending private schools located

in the school district. (See Appendix B to IDEA regulations for an example of how proportionate share is calculated)

7. Annual count of the number of parentally-placed private school students with disabilities

The school district will, after timely and meaningful consultation with representatives of parentally-placed private school students with disabilities, determine the number of parentally-placed private school students with disabilities attending private schools located in the school district and ensure that the count is conducted on any date between October 1 and December 1, inclusive, of each year. The count will be used to determine the amount that the school district will spend on providing special education and related services to parentally-placed private school students with disabilities in the next fiscal year.

8. Supplement, not supplant

State and local funds may supplement and in no case supplant the proportionate amount of federal funds required to be expended for parentally-placed private school students with disabilities.

9. Consultation with private school representatives

To ensure timely and meaningful consultation, the school district will consult with private school representatives and representatives of parents of parentally-placed private school students with disabilities during the design and development of special education and related services for the students regarding the following.

- a) The child find process, including how parentally-placed private school students suspected of having a disability can participate equitably and how parents, teachers, and private school officials will be informed of the process
- b) The determination of the proportionate share of federal funds available to serve parentally-placed private school students with disabilities, including the determination of how the proportionate share of those funds was calculated
- c) The consultation process among the school district, private school officials, and representatives of parents of parentally-placed private school students with disabilities, including how the process will operate throughout the school year to ensure that parentally-placed students with disabilities identified through the child find process can meaningfully participate in special education and related services
- d) Provision of special education and related services. How, where, and by whom special education and related services will be provided for parentally-placed private school students with disabilities, including a discussion of:
 - The types of services, including direct services and alternate service delivery mechanisms
 - How special education and related services will be apportioned if funds are insufficient to serve all parentally-placed private school students
 - How and when those decisions will be made
- e) How, if the school district disagrees with the views of private school officials on the provision of services or the types of services (whether provided directly or through a contract), the school district will provide to such private school officials a written explanation of the reasons why the school district chose not to provide services directly or through a contract

10. Written affirmation

When timely and meaningful consultation has occurred, the school district will obtain a written affirmation signed by the representatives of participating private schools. If the representatives do not provide the affirmation within a reasonable period of time, the school district will forward the documentation of the consultation process to DOE.

11. Compliance

A private school official has the right to submit a complaint to the DOE that the school district did not engage in consultation that was meaningful and timely or did not give due consideration to the views of the private school official. If the private school official wishes to submit a complaint, the official will provide to DOE the basis of the noncompliance by the school district with the applicable private school provisions, and the school district will forward the appropriate documentation to DOE. If the private school official is dissatisfied with the decision of DOE, the official may submit a complaint to the U.S. Secretary of Education by providing the information on noncompliance, and DOE will forward the appropriate documentation to the U.S. Secretary of Education.

12. Equitable services determined

- a) No parentally-placed private school student with a disability has an individual right to receive some or all of the special education and related services that the student would receive if enrolled in a public school.
- b) Decisions about the services that will be provided to parentally-placed private school students with disabilities will be made in accordance with the information in this section.
- c) The school district will make the final decisions with respect to the services to be provided to eligible parentally-placed private school students with disabilities.

13. Services plan for each student served

- a) If a student with a disability is enrolled in a religious or other private school by the student's parents and will receive special education or related services from the school district, the school district will initiate and conduct meetings to develop, review, and revise a services plan for the student and ensure that a representative of the religious or other private school attends each meeting. If the representative cannot attend, the school district will use other methods to ensure participation by the religious or other private school, including individual or conference telephone calls.
- b) Each parentally-placed private school student with a disability who has been designated by the school district to receive services will have a services plan that describes the specific direct special education services that the school district will provide to the student in light of the services that the school district has determined it will make available to parentally-placed private school students with disabilities.
- c) The services plan will be developed, reviewed, and revised consistent with the requirements for individual educational plan (IEP) development, review, and revision.

14. Equitable services provided

- a) The provision of equitable services will be by employees of the school district or through contract by the school district with an individual, association, agency, organization, or other entity.
- b) The services provided to parentally-placed private school students with disabilities will be provided by personnel meeting the same standards as personnel providing services in the public schools, except that private elementary and secondary school teachers who are providing equitable services to parentally-placed private school students with disabilities do not have to meet the highly qualified special education teacher requirements under Florida law.
- c) Parentally-placed private school students with disabilities may receive a different amount of services than students with disabilities in public schools.
- d) Special education and related services provided to parentally-placed private school students with disabilities, including materials and equipment, will be secular, neutral, and non-ideological.

15. Location of services and transportation

- a) Equitable services to parentally-placed private school students with disabilities may be, but are not required to be, provided on the premises of private, including religious, schools.

- b) If necessary for the student to benefit from or participate in the services, a parentally-placed private school student with a disability will be provided transportation from the student's school or the student's home to a site other than the private school and from the service site to the private school, or to the student's home, depending on the timing of the services.
- c) The school district is not required to provide transportation from the student's home to the private school.
- d) The cost of any transportation provided under this section may be included in calculating whether the school district has expended its proportionate share.

16. Due process hearings and procedural safeguards

- a) Except as provided herein, the procedures related to procedural safeguards, mediation, and due process hearings do not apply to complaints that the school district has failed to meet the requirements in this section, including the provision of services indicated on the student's services plan. However, such procedures do apply to complaints that the school district has failed to meet the requirements related to child find, including the requirements related to conducting appropriate evaluations of students with disabilities.
- b) Any request for a due process hearing regarding the child find requirements will be filed with the school district in which the private school is located and a copy will be forwarded to DOE.

17. State complaints

- a) Any complaint that the school district has failed to meet the requirements related to the provision of equitable services, services plans, expenditures, consultation with private school representatives, personnel, or equipment and supplies will be filed in accordance with the state complaint procedures described in Rules 6A-6.03011 through 6A-6.0361, F.A.C.
- b) A complaint filed by a private school official under this section will be filed with DOE in accordance with its state complaint procedures as prescribed in Rule 6A-6.03311, F.A.C.

18. Requirement that funds not benefit a private school

- a) The school district will not use funds provided under IDEA to finance the existing level of instruction in a private school or to otherwise benefit the private school.
- b) The school district will use funds provided under Part B of IDEA to meet the special education and related services needs of parentally-placed private school students with disabilities, but not for the needs of a private school or the general needs of the students enrolled in the private school.

19. Use of personnel

- a) The school district may use funds available under IDEA to make public school personnel available in other than public facilities to the extent necessary to provide equitable services for parentally-placed private school students with disabilities if those services are not normally provided by the private school.
- b) The school district may use funds available under IDEA to pay for the services of an employee of a private school to provide equitable services if the employee performs the services outside of his or her regular hours of duty and the employee performs the services under public supervision and control.

20. Separate classes prohibited

The school district will not use funds available under IDEA for classes that are organized separately on the basis of school enrollment or religion of the students if the classes are at the same site and the classes include students enrolled in public schools and students enrolled in private schools.

21. Property, equipment, and supplies

- a) The school district will control and administer the funds used to provide special education and related services and hold title to and administer materials, equipment, and property purchased with those funds for the uses and purposes provided in this section.
- b) The school district may place equipment and supplies in a private school for the period of time needed for the provision of equitable services.
- c) The school district will ensure that the equipment and supplies placed in a private school are used only for IDEA purposes and can be removed from the private school without remodeling the private school facility.
- d) The school district will remove equipment and supplies from a private school if the equipment and supplies are no longer needed for IDEA purposes or removal is necessary to avoid unauthorized use of the equipment and supplies for other than IDEA purposes.
- e) No funds under IDEA will be used for repairs, minor remodeling, or construction of private school facilities.

Part IV. Policies and Procedures for Parentally-Placed Private School Students with Disabilities

Section B: John M. McKay Scholarships for Students with Disabilities Program

Statutory and Regulatory Citations

Section 1002.39, Florida Statutes (F.S.)

Definition

The John M. McKay Scholarships for Students with Disabilities Program provides the option for students with an individual educational plan (IEP) to attend a public school other than the one to which the student is assigned or to receive a scholarship to a participating private school of choice.

Eligibility Criteria

1. The parent of a public school student with a disability who is dissatisfied with the student's progress may request and receive from the state a McKay Scholarship for the student to enroll in and attend a private school if:
 - a) The student has spent the prior school year in attendance at a Florida public school or the Florida School for the Deaf and the Blind (FSDB). Prior school year in attendance means that the student was enrolled and reported by one of the following:
 - A school district for funding during the preceding October and February Florida Education Finance Program (FEFP) surveys in kindergarten through grade 12, which shall include time spent in a Department of Juvenile Justice (DJJ) commitment program if funded under the FEFP
 - The FSDB during the preceding October and February student membership surveys in kindergarten through grade 12
 - A school district for funding during the preceding October and February FEFP surveys, was at least 4 years old when so enrolled and reported, and was eligible for services under s. 1003.21, F.S.
 - b) The parent has obtained acceptance for admission of the student to a private school that is eligible for the program and has requested from the department a scholarship at least 60 days prior to the date of the first scholarship payment. The request must be through a communication directly to the Department of Education (DOE) in a manner that creates a written or electronic record of the request and the date of receipt of the request. DOE must notify the district of the parent's intent upon receipt of the parent's request.
2. A student is not eligible for a John M. McKay Scholarship while he or she is:
 - a) Enrolled in a school operating for the purpose of providing educational services to youth in DJJ commitment programs;
 - b) Receiving a corporate income tax credit scholarship under s. 220.187, F.S.;
 - c) Receiving an educational scholarship in accordance with Chapter 1002, F.S.;
 - d) Participating in a home education program as defined in s. 1002.01, F.S.;
 - e) Participating in a virtual school, correspondence school, or distance learning program that receives state funding pursuant to the student's participation unless the participation is limited to no more than two courses per school year;
 - f) Participating in a private tutoring program in accordance with s. 1002.43, F.S.;

- g) Enrolled in the Florida School for the Deaf and the Blind; or
- h) Not having regular and direct contact with his or her private school teachers at the school's physical location.

Procedures

1. The amount of the scholarship is calculated based on the student's matrix of services document or the amount of the private school's tuition and fees, whichever is less.
2. For purposes of continuity of educational choice, a John M. McKay Scholarship shall remain in force until the student returns to a public school, graduates from high school, or reaches the age of 22, whichever occurs first.
3. Upon reasonable notice to the Department of Education (DOE) and the school district, the student's parent may remove the student from the private school and place the student in a public school.
4. Upon reasonable notice to DOE, the student's parent may move the student from one participating private school to another participating private school.

School District Obligations

1. Offering parents an opportunity to enroll their student in another public school within their district if the parent requests information on the McKay public school option
2. Notifying parents of students with disabilities about the scholarship program by April of each school year and within ten days of an IEP team meeting
3. Informing parents of the availability of the Information Hotline and School Choice Web site
4. Keeping all district contact information up-to-date with the Department of Education, which can be done through the www.floridaschoolchoice.org Web site when logged in as a district administrator
5. Submitting an annual Parental Notification Verification Form to DOE in the spring of each school year
6. Notifying parents, within ten days of filing intent, if a matrix has not been completed, and informing parents that the required matrix completion date is 30 days after a filed intent
7. For a student with a disability who does not have a matrix of services, completing a matrix of services within 30 days of the parent's filed intent date that assigns the student to one of the three levels of service

Note: Changes in a matrix of services document may be made only for a technical, typographical, or calculation error.
8. Providing locations and times, if requested, for any McKay Scholarship student attending a private school within the district to take statewide assessment exams
9. Providing reevaluation notifications to parents of scholarship students at least once every three years
10. Confirming that scholarship students have not enrolled in public school by completing the District Enrollment Verification files quarterly prior to scholarship payments
11. Reporting students who receive McKay Scholarship funding as **3518**, which designates them as McKay private school students on the full-time equivalent (FTE) survey
12. Notifying DOE if a student enrolls in public school, is registered as a home education student, or is committed to a DJJ commitment program
13. Providing transportation to the public school if the parent's choice is consistent with the district's school choice plan
14. Accepting a McKay student from an adjacent district if there is space available and there is a program in place that provides the services agreed to in the students' IEP.

Part V
Appendices

Appendix A
General Policies and Procedures

1. Procedural Safeguards for Students with Disabilities

The district uses the following:

_____ The Department of Education's *Notice of Procedural Safeguards for Parents of Students with Disabilities*, located in this **Appendix**.

_____ A different notice of procedural safeguards for parents of students with disabilities, included as an attachment.

2. Procedural Safeguards for Students who are Gifted

The district uses the following:

_____ The Department of Education's *Procedural Safeguards for Exceptional Students who are Gifted*, located in this **Appendix**.

_____ A different notice of procedural safeguards for parents of students who are gifted, included as an attachment.

Part B

Notice of Procedural Safeguards for Parents of Students with Disabilities

January 2009

As a parent, you are entitled to information about your rights under the Individuals with Disabilities Education Act (IDEA). These rights, or *procedural safeguards*, are intended to ensure that you have the opportunity to be a partner in the educational decisions made regarding your child.

This notice of your procedural safeguards will be made available to you, at least one time a school year, except that a copy also must be given to you:

- Upon initial referral or your request for an evaluation
- In accordance with the discipline procedures when a change in placement occurs
- Upon receipt of the first State complaint in a school year
- Upon the receipt of the first request for a due process hearing in a school year
- Upon your request to receive a copy

You may elect to receive a copy of your procedural safeguards and required notices by e-mail if the school district makes that option available. A district may also place a current copy of the procedural safeguards notice on its Internet Web site.

This pamphlet helps parents of children in Florida understand the rights that go along with programs for students with disabilities. It includes a description of the procedural safeguards that apply to students with disabilities enrolled in public schools and those that apply to students with disabilities enrolled by their parents in nonprofit private schools.

Parents who have issues with the district regarding their student's exceptional student education may be able to resolve those issues informally at the local level. However, administrative remedies (mediation, state complaint, and due process hearing request) are also available.

Table of Contents

General Information	1
Revocation of Parental Consent	2
Confidentiality of Information	3
Mediation	4
State Complaint Procedures	4
Due Process Hearing Request Procedures	5
Due Process Hearings	6
Appeals	7
Procedures When Disciplining Students with Disabilities	8
Requirements for Unilateral Placement by Parents of Students in Private Schools at Public Expense	10
Requirements for Students with Disabilities Enrolled by Their Parents in Private Schools	10

Under the IDEA, you have the following rights:

GENERAL INFORMATION

PRIOR WRITTEN NOTICE

34 CFR §300.503

Notice

Your school district must give you notice in writing whenever it:

1. Proposes to initiate or to change the identification, evaluation, or educational placement of your child, or the provision of a free appropriate public education (FAPE) to your child; **or**
2. Refuses to initiate or to change the identification, evaluation, or educational placement of your child or the provision of FAPE to your child.

Content of notice

The written notice must:

1. Describe the action that your school district proposes or refuses to take;
2. Explain why your school district is proposing or refusing to take action;
3. Describe each evaluation procedure, assessment, record, or report your school district used in deciding to propose or refuse the action;
4. Include a statement that you have protections under the procedural safeguards provisions in Part B of the IDEA;
5. Tell you how you can obtain a copy of a description of the procedural safeguards if the action that your school district is proposing or refusing is not an initial referral for evaluation;
6. Include resources for you to contact for help in understanding Part B of the IDEA;
7. Describe any other choices that your child's individual educational plan (IEP) Team considered and the reasons why those choices were rejected; **and**
8. Provide a description of other reasons why your school district proposed or refused the action.

Notice in understandable language

The notice must be:

1. Written in language understandable to the general public; **and**
2. Provided in your native language or other mode of communication you use, unless it is clearly not feasible to do so.

If your native language or other mode of communication is not a written language, your school district must ensure that:

1. The notice is translated for you orally by other means in your native language or other mode of communication;
2. You understand the content of the notice; **and**
3. There is written evidence that 1 and 2 have been met.

NATIVE LANGUAGE

34 CFR §300.29

Native language, when used with an individual who has limited English proficiency, means the following:

1. The language normally used by that person, or, in the case of a student, the language normally used by the student's parents;
2. In all direct contact with a student (including evaluation of the student), the language normally used by the student in the home or learning environment.

For a person with deafness or blindness, or for a person with no written language, the mode of communication is what the person normally uses (such as sign language, braille, or oral communication).

ELECTRONIC MAIL

34 CFR §300.505

If your school district offers parents the choice of receiving documents by e-mail, you may choose to receive the following by e-mail:

1. Prior written notice;
2. Procedural safeguards notice; **and/or**
3. Notices related to a due process hearing request.

PARENTAL CONSENT – DEFINITION

34 CFR §300.9

Consent

Consent means:

1. You have been fully informed in your native language or other mode of communication (such as sign language, braille, or oral communication) of all information about the action for which you are giving consent;
2. You understand and agree in writing to that action, and the consent describes that action and lists the records (if any) that will be released and to whom; **and**
3. You understand that the consent is voluntary on your part and you may withdraw your consent at anytime.

Your withdrawal of consent does not negate (undo) an action that has occurred after you gave your consent and before you withdrew it.

PARENTAL CONSENT

34 CFR §300.300

Consent for initial evaluation

Your school district cannot conduct an initial evaluation of your child to determine whether your child is eligible under Part B of the IDEA to receive special education and related services without first providing you with prior written notice of the proposed action and without obtaining your consent as described under the heading *Parental Consent*.

Your school district must make reasonable efforts to obtain your informed consent for an initial evaluation to decide whether your child is a child with a disability. Your consent for initial evaluation does not mean that you have also given your consent for the school district to start providing special education and related services to your child.

If your child is enrolled in public school, or you are seeking to enroll your child in a public school and you have refused to provide consent or failed to respond to a request to provide consent for an initial evaluation, your school district may, but is not required to, seek to conduct an initial evaluation of your child by using mediation or due process procedures. Your school district will not violate its obligations to locate, identify, and evaluate your child if it does not pursue an evaluation of your child in these circumstances.

Special rules for initial evaluation of wards of the State

If a child is a ward of the State and is not living with his/her parent —

The school district does not need consent from the parent for an initial evaluation to determine if the student is a student with a disability if:

1. Despite reasonable efforts to do so, the school district cannot find the student's parent;

2. The rights of the parents have been terminated in accordance with State law; **or**
3. A judge has assigned the right to make educational decisions and to consent for an initial evaluation to an individual other than the parent.

Ward of the State, as used in the IDEA, means a student who, as determined by the State where the student lives, is:

1. A foster child;
2. Considered a ward of the State under State law; **or**
3. In the custody of a public child welfare agency.

Ward of the State does not include a foster child who has a foster parent who meets the State definition of a parent.

Parental consent for services

Your school district must obtain your informed consent before providing special education and related services to your child for the first time.

If you do not respond to a request to provide your consent for your child to receive special education and related services for the first time, or if you refuse to give such consent, your school district may not use mediation or due process hearing procedures in order to obtain agreement or a ruling that the special education and related services (recommended by your child's IEP Team) may be provided to your child without your consent.

If you refuse to give your consent for your child to receive special education and related services for the first time, or if you do not respond to a request to provide such consent and the school district does not provide your child with the special education and related services for which it sought your consent, your school district:

1. Is not in violation of the requirement to make a FAPE available to your child for its failure to provide those services to your child; **and**
2. Is not required to have an IEP Team meeting or develop an IEP for your child for the special education and related services for which your consent was requested.

Parental consent for reevaluations

Your school district must obtain your informed consent before it reevaluates your child, unless your school district can demonstrate that:

1. It took reasonable steps to obtain your consent for your child's reevaluation; **and**
2. You did not respond.

If you refuse to consent to your child's reevaluation, the school district may, but is not required to, pursue your child's reevaluation by using the consent override provision of mediation or due process. As with initial evaluations, your school district does not violate its obligations under Part B of the IDEA if it declines to pursue the reevaluation in this manner.

Documentation of reasonable efforts to obtain parental consent

Your school must maintain documentation of reasonable efforts to obtain parental consent for initial evaluations, to provide special education and related services for the first time, to reevaluation, and to locate parents of wards of the State for initial evaluations. The documentation must include a record of the school district's attempts in these areas, such as:

1. Detailed records of telephone calls made or attempted and the results of those calls;
2. Copies of correspondence sent to the parents and any responses received; **and**
3. Detailed records of visits made to the parent's home or place of employment and the results of those visits.

Other consent requirements

Your consent is not required before your school district may:

1. Review existing data as part of your child's evaluation or a reevaluation; **or**
2. Give your child a test or other evaluation that is given to all students unless, before that test or evaluation, consent is required from all parents of all students.

NOTE: In Florida, a parent must provide signed consent for a student to receive instructional accommodations that would not be permitted on the statewide assessments and must acknowledge in writing that he or she understands the implications of such accommodations. Your school district may not use your refusal to consent to one service or activity to deny you or your child any other service, benefit, or activity.

If you have enrolled your child in a private school at your own expense, or if you are home schooling your child, and you do not provide your consent for your child's initial evaluation or your child's reevaluation, or you fail to respond to a request to provide your consent, the school district may not use its consent override procedures of mediation and due process and is not required to consider your child as eligible to receive equitable services (services made available to parentally-placed private school students with disabilities).

INDEPENDENT EDUCATIONAL EVALUATIONS

34 CFR §300.502

General

As described below, you have the right to obtain an independent educational evaluation (IEE) of your child if you disagree with the evaluation of your child that was obtained by your school district. If you request an IEE, the school district must provide you with information about where you may obtain an IEE and about the school district's criteria that apply to IEEs.

Definitions

Independent educational evaluation (IEE) means an evaluation conducted by a qualified examiner who is not employed by the school district responsible for the education of your child.

Public expense means that the school district either pays for the full cost of the evaluation or ensures that the evaluation is otherwise provided at no cost to you.

Parent right to evaluation at public expense

You have the right to an IEE of your child at public expense if you disagree with an evaluation of your child obtained by your school district, subject to the following conditions:

1. If you request an IEE of your child at public expense, your school district must, without unnecessary delay, **either**: (a) Provide an IEE at public expense, **or** (b) File a due process hearing request to show that its evaluation of your child is appropriate; unless the school district demonstrates in a hearing that the evaluation of your child that you obtained did not meet the school district's criteria.
2. If your school district requests a hearing and the final decision is that your school district's evaluation of your child is appropriate, you still have the right to an IEE, but not at public expense.
3. If you request an IEE of your child, the school district may ask why you object to the evaluation of your child obtained by your school district. However, your school district may not require an explanation and may not unreasonably delay either providing the IEE of your child at public expense or filing a due process complaint to request a due process hearing to defend the school district's evaluation of your child.

You are entitled to only one IEE of your child at public expense each time your school district conducts an evaluation of your child with which you disagree.

Parent-initiated evaluations

If you obtain an IEE of your child at public expense or you share with the school district an evaluation of your child that you obtained at private expense:

1. Your school district must consider the results of the evaluation of your child, if it meets the school district's criteria for IEEs, in any decision made with respect to the provision of a FAPE to your child; **and**
2. You or your school district may present the evaluation as evidence at a due process hearing regarding your child.

Requests for evaluations by hearing officers

If a hearing officer requests an IEE of your child as part of a due process hearing, the cost of the evaluation must be at public expense.

School district criteria

If an IEE is at public expense, the criteria under which the evaluation is obtained, including the location of the evaluation and the qualifications of the examiner, must be the same as the criteria that the school district uses when it initiates an evaluation (to the extent those criteria are consistent with your right to an independent educational evaluation). Except for the criteria described above, a school district may not impose conditions or timelines related to obtaining an IEE at public expense.

REVOCATION OF PARENTAL CONSENT

GENERAL INFORMATION

34 CFR §300.300(b)(4)

If, at any time subsequent to the initial provision of special education and related services, the parent of a student revokes consent in writing for the continued provision of special education and related services, the school district may not continue to provide special education and related services to the student, but must provide prior written notice before ceasing the provision of special education and related services. The school district may not use mediation or due process hearing procedures in order to obtain agreement or a ruling that the services may be provided to the student.

If you revoke your consent for the continued provision of special education and related services to your child, your school district:

1. Will not be considered to be in violation of the requirement to make a FAPE available to your child for its failure to provide the student with further special education and related services to your child; **and**
2. Is not required to convene an IEP Team meeting or develop an IEP for the student for further provision of special education and related services.

If you revoke consent in writing for your child's receipt of special education services after the child is initially provided special education and related services, the school district is not required to amend your child's education records to remove any references to the child's receipt of special education and related services because of the revocation of consent.

CONFIDENTIALITY OF INFORMATION

DEFINITIONS

34 CFR §300.611

As used under the heading *Confidentiality of Information*:

Destruction means physical destruction or removal of personal identifiers from information so that the information is no longer personally identifiable.

Education records means the type of records covered under the definition of “education records” in 34 CFR Part 99, the regulations implementing the Family Educational Rights and Privacy Act (FERPA) of 1974, 20 U.S.C. 1232g.

Participating agency means any school district, agency, or institution that collects, maintains, or uses personally identifiable information, or from which information is obtained, under Part B of the IDEA.

PERSONALLY IDENTIFIABLE

34 CFR §300.32

Personally identifiable means information that has:

- (a) Your child’s name, your name as the parent, or the name of another family member;
- (b) Your child’s address;
- (c) A personal identifier, such as your child’s social security number or student number; **or**
- (d) A list of personal characteristics or other information that would make it possible to identify your child with reasonable certainty.

NOTICE TO PARENTS

34 CFR §300.612

The Department of Education must give notice that is adequate to fully inform parents about confidentiality of personally identifiable information, including:

1. A description of the extent to which the notice is given in the native languages of the various population groups in the state;
2. A description of the students on whom personally identifiable information is maintained, the types of information sought, the methods the State intends to use in gathering the information (including the sources from whom information is gathered), and the uses to be made of the information;
3. A summary of the policies and procedures that participating agencies must follow regarding storage, disclosure to third parties, retention, and destruction of personally identifiable information; **and**
4. A description of all of the rights of parents and children regarding this information, including the rights under the FERPA and its implementing regulations in 34 CFR Part 99.

Before any major identification, location, or evaluation activity (also known as “child find”), the notice must be published or announced in newspapers or other media, or both, with circulation adequate to notify parents throughout the state of the activity to locate, identify, and evaluate children in need of special education and related services.

ACCESS RIGHTS

34 CFR §300.613

Section 1002.22(3)(a)4 of the Florida Statutes

The participating agency must permit you to inspect and review any education records relating to your child that are collected, maintained, or used by your school district under Part B of the IDEA. The participating agency must comply with your request to inspect and review any education records on your child without unnecessary delay and before any meeting regarding an individual educational plan (IEP), or any impartial due process hearing (including a resolution meeting or a hearing regarding discipline), and in no case more than 30 calendar days after you have made a request.

Your right to inspect and review education records includes:

1. Your right to a response from the participating agency to your reasonable requests for explanations and interpretations of the records;
2. Your right to request that the participating agency provide copies of the records if you cannot effectively inspect and review the records unless you receive those copies; **and**
3. Your right to have your representative inspect and review the records.

The participating agency may presume that you have authority to inspect and review records relating to your child unless advised that you do not have the authority under applicable State law governing such matters as guardianship or separation and divorce.

RECORD OF ACCESS

34 CFR §300.614

Each participating agency must keep a record of parties obtaining access to education records collected, maintained, or used under Part B of the IDEA (except access by parents and authorized employees of the participating agency), including the name of the party, the date access was given, and the purpose for which the party is authorized to use the records.

RECORDS ON MORE THAN ONE CHILD

34 CFR §300.615

If any education record includes information on more than one student, the parents of those students have the right to inspect and review only the information relating to their child or to be informed of that specific information.

LIST OF TYPES AND LOCATIONS OF INFORMATION

34 CFR §300.616

On request, each participating agency must provide you with a list of the types and locations of education records collected, maintained, or used by the agency.

FEEES

34 CFR §300.617

Each participating agency may charge a fee for copies of records that are made for you under Part B of the IDEA, if the fee does not effectively prevent you from exercising your right to inspect and review those records. A participating agency may not charge a fee to search for or to retrieve information under Part B of the IDEA.

AMENDMENT OF RECORDS AT PARENT’S REQUEST

34 CFR §300.618

If you believe that information in the education records regarding your child collected, maintained, or used under Part B of the IDEA is inaccurate, misleading, or violates the privacy or other rights of your child, you may request the participating agency that maintains the information to change the information. The participating agency must decide whether to change the information in accordance with your request within a reasonable period of time of receipt of your request. If the participating agency refuses to change the information in accordance with your request, it must inform you of the refusal and advise you of the right to a hearing for this purpose as described under the heading *Opportunity For a Hearing*.

OPPORTUNITY FOR A HEARING

34 CFR §300.619

The participating agency must, on request, provide you an opportunity for a hearing to challenge information in education records regarding your child to ensure that it is not inaccurate, misleading, or otherwise in violation of the privacy or other rights of your child.

HEARING PROCEDURES

34 CFR §300.621

A hearing to challenge information in education records must be conducted according to the procedures for such hearings under the FERPA.

RESULT OF HEARING

34 CFR §300.620

If, as a result of the hearing, the participating agency decides that the information is inaccurate, misleading, or otherwise in violation of the privacy or other rights of the student, it must change the information accordingly and inform you in writing. If, as a result of the hearing, the participating agency decides that the information is **not** inaccurate, misleading, or otherwise in violation of the privacy or other rights of your child, it must inform you of your right to place in the records that it maintains on your child a statement commenting on the information or providing any reasons you disagree with the decision of the participating agency.

Such an explanation placed in the records of your child must:

1. Be maintained by the participating agency as part of the records of your child as long as the record or contested portion is maintained by the participating agency; **and**
2. If the participating agency discloses the records of your child or the challenged portion to any party, the explanation must also be disclosed to that party.

CONSENT FOR DISCLOSURE OF PERSONALLY IDENTIFIABLE INFORMATION

34 CFR §300.622

Unless the information is contained in education records, and the disclosure is authorized without parental consent under FERPA, your consent must be obtained before personally identifiable information is disclosed to parties other than officials of participating agencies. Except under the circumstances specified below, your consent is not required before personally identifiable information is released to officials of participating agencies for purposes of meeting a requirement of Part B of the IDEA.

Your consent, or consent of an eligible student who has reached the age of majority under State law, must be obtained before personally identifiable information is released to officials of participating agencies providing or paying for transition services.

If your child is in, or is going to go to, a private school that is not located in the same school district you reside in, your consent must be obtained before any personally identifiable information about your child is released between officials in the school district where the private school is located and officials in the school district where you reside.

SAFEGUARDS

34 CFR §300.623

Each participating agency must protect the confidentiality of personally identifiable information at collection, storage, disclosure, and destruction stages. One official at each participating agency must assume responsibility for ensuring the confidentiality of any personally identifiable information. All persons collecting or using personally identifiable information must receive training or instruction regarding your State's policies and procedures regarding confidentiality under Part B of the IDEA and the FERPA. Each participating agency must maintain, for public inspection, a current listing of the names and positions of those employees within the agency who may have access to personally identifiable information.

DESTRUCTION OF INFORMATION

34 CFR §300.624

Your school district must inform you when personally identifiable information collected, maintained, or used is no longer needed to provide educational services to your child.

The information must be destroyed at your request. However, a permanent record of your child's name, address, and phone number, his or her grades, attendance record, classes attended, grade level completed, and year completed may be maintained without time limitation.

CHILDREN'S RIGHTS

34 CFR §300.625

Under the regulations for FERPA in 34 CFR 99.5(a), your rights regarding education records are transferred to your child at age 18.

If the rights accorded to you under IDEA are transferred to your child who reaches the age of majority, consistent with 34 CFR 300.520, the rights regarding educational records also are transferred to your child. However, the school district must provide any notice required under section 615 of the Act or Florida State Board of Education Rules 6A-6.03011 through 6A-6.0361, Florida Administrative Code (F.A.C.), to you and the student.

MEDIATION

GENERAL INFORMATION

34 CFR §300.506

The school district must make mediation available to allow you and the school district to resolve disagreements involving any matter under Part B of the IDEA, including matters arising prior to the filing of a due process complaint. Thus, mediation is available to resolve disputes under Part B of the IDEA, whether or not you have filed a due process complaint to request a due process hearing as described under the heading *Filing a Due Process Hearing Request*.

Requirements

The procedures must ensure that the mediation process:

1. Is voluntary on your part and the school district's part;
2. Is not used to deny or delay your right to a due process hearing, or to deny any other rights you have under Part B of the IDEA; **and**
3. Is conducted by a qualified and impartial mediator who is trained in effective mediation techniques.

The school district may develop procedures that offer parents and schools that choose not to use the mediation process an opportunity to meet, at a time and location convenient to you, with a disinterested party:

1. Who is under contract with an appropriate alternative dispute resolution entity, or a parent training and information center, or community parent resource center in the state; **and**
2. Who would explain the benefits and encourage the use of the mediation process to you.

The State must have a list of people who are qualified mediators and know the laws and regulations relating to the provision of special education and related services. The Department of Education must select mediators on a random, rotational, or other impartial basis.

The State is responsible for the cost of the mediation process, including the costs of meetings. Each meeting in the mediation process must be scheduled in a timely manner and held at a place that is convenient for you and the school district. Both the parent and the school district may be required to sign a confidentiality pledge prior to the commencement of the mediation process.

If you and the school district resolve a dispute through the mediation process, both parties must enter into a legally binding agreement that sets forth the resolution and that:

1. States that all discussions that happened during the mediation process will remain confidential and may not be used as evidence in any subsequent due process hearing or civil proceeding; **and**
2. Is signed by both you and a representative of the school district who has the authority to bind the school district.

A written, signed mediation agreement is enforceable in any State court of competent jurisdiction (a court that has the authority under State law to hear this type of case) or in a district court of the United States.

Discussions that happened during the mediation process must be confidential. They cannot be used as evidence in any future due process hearing or civil proceeding of any federal court or State court of a State receiving assistance under Part B of IDEA.

Impartiality of mediator

The mediator:

1. May not be an employee of the Department of Education or any school district or any State agency that receives IDEA funds through the Department of Education; **and**
2. Must not have a personal or professional interest that conflicts with the mediator's objectivity.

A person who otherwise qualifies as a mediator is not an employee of a school district or State agency solely because he or she is paid by the agency or school district to serve as a mediator.

STATE COMPLAINT PROCEDURES

DIFFERENCES BETWEEN DUE PROCESS HEARING AND STATE COMPLAINT PROCEDURES

The regulations for Part B of IDEA set forth separate procedures for State complaints and for due process complaints and hearings. As explained below, any individual or organization may file a State complaint alleging a violation of any Part B requirement by a school district, the Department of Education, or any other public agency. Only you or a school district may file a due process complaint on any matter relating to a proposal or a refusal to initiate or change the identification, evaluation, or educational placement of a student with a disability, or the provision of a FAPE to the student. Although staff of the Department of Education generally must resolve a State complaint within a 60-calendar-day timeline, unless the timeline is properly extended, an impartial due process hearing officer must hear a due process complaint (if not resolved through a resolution meeting or through mediation) and issue a written decision within 45 calendar days after the end of the resolution period, as described in this document under the heading *Resolution Process*, unless the hearing officer grants a specific extension of the timeline at your request or the school district's request. The State complaint and due process complaint, resolution, and hearing procedures are described more fully below.

ADOPTION OF STATE COMPLAINT PROCEDURES

34 CFR §300.151

General

The Department of Education must have written procedures for:

1. Resolving any complaint, including a complaint filed by an organization or individual from another State;
2. Widely disseminating the State complaint procedures to parents and other interested individuals, including parent training and information centers, protection and advocacy agencies, independent living centers, and other appropriate entities.

Remedies for denial of appropriate services

In resolving a State complaint in which the Department of Education has found a failure to provide appropriate services, the Department of Education must address:

1. The failure to provide appropriate services, including corrective action appropriate to address the needs of the student; **and**
2. Appropriate future provision of services for all children with disabilities.

MINIMUM STATE COMPLAINT PROCEDURES

34 CFR §300.152

Time limit; minimum procedures

The Department of Education must include in its State complaint procedures a time limit of 60 calendar days after a complaint is filed to:

1. Carry out an independent on-site investigation, if the Department of Education determines that an investigation is necessary;
2. Give the complainant the opportunity to submit additional information, either orally or in writing, about the allegations in the complaint;
3. Provide the school district or other public agency with the opportunity to respond to the complaint, including, at a minimum: (a) at the option of the agency, a proposal to resolve the complaint; **and** (b) an opportunity for a parent who has filed a complaint and the agency to agree voluntarily to engage in mediation;
4. Review all relevant information and make an independent determination as to whether the school district or other public agency is violating a requirement of Part B of the IDEA; **and**
5. Issue a written decision to the complainant that addresses each allegation in the complaint and contains: (a) findings of fact and conclusions; **and** (b) the reasons for the Department of Education's final decision

Time extension; final decision; implementation

The Department of Education's procedures described above also must:

1. Permit an extension of the 60-calendar-day time limit only if: (a) exceptional circumstances exist with respect to a particular State complaint; **or** (b) the parent and the school district or other public agency involved voluntarily agree to extend the time to resolve the matter through mediation or alternative means of dispute resolution, if available in the State.
2. Include procedures for effective implementation of the Department of Education's final decision, if needed, including: (a) technical assistance activities; (b) negotiations; **and** (c) corrective actions to achieve compliance.

NOTE: Complaints limited to gifted education are covered by State Board of Education Rule 6A-6.03313, *Procedural Safeguards for Exceptional Students who are Gifted*, and have a 90-calendar-day limit unless there is an approved extension for exceptional circumstances.

State complaints and due process hearings

If a written State complaint is received that is also the subject of a due process hearing as described below under the heading *Filing a Due Process Hearing Request*, or the State complaint contains multiple issues of which one or more are part of such a hearing, the State must set aside the State complaint, or any part of the State complaint that is being addressed in the due process hearing, until the hearing is over. Any issue in the State complaint that is not a part of the due process hearing must be resolved using the time limit and procedures described above.

If an issue raised in a State complaint has previously been decided in a due process hearing involving the same parties (you and the school district), then the due process hearing decision is binding on that issue and the Department of Education must inform the complainant that the decision is binding.

A complaint alleging a school district's or other public agency's failure to implement a due process hearing decision must be resolved by the Department of Education.

FILING A STATE COMPLAINT

34 CFR §300.153

An organization or individual may file a signed written State complaint under the procedures described above.

The State complaint must include:

1. A statement that a school district or other public agency has violated a requirement of Part B of the IDEA or its regulations, or state requirements;
2. The facts on which the statement is based;
3. The signature and contact information for the complainant; and
4. If alleging violations regarding a specific student:
 - (a) The name of the student and address of the residence of the student;
 - (b) The name of the school the student is attending;
 - (c) In the case of a homeless student or youth, available contact information for the student and the name of the school the student is attending;
 - (d) A description of the nature of the problem of the student, including facts relating to the problem; **and**
 - (e) A proposed resolution of the problem to the extent known and available to the party filing the complaint at the time the complaint is filed.

The complaint must allege a violation that occurred not more than **one year** prior to the date that the complaint is received.

The party filing the State complaint must forward a copy of the complaint to the school district or other public agency serving the student at the same time the party files the complaint with the Department of Education.

DUE PROCESS HEARING REQUEST PROCEDURES

FILING A DUE PROCESS HEARING REQUEST

34 CFR §300.507

General

You or the school district may file a due process hearing request on any matter relating to a proposal or a refusal to initiate or change the identification, evaluation, or educational placement of your child or the provision of a FAPE to your child.

The due process hearing request must allege a violation that happened not more than two years before you or the school district knew or should have known about the alleged action that forms the basis of the due process complaint.

The above timeline does not apply to you if you could not file a due process hearing request within the timeline because:

1. The school district specifically misrepresented that it had resolved the issues identified in the complaint; **or**
2. The school district withheld information from you that it was required to provide you under Part B of the IDEA.

Legal Services

The school district must inform you of any free or low-cost legal and other relevant services available in the area if you request the information, or if you or the school district file a due process hearing request.

DUE PROCESS HEARING REQUESTS

34 CFR §300.508

General

In order to request a hearing, you or the school district (or your attorney or the school district's attorney) must submit a due process hearing request to the other party. That due process hearing request must contain all of the content listed below and must be kept confidential.

You or the school district, whichever one filed the due process hearing request, must also provide the Department of Education with a copy of the due process hearing request.

Content of the due process hearing request

The due process hearing request must include:

1. The name of the student;
2. The address of the student's residence;
3. The name of the student's school;
4. If the student is a homeless child or youth, the student's contact information and the name of the student's school;
5. A description of the nature of the problem of the student relating to the proposed or refused action, including facts relating to the problem; **and**
6. A proposed resolution of the problem to the extent known and available to you or the school district at the time.

Notice required before a hearing on a due process hearing request

You or the school district may not have a due process hearing until you or the school district (or your attorney or the school district's attorney) files a due process hearing request that includes the information listed above.

Sufficiency of due process hearing request

In order for a due process hearing request to go forward, it must be considered sufficient. The due process hearing request will be considered sufficient (to have met the content requirements above) unless the party receiving the due process hearing request (you or the school district) notifies the hearing officer and the other party in writing, within 15 calendar days of receiving the due process hearing request, that the receiving party believes that the due process hearing request does not meet the requirements listed above.

Within five calendar days of receiving the notification the receiving party (you or the school district) considers a due process hearing request insufficient, the hearing officer must decide if the due process hearing request meets the requirements listed above and notify you and the school district in writing immediately.

Due process hearing request amendment

You or the school district may make changes to the due process hearing request only if:

1. The other party approves of the changes in writing and is given the chance to resolve the due process hearing request through a resolution meeting, described below; **or**
2. By no later than five days before the due process hearing begins, the hearing officer grants permission for the changes.

If the complaining party (you or the school district) makes changes to the due process hearing request, the timelines for the resolution meeting (within 15 calendar days of receiving the due process hearing request) and the time period for resolution (within 30 calendar days of receiving the due process hearing request) start again on the date the amended due process hearing request is filed.

Local educational agency (LEA) or school district response to a due process hearing request

If the school district has not sent a prior written notice to you, as described under the heading *Prior Written Notice*, regarding the subject matter contained in your due process hearing request, the school district must, within 10 calendar days of receiving the due process hearing request, send to you a response that includes:

1. An explanation of why the school district proposed or refused to take the action raised in the due process hearing request;
2. A description of other options that your student's individual educational plan (IEP) Team considered and the reasons why those options were rejected;
3. A description of each evaluation procedure, assessment, record, or report the school district used as the basis for the proposed or refused action; **and**
4. A description of the other factors that are relevant to the school district's proposed or refused action.

Providing the information in items 1–4 above does not prevent the school district from asserting that your due process hearing request was insufficient.

Other party response to a due process hearing request

Except as stated under the sub-heading immediately above, *Local educational agency (LEA) or school district response to a due process hearing request*, the party receiving a due process hearing request must, within 10 calendar days of

receiving the due process hearing request, send the other party a response that specifically addresses the issues in the due process hearing request.

MODEL FORMS

34 CFR §300.509

In its role as the state educational agency (SEA), the Florida Department of Education must develop model forms to help you file a due process hearing request and a state complaint. However, the SEA or the school district may not require you to use these model forms. In fact, you can use this form or another appropriate model form, provided it contains the required information for filing a due process hearing request or state complaint.

STUDENT'S PLACEMENT DURING DUE PROCESS PROCEEDINGS

34 CFR §300.518

Except as provided below under the heading *Change of Placement Because of Disciplinary Removals*, once a due process hearing request is sent to the other party, during the resolution process time period, and while waiting for the decision of any impartial due process hearing or court proceeding, unless you and the SEA or school district agree otherwise, your child must remain in his or her current educational placement.

If the due process hearing request involves an application for initial admission to public school, your child, with your consent, must be placed in the regular public school program until the completion of all such proceedings.

If the due process hearing request involves an application for initial services under Part B of the IDEA for a child who is transitioning from being served under Part C of the IDEA to Part B of the IDEA and who is no longer eligible for Part C services because the child has turned three, the school district is not required to provide the Part C services that the child has been receiving. If the child is found eligible under Part B of the IDEA and you consent for the child to receive special education and related services for the first time, then, pending the outcome of the proceedings, the school district must provide those special education and related services that are not in dispute (those which you and the school district both agree upon).

RESOLUTION PROCESS

34 CFR §300.510

Resolution meeting

Within 15 calendar days of receiving notice of your due process hearing request, and before the due process hearing begins, the school district must convene a meeting with you and the relevant member or members of the IEP Team who have specific knowledge of the facts identified in your due process hearing request. The meeting:

1. Must include a representative of the school district who has decision-making authority on behalf of the school district; **and**
2. May not include an attorney of the school district unless you are accompanied by an attorney.

You and the school district determine the relevant members of the IEP Team to attend the meeting.

The purpose of the meeting is for you to discuss your due process hearing request, and the facts that form the basis of the due process hearing request, so that the school district has the opportunity to resolve the dispute.

The resolution meeting is not necessary if:

1. You and the school district agree in writing to waive the meeting; **or**
2. You and the school district agree to use the mediation process, as described under the heading *Mediation*.

Resolution period

If the school district has not resolved the due process hearing request to your satisfaction within 30 calendar days of the receipt of the due process hearing request (during the time period for the resolution process), the due process hearing may occur.

The 45-calendar-day timeline for issuing a final decision begins at the expiration of the 30-calendar-day resolution period, with certain exceptions for adjustments made to the 30-calendar-day resolution period, as described below.

Except where you and the school district have both agreed to waive the resolution process or to use mediation, your failure to participate in the resolution meeting will delay the timelines for the resolution process and due process hearing until you agree to participate in a meeting.

If after making reasonable efforts, and documenting such efforts, the school district is not able to obtain your participation in the resolution meeting, the school district may, at the end of the 30-calendar-day resolution period, request that the administrative law judge (ALJ) dismiss your due process hearing request. Documentation of such efforts must include a record of the school district's attempts to arrange a mutually agreed upon time and place, such as:

1. Detailed records of telephone calls made or attempted and the results of those calls;
2. Copies of correspondence sent to you and any responses received; and
3. Detailed records of visits made to your home or place of employment and the results of those visits.

If the school district fails to hold the resolution meeting within 15 calendar days of receiving notice of your due process hearing request **or** fails to participate in the resolution meeting, you may ask the ALJ to order that the 45-calendar-day due process hearing timeline begin.

Adjustments to the 30-calendar-day resolution period

If you and the school district agree in writing to waive the resolution meeting, then the 45-calendar-day timeline for the due process hearing starts the next day.

After the start of mediation or the resolution meeting and before the end of the 30-calendar-day resolution period, if you and the school district agree in writing that no agreement is possible, then the 45-calendar-day timeline for the due process hearing starts the next day.

If you and the school district agree to use the mediation process, at the end of the 30-calendar-day resolution period, both parties can agree in writing to continue the mediation until an agreement is reached. However, if either you or the school district withdraws from the mediation process, then the 45-calendar-day timeline for the due process hearing starts the next day.

Written settlement agreement

If a resolution to the dispute is reached at the resolution meeting, you and the school district must enter into a legally binding agreement that is:

1. Signed by you and a representative of the school district who has the authority to bind the school district; **and**
2. Enforceable in any State court of competent jurisdiction (a State court that has authority to hear this type of case) or in a district court of the United States or by the Department of Education.

Agreement review period

If you and the school district enter into an agreement as a result of a resolution meeting, either party (you or the school district) may void the agreement within three business days of the time that both you and the school district signed the agreement.

DUE PROCESS HEARINGS

IMPARTIAL DUE PROCESS HEARING

34 CFR §300.511

General

Whenever a due process hearing request is filed, you or the school district involved in the dispute must have an opportunity for an impartial due process hearing, as described in the *Due Process Hearing Request* and *Resolution Process* sections.

NOTE: In addition to requesting mediation and filing a state complaint, parents and school districts have the right to request an impartial due process hearing. A request for a due process hearing may be made regarding any proposal or refusal of the school district to initiate or change the identification of, evaluation of, educational placement of, or provision of a FAPE to your child. Should a due process hearing be required, the hearing will be conducted by the Florida Department of Education through an impartial ALJ with Florida's Division of Administrative Hearings (DOAH) in accordance with applicable Florida Statutes and State Board of Education Rules.

Florida has a "one-tier" due process system in which the SEA or another State-level agency or entity (other than the school district) is responsible for convening due process hearings. An appeal from a due process hearing decision goes directly to a federal district or State circuit court.

Impartial hearing officer (i.e., ALJ)

At a minimum, a hearing officer:

1. Must not be an employee of the SEA or the school district that is involved in the education or care of the student. However, a person is not an employee of the agency solely because he/she is paid by the agency to serve as a hearing officer;
2. Must not have a personal or professional interest that conflicts with the hearing officer's objectivity in the hearing;
3. Must be knowledgeable and understand the provisions of the IDEA, and federal and State regulations pertaining to the IDEA, and legal interpretations of the IDEA by federal and State courts; **and**
4. Must have the knowledge and ability to conduct hearings, and to make and write decisions, consistent with appropriate, standard legal practice.

The Florida Department of Education will keep a list of those persons who serve as ALJs that must include the qualifications of each of those persons.

Subject matter of due process hearing

The party (you or the school district) that requests the due process hearing may not raise issues at the due process hearing that were not addressed in the due process hearing request, unless the other party agrees.

Timeline for requesting a hearing

You or the school district must request an impartial hearing on a due process hearing request within two years of the date you or the school district knew or should have known about the issue addressed in the due process hearing request.

Exceptions to the timeline

The above timeline does not apply to you if you could not file a due process hearing request because:

1. The school district specifically misrepresented that it had resolved the problem or issue that you are raising in your due process hearing request; **or**
2. The school district withheld information from you that it was required to provide to you under Part B of the IDEA.

HEARING RIGHTS

34 CFR §300.512

General

Any party to a due process hearing (including a hearing relating to disciplinary procedures) has the right to:

1. Be represented by counsel or to be represented by a qualified representative under the qualifications and standards set forth in Rules 28-106.106 and 28-106.107, F.A.C., or to be accompanied and advised by individuals with special knowledge or training with respect to the problems of students with disabilities, or any combination of the above;
2. Present evidence and confront, cross-examine, and require the attendance of witnesses;
3. Prohibit the introduction of any evidence at the hearing that has not been disclosed to that party at least five business days before the hearing;
4. Obtain a written, or, at your option, electronic, word-for-word record of the hearing; **and**
5. Obtain written, or, at your option, electronic findings of fact and decisions.

Additional disclosure of information

At least five business days prior to a due process hearing, you and the school district must disclose to each other all evaluations completed by that date and recommendations based on those evaluations that you or the school district intend to use at the hearing. An ALJ may prevent any party that fails to comply with this requirement from introducing the relevant evaluation or recommendation at the hearing without the consent of the other party.

Parental rights at hearings

You must be given the right to:

1. Have your child present;
2. Open the hearing to the public; **and**
3. Have the record of the hearing, the findings of fact, and the decisions provided to you at no cost.

HEARING DECISIONS

34 CFR §300.513

Decision of ALJ

An ALJ's decision on whether your child received a FAPE must be based on substantive grounds.

In matters alleging a procedural violation, a hearing officer may find that your child did not receive a FAPE only if the procedural inadequacies:

1. Interfered with your child's right to a FAPE;
2. Significantly interfered with your opportunity to participate in the decision-making process regarding the provision of a FAPE to your child; **or**
3. Caused a deprivation of an educational benefit.

Construction clause

None of the provisions described above can be interpreted to prevent an ALJ from ordering a school district to comply with the requirements in the procedural safeguards section of the federal regulations under Part B of the IDEA (34 CFR §300.500 through 300.536).

Separate request for a due process hearing

Nothing in the procedural safeguards section of the federal regulations under Part B of the IDEA (34 CFR §§300.500 through 300.536) can be interpreted to prevent you from filing a separate due process hearing request on an issue separate from a due process hearing request already filed.

Findings and decision to advisory panel and general public

The SEA or the school district (whichever was responsible for your hearing), after deleting any personally identifiable information, must:

1. Provide the findings and decisions in the due process hearing or appeal to the State special education advisory panel; **and**
2. Make those findings and decisions available to the public.

APPEALS

FINALITY OF DECISION; APPEAL; IMPARTIAL REVIEW

34 CFR §300.514

Finality of hearing decision

A decision made in a due process hearing (including a hearing relating to disciplinary procedures) is final, except that any party involved in the hearing (you or the school district) may appeal the decision by bringing a civil action, as described below.

TIMELINES AND CONVENIENCE OF HEARINGS AND REVIEWS

34 CFR §300.515

The SEA must ensure that not later than 45 calendar days after the expiration of the 30-calendar-day period for resolution meetings **or**, as described under the sub-heading *Adjustments to the 30-calendar-day resolution period*, not later than 45 calendar days after the expiration of the adjusted time period:

1. A final decision is reached in the hearing; **and**
2. A copy of the decision is mailed to each of the parties.

An ALJ may grant specific extensions of time beyond the 45-calendar-day time period described above at the request of either party. Each hearing must be conducted at a time and place that is reasonably convenient to you and your child.

CIVIL ACTIONS, INCLUDING THE TIME PERIOD IN WHICH TO FILE THOSE ACTIONS

34 CFR §300.516

General

Any party (you or the school district) who does not agree with the findings and decision in the due process hearing (including a hearing relating to disciplinary procedures) has the right to bring a civil action with respect to the matter that was the subject of the due process hearing. The action may be brought in a State court of competent jurisdiction (a State court that has authority to hear this type of case) or in a district court of the United States without regard to the amount in dispute.

Time limitation

The party (you or the school district) bringing the action shall have 90 calendar days from the date of the decision of an ALJ to file a civil action.

Additional procedures

In any civil action, the court:

1. Receives the records of the administrative proceedings;
2. Hears additional evidence at your request or at the school district's request; **and**
3. Bases its decision on the preponderance of the evidence and grants the relief that the court determines to be appropriate.

Jurisdiction of district courts

The district courts of the United States have authority to rule on actions brought under Part B of the IDEA without regard to the amount in dispute.

Rule of construction

Nothing in Part B of the IDEA restricts or limits the rights, procedures, and remedies available under the U.S. Constitution, the Americans with Disabilities Act of 1990, Title V of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973 (Section 504), or other federal laws protecting the rights of children with disabilities, except that before the filing of a civil action under these laws seeking relief that is also available under Part B of the IDEA, the due process procedures described above must be exhausted to the same extent as would be required if the party filed the action under Part B of the IDEA. This means that you may have remedies available under other laws that overlap with those available under the IDEA, but in general, to obtain relief under those other laws, you must first use the available administrative remedies under the IDEA (i.e., the due process hearing request, resolution meeting, and impartial due process hearing procedures) before going directly into court.

ATTORNEYS' FEES

34 CFR §300.517

General

In any action or proceeding brought under Part B of the IDEA, if you prevail, the court, in its discretion, may award reasonable attorneys' fees as part of the costs to you.

In any action or proceeding brought under Part B of the IDEA, the court, in its discretion, may award reasonable attorneys' fees as part of the costs to a prevailing SEA or school district, to be paid by your attorney, if the attorney: (a) filed a complaint or court case that the court finds is frivolous, unreasonable, or without foundation; **or** (b) continued to litigate after the litigation clearly became frivolous, unreasonable, or without foundation; **or**

In any action or proceeding brought under Part B of the IDEA, the court, in its discretion, may award reasonable attorneys' fees as part of the costs to a prevailing SEA or school district, to be paid by you or your attorney, if your request for a due process hearing or later court case was presented for any improper purpose, such as to harass, to cause unnecessary delay, or to unnecessarily increase the cost of the action or proceeding.

Award of fees

A court awards reasonable attorneys' fees as follows:

1. Fees must be based on rates prevailing in the community in which the action or hearing arose for the kind and quality of services furnished. No bonus or multiplier may be used in calculating the fees awarded.

2. Fees may not be awarded and related costs may not be reimbursed in any action or proceeding under Part B of the IDEA for services performed after a written offer of settlement to you if:
 - a. The offer is made within the time prescribed by Rule 68 of the Federal Rules of Civil Procedure or, in the case of a due process hearing, at any time more than 10 calendar days before the proceeding begins;
 - b. The offer is not accepted within 10 calendar days; **and**
 - c. The court or ALJ finds that the relief finally obtained by you is not more favorable to you than the offer of settlement.

Despite these restrictions, an award of attorneys' fees and related costs may be made to you if you prevail and you were substantially justified in rejecting the settlement offer.

3. Fees may not be awarded relating to any meeting of the IEP Team unless the meeting is held as a result of an administrative proceeding or court action.

NOTE: Fees also may not be awarded for mediation as described under the heading *Mediation*.

A resolution meeting, as described under the heading *Resolution meeting*, is not considered a meeting convened as a result of an administrative hearing or court action, and also is not considered an administrative hearing or court action for purposes of these attorneys' fees provisions.

The court reduces, as appropriate, the amount of the attorneys' fees awarded under Part B of the IDEA, if the court finds that:

1. You, or your attorney, during the course of the action or proceeding, unreasonably delayed the final resolution of the dispute;
2. The amount of the attorneys' fees otherwise authorized to be awarded unreasonably exceeds the hourly rate prevailing in the community for similar services by attorneys of reasonably similar skill, reputation, and experience;
3. The time spent and legal services furnished were excessive considering the nature of the action or proceeding; **or**
4. The attorney representing you did not provide to the school district the appropriate information in the due process request notice as described under the heading *Due Process Hearings*.

However, the court may not reduce fees if the court finds that the State or school district unreasonably delayed the final resolution of the action or proceeding or there was a violation under the procedural safeguards provisions of Part B of the IDEA.

PROCEDURES WHEN DISCIPLINING STUDENTS WITH DISABILITIES AUTHORITY OF SCHOOL PERSONNEL

34 CFR §300.530

Case-by-case determination

School personnel may consider any unique circumstances on a case-by-case basis, when determining whether a change of placement, made in accordance with the following requirements related to discipline, is appropriate for a child with a disability who violates a school code of student conduct.

General

To the extent that they also take such action for children without disabilities, school personnel may, for not more than **10 school days** in a row, remove a student with a disability who violates a code of student conduct from his or her current placement to an appropriate interim alternative educational setting (which must be determined by the student's IEP Team), another setting, or suspension. School personnel may also impose additional removals of the student of not more than **10 school days** in a row in that same school year for separate incidents of misconduct; as long as those removals do not constitute a change of placement (see *Change of Placement Because of Disciplinary Removals* for the definition, below).

Additional authority

If the behavior that violated the student code of conduct was not a manifestation of the student's disability (see *Manifestation determination*, below) and the disciplinary change of placement would exceed **10 school days** in a row, school personnel may apply the disciplinary procedures to that student with a disability in the same manner and for the same duration as it would to students without disabilities, except that the school must provide services to that student as described below under *Services*. The student's IEP Team determines the interim alternative educational setting for such services.

Services

The services that must be provided to a student with a disability who has been removed from the student's current placement may be provided in an interim alternative educational setting.

A school district is only required to provide services to a student with a disability who has been removed from his or her current placement for **10 school days or less** in that school year if it provides services to a student without disabilities who has been similarly removed.

A student with a disability who is removed from the student's current placement for **more than 10 school days** must:

1. Continue to receive educational services, so as to enable the student to continue to participate in the general education curriculum, although in another setting, and to progress toward meeting the goals set out in the student's IEP; **and**
2. Receive, as appropriate, a functional behavioral assessment and behavioral intervention services and modifications that are designed to address the behavior violation so that it does not happen again.

After a student with a disability has been removed from his or her current placement for **10 school days** in that same school year, and **if** the current removal is for **10 school days** in a row or less **and** if the removal is not a change of placement (see definition below), **then** school personnel, in consultation with the student's special education teacher(s), determine the extent to which services are needed to enable the student to continue to participate in the general education curriculum, although in another setting, and to progress toward meeting the goals set out in the student's IEP.

If the removal is a change of placement (see definition below), the student's IEP Team determines the appropriate services to enable the student to continue to participate in the general education curriculum, although in another setting, and to progress toward meeting the goals set out in the student's IEP.

Manifestation determination

Within **10 school days** of any decision to change the placement of a student with a disability because of a violation of a code of student conduct (except for a removal that is for **10 school days** in a row or less and not a change of placement), the school district, the parent, and relevant members of the IEP Team (as determined by the parent and the school district) must review all relevant information in the student's file, including the student's IEP, any teacher observations, and any relevant information provided by the parents to determine:

1. If the conduct in question was caused by, or had a direct and substantial relationship to, the student's disability; **or**
2. If the conduct in question was the direct result of the school district's failure to implement the student's IEP.

If the school district, the parent, and relevant members of the student's IEP Team determine that either of those conditions was met, the conduct must be determined to be a manifestation of the student's disability.

If the school district, the parent, and relevant members of the student's IEP Team determine that the conduct in question was the direct result of the school district's failure to implement the IEP, the school district must take immediate action to remedy those deficiencies.

Determination that behavior was a manifestation of the student's disability

If the school district, the parent, and relevant members of the IEP Team determine that the conduct was a manifestation of the student's disability, the IEP Team must either:

1. Conduct a functional behavioral assessment, unless the school district had conducted a functional behavioral assessment before the behavior that resulted in the change of placement occurred, and implement a behavioral intervention plan for the student; **or**
2. If a behavioral intervention plan already has been developed, review the behavioral intervention plan and modify it, as necessary, to address the behavior.

Except as described below under the sub-heading *Special circumstances*, the school district must return the student to the placement from which the student was removed, unless the parent and the district agree to a change of placement as part of the modification of the behavioral intervention plan.

Special circumstances

Whether or not the behavior was a manifestation of the student's disability, school personnel may remove a student to an interim alternative educational setting (determined by the student's IEP Team) for up to 45 school days, if the student:

1. Carries a weapon (see the definition below) to school or has a weapon at school, on school premises, or at a school function under the jurisdiction of the Department of Education or a school district;
2. Knowingly has or uses illegal drugs (see the definition below), or sells or solicits the sale of a controlled substance (see the definition below), while at school, on school premises, or at a school function under the jurisdiction of the Department of Education or a school district; **or**
3. Has inflicted serious bodily injury (see the definition below) upon another person while at school, on school premises, or at a school function under the jurisdiction of the Department of Education or a school district.

Definitions

Controlled substance means a drug or other substance identified under schedules I, II, III, IV, or V in Section 202(c) of the Controlled Substances Act, 21 U.S.C. 812(c) and Section 893.02(4), Florida Statutes.

Illegal drug means a controlled substance but does not include a substance that is legally possessed or used under the supervision of a licensed health-care professional or that is legally possessed or used under any other authority under the Controlled Substance Act, 21 U.S.C. 812(c) or under any other provision of federal law.

Interim alternative educational setting (IAES) means a different location where educational services are provided for a specific time period due to disciplinary reasons and that meets the requirements of State Board of Education Rule 6A-6.03312.

Serious bodily injury means bodily injury that involves a substantial risk of death; extreme physical pain; protracted and obvious disfigurement; or protracted loss or impairment of the function of a bodily member, organ, or mental faculty.

Weapon means a weapon, device, instrument, material, or substance, animate or inanimate, that is used for, or is readily capable of causing, death or serious bodily injury, except that such term does not include a pocket knife with a blade that is less than two and one half inches in length.

Notification

On the date it makes the decision to make a removal that is a change of placement of the student because of a violation of a code of student conduct, the school district must notify the parents of that decision and provide the parents with a procedural safeguards notice.

CHANGE OF PLACEMENT BECAUSE OF DISCIPLINARY REMOVALS

34 CFR §300.536

A removal of a student with a disability from the student's current educational placement is a **change of placement** if:

1. The removal is for more than 10 school days in a row; **or**
2. The student has been subjected to a series of removals that constitute a pattern because:
 - a. The series of removals total more than 10 school days in a school year;
 - b. The student's behavior is substantially similar to the student's behavior in previous incidents that resulted in the series of removals;
 - c. Of such additional factors as the length of each removal, the total amount of time the student has been removed, and the proximity of the removals to one another; **and**

Whether a pattern of removals constitutes a change of placement is determined on a case-by-case basis by the school district and, if challenged, is subject to review through due process and judicial proceedings.

DETERMINATION OF SETTING

34 CFR § 300.531

The IEP Team must determine the interim alternative educational setting for removals that are **changes of placement**, and removals under the headings *Additional authority* and *Special circumstances*, above.

APPEAL

34 CFR § 300.532

General

The parent of a student with a disability may file a due process hearing request if he or she disagrees with:

1. Any decision regarding placement made under these discipline provisions; **or**
2. The manifestation determination described above.

The school district may file a due process hearing request if it believes that maintaining the current placement of the student is substantially likely to result in injury to the student or to others.

Authority of an ALJ

An ALJ hears and makes a determination regarding an appeal and requests for expedited due process hearing regarding discipline and, in making the determination:

1. An ALJ may return the student with a disability to the placement from which the student was removed if the ALJ determines that the removal was a violation of the requirements described under the heading *Authority of School Personnel*, or that the student's behavior was a manifestation of the student's disability; **or**
2. Order a change of placement of the student with a disability to an appropriate interim alternative educational setting (IAES) for not more than 45 school days if the ALJ determines that maintaining the current placement of the student is substantially likely to result in injury to the student or to others.

These hearing procedures may be repeated if the school district believes that returning the student to the original placement is substantially likely to result in injury to the student or to others.

Whenever a parent or a school district files a due process hearing request, a hearing must be held that meets the requirements described under the headings *Due Process Hearing Requests*, *Due Process Hearings*, except as follows:

1. The Department of Education or school district must arrange for an expedited due process hearing, which must occur within **20** school days of the date the hearing is requested and must result in a determination within **10** school days after the hearing.
2. Unless the parents and the school district agree in writing to waive the meeting, or agree to use mediation, a resolution meeting must occur within **seven** calendar days of receiving notice of the due process hearing request. The hearing may proceed unless the matter has been resolved to the

satisfaction of both parties within **15** calendar days of receipt of the due process hearing request.

3. A State may establish different procedural rules for expedited due process hearings than it has established for other due process hearings, but, except for the timelines, those rules must be consistent with the rules in this document regarding due process hearings.

A party may appeal the decision in an expedited due process hearing in the same way as they may for decisions in other due process hearings (see *Appeals*, above).

PLACEMENT DURING APPEALS

34 CFR §300.533

When, as described above, the parent or school district has filed a due process hearing request related

to disciplinary matters, the student must (unless the parent and the Department of Education or school district agree otherwise) remain in the interim alternative educational setting pending the decision of the ALJ, or until the expiration of the time period of removal as provided for and described under the heading *Authority of School Personnel*, whichever occurs first.

PROTECTIONS FOR STUDENTS NOT YET ELIGIBLE FOR SPECIAL EDUCATION AND RELATED SERVICES

34 CFR §300.534

General

If a student has not been determined eligible for special education and related services and violates a code of student conduct, but the school district had knowledge (as determined below) before the behavior that brought about the disciplinary action occurred, that the student was a student with a disability, then the student may assert any of the protections described in this notice. Basis of knowledge for disciplinary matters

A school district must be deemed to have knowledge that a student is a student with a disability if, before the behavior that brought about the disciplinary action occurred:

1. The parent of the student expressed concern in writing that the student is in need of special education and related services to supervisory or administrative personnel of the appropriate educational agency, or a teacher of the student;
2. The parent requested an evaluation related to eligibility for special education and related services under Part B of the IDEA; **or**
3. The student's teacher or other school district personnel expressed specific concerns about a pattern of behavior demonstrated by the student directly to the school district's director of special education or to other supervisory personnel of the school district.

Exception

A school district would not be deemed to have such knowledge if:

1. The student's parent has not allowed an evaluation of the student or refused special education services; **or**
2. The student has been evaluated and determined to not be a student with a disability under Part B of the IDEA.

Conditions that apply if there is no basis of knowledge

If, prior to taking disciplinary measures against the student, a school district does not have knowledge that a student is a student with a disability, as described above under the sub-headings *Basis of knowledge for disciplinary matters* and *Exception*, the student may be subjected to the disciplinary measures that are applied to students without disabilities who engaged in comparable behaviors.

However, if a request is made for an evaluation of a student during the time period in which the student is subjected to disciplinary measures, the evaluation must be conducted in an expedited manner.

Until the evaluation is completed, the student remains in the educational placement determined by school authorities, which can include suspension or expulsion without educational services.

If the student is determined to be a student with a disability, taking into consideration information from the evaluation conducted by the school district, and information provided by the parents, the school district must provide special education and related services in accordance with Part B of the IDEA, including the disciplinary requirements described above.

REFERRAL TO AND ACTION BY LAW ENFORCEMENT AND JUDICIAL AUTHORITIES

34 CFR §300.535

Part B of the IDEA does not:

1. Prohibit an agency from reporting a crime committed by a student with a disability to appropriate authorities; **or**
2. Prevent State law enforcement and judicial authorities from exercising their responsibilities with regard to the application of federal and State law to crimes committed by a student with a disability.

Transmittal of records

If a school district reports a crime committed by a student with a disability, the school district:

1. Must ensure that copies of the student's special education and disciplinary records are transmitted for consideration by the authorities to whom the agency reports the crime; **and**
2. May transmit copies of the student's special education and disciplinary records only to the extent permitted by the Family Educational Rights and Privacy Act (FERPA).

REQUIREMENTS FOR UNILATERAL PLACEMENT BY PARENTS OF STUDENTS IN PRIVATE SCHOOLS AT PUBLIC EXPENSE

GENERAL

34 CFR §300.148

Part B of the IDEA does not require a school district to pay for the cost of education, including special education and related services, of your child with a disability at a private school or facility if the school district made a FAPE available to your child and you choose to place the student in a private school or facility. However, the school district where the private school is located must include your child in the population whose needs are addressed under the Part B provisions regarding children who have been placed by their parents in a private school under 34 CFR §§300.131 through 300.144.

Reimbursement for private school placement

If your child previously received special education and related services under the authority of a school district, and you choose to enroll your child in a private preschool, elementary school, or secondary school without the consent of or referral by the school district, a court or an ALJ may require the agency to reimburse you for the cost of that enrollment if the court or ALJ finds that the agency had not made a FAPE available to your child in a timely manner prior to that enrollment and that the private placement is appropriate. An ALJ or court may find your placement to be appropriate, even if the placement does not meet the State standards that apply to education provided by the Department of Education and school districts.

Limitation on reimbursement

The cost of reimbursement described in the paragraph above may be reduced or denied:

1. If: (a) at the most recent IEP meeting that you attended prior to your removal of your child from the public school, you did not inform the IEP Team that you were rejecting the placement proposed by the school district to provide FAPE to your child, including stating your concerns and your intent to enroll your child in a private school at public expense; or (b) at least 10 business days (including any holidays that occur on a business day) prior to your removal of your child from the public school, you did not give written notice to the school district of that information;
2. If, prior to your removal of your child from the public school, the school district provided prior written notice to you of its intent to evaluate your child (including a statement of the purpose of the evaluation that was appropriate and reasonable), but you did not make the child available for the evaluation; **or** upon a court's finding that your actions were unreasonable.

However, the cost of reimbursement:

1. Must not be reduced or denied for failure to provide the notice if: (a) the school prevented you from providing the notice; (b) you had not received notice of your responsibility to provide the notice described above; or (c) compliance with the requirements above would likely result in physical harm to your child; **and**
2. May, in the discretion of the court or an ALJ, not be reduced or denied for the parents' failure to provide the required notice if: (a) the parent is not literate or cannot write in English; or (b) compliance with the above requirement would likely result in serious emotional harm to the child.

REQUIREMENTS FOR STUDENTS WITH DISABILITIES ENROLLED BY THEIR PARENTS IN PRIVATE SCHOOLS

GENERAL INFORMATION

34 CFR §§300.129 – 300.144

Students with disabilities who have been enrolled in private schools by their parents do not have an individual right to special education and related services while enrolled in the private school. However, the following rights are afforded to parents of students enrolled in nonprofit private schools:

CHILD FIND

34 CFR §300.131

You have the right to have your child evaluated by the district in which the private school is located to determine if your child may be a student with a disability. The district's child find and referral obligations toward your parentally-placed private school student are the same as for students enrolled in public school.

EXPENDITURES

34 CFR §300.133

The district in which the nonprofit private school is located has a duty to expend on the pool of identified parentally-placed private school students with disabilities an amount that is the same proportion of the district's federal special education dollars as the number of those students is to the overall total number of students with disabilities within the district's jurisdiction.

CONSULTATION

34 CFR §300.134

When designing and implementing special education services for parentally-placed private school students, the district has an obligation to consult in a timely and meaningful manner with representatives of those students and with private schools regarding the following issues:

1. The child find process itself, and whether parentally-placed private school students may participate equitably, as well as how parents of those students and private school representatives are notified of the process;
2. How the school district determined the proportionate share of federal dollars that will be spent;
3. The consultation process itself, including how that process will operate throughout the school year so as to ensure meaningful participation in services;
4. How, where, and by whom special education and related services will be provided, including the types of services and how such services will be apportioned if funds are insufficient to serve all students, and how and when these decisions will be made; **and**
5. If the district disagrees with views of private school officials on the provision and types of services, how the local unit will provide a written explanation of the reasons why the district made the decisions that it did.

EQUITABLE SERVICES DETERMINED

34 CFR §300.137

The district in which the nonprofit private school is located shall make the final decision(s) with respect to the services to be provided to eligible parentally-placed private school students with disabilities, following timely and meaningful consultation.

EQUITABLE SERVICES PROVIDED

34 CFR §300.138

For any parentally-placed private school student with a disability for whom the district decides that it will provide services, the district shall initiate and conduct a meeting with representatives of the private school to develop, review and revise a services plan detailing the special education and related services to be provided. To the extent appropriate, the services plan team shall develop the services plan in a manner consistent with the development of an IEP.

DUE PROCESS HEARINGS

34 CFR §300.140

The due process hearing requirements apply to allegations that a district has failed to meet its child find duty to locate, identify, and evaluate private school students with disabilities. See page 5 for information regarding due process hearings.

STATE COMPLAINTS

34 CFR §300.140

The state complaint requirements apply to allegations that a district has failed to meet its obligations related to: the opportunity for equitable participation of parentally-placed private school students provided under IDEA; expenditures; the consultation process; provision of equitable services; including Private school officials may file a complaint with the Florida Department of Education, Bureau of Exceptional Education and Student Services, alleging that the district did not engage in consultation that was timely or meaningful or did not give due consideration to the views of the private school officials.

PARENTAL NOTIFICATION OF MCKAY SCHOLARSHIP

Effective July 1, 2006, Florida Statute, Section 1002.39(5)(a)1, states that by April 1 of each year and within 10 days after an individual educational plan meeting our district must notify you of all available options. This includes informing you of the availability of the DOE toll free information hotline (1-800-447-1636) and internet website, www.floridaschoolchoice.org and offering the parents an opportunity to enroll the student in another public school within the district during the required time limit if the school is not closed or otherwise at capacity. The procedural safeguards are one of several ways in which our district meets the Florida Statute requirements.

For more information about procedural safeguards in exceptional student education, please contact:

- The exceptional student education administrator in your district
- The Bureau of Exceptional Education and Student Services at the Florida Department of Education (850) 245-0476 Jan 09

6A-6.03313 Procedural Safeguards for Exceptional Students who are Gifted

Providing parents with information regarding their rights under this rule is critical to ensuring that they have the opportunity to be partners in the decisions regarding their children. It is also critical that local school boards provide information about these rights to appropriate district and school personnel so that the needs of the student can be identified and appropriately met. The school board's policy and procedures for procedural safeguards shall be set forth in accordance with Rule 6A-6.03411, FAC., and shall include adequate provisions for the following:

- (1) Prior notice. The school district shall provide parents with prior written notice a reasonable time before any proposal or refusal to initiate or change the identification, evaluation, educational placement of the student or the provision of a free appropriate public education to the student.
 - (a) The prior notice to the parents shall be written in language understandable to the general public and shall be provided in the native language or other mode of communication commonly used by the parent unless such communication is clearly not feasible to do so.
 - (b) If the parents' mode of communication is not a written language, the school district shall ensure:
 1. That the notice is translated to the parents orally or by other means in their native language or mode of communication;
 2. That the parents understand the content of the notice; and
 3. That there is written documentation that the requirements of subparagraphs (1)(b)1. and 2. of this rule have been met.
 - (c) The notice to the parents shall include:
 1. A description of the action proposed or refused by the district, an explanation of why the district proposes or refuses to take the action, and a description of any other options the district considered and the reasons why those options were rejected;
 2. A description of each evaluation procedure, test, record, or report the district used as a basis for the proposed or refused action;
 3. A description of any other factors that are relevant to the district's proposal or refusal; and
 4. Information on how the parent can obtain a copy of the procedural safeguards specified in this rule.
 - (2) Content and Provision of the Procedural Safeguards to Parents.
 - (a) Parents must be provided a copy of their procedural safeguards which provides a full explanation of the provisions included in this rule.
 - (b) A copy of the procedural safeguards must be available to the parents of a child who is gifted, and must be given to the parents, at a minimum:
 1. Upon initial referral for evaluation;
 2. Upon refusal of a parent's request to conduct an initial evaluation;
 3. Upon notification of each EP meeting; and
 4. Upon receipt of a request for a due process hearing by either the school district or the parent in accordance with subsection (7) of this rule.
 - (3) Informed parental consent.
 - (a) Parents shall be fully informed of all information relevant to the action for which consent is sought in their native language or other mode of communication unless such communication is clearly not feasible.
 - (b) Written parental consent shall be obtained prior to conducting an initial evaluation to determine eligibility and prior to initial provision of services to students who are gifted.
 - (c) School districts shall document the attempts to secure consent from the parent as required by paragraph (3)(b) of this rule.
 - (d) Parental consent is voluntary and may be revoked at any time before the action occurs.
 - (e) Except for formal, individual evaluation and the initial provision of services to the student, consent may not be required as a condition of any other benefit to the parent or child. Any proposal or refusal to initiate or change the identification, evaluation, or educational placement or the provision of a free appropriate public education to the student after the initial placement is not subject to parental consent but is subject to prior notice as defined by subsection (1) of this rule.
 - (f) Parental consent is not required before:
 1. Reviewing existing data as part of an evaluation; or,
 2. Administering a test or other evaluation that is administered to all students unless, before administration of that test or evaluation, consent is required of parents of all children.
 - (4) Parents' opportunity to examine records and participate in meetings.
 - (a) The parents of students who are gifted shall be afforded, in accordance with Rule 6A-1.0955, FAC., Section 1002.22, Florida Statutes, and this rule, an opportunity to inspect and review their child's educational records.
 - (b) The right to inspect and review education records under this rule includes the right to have a representative of the parent inspect and review the records including all records related to the identification, evaluation, and educational placement of the child and the provision of a free appropriate public education to the child.
 - (c) The parents of a student who is gifted must be afforded an opportunity to participate in meetings with respect to the development of their child's educational plan.
 - (5) Evaluations obtained at private expense. If the parent obtains an independent evaluation at private expense which meets the requirements of subsection (4) of Rule 6A-6.0331, FAC., the results of the evaluation must be considered by the school district in any decision made with the respect to the determination of eligibility for exceptional student education services.
 - (a) The results of such evaluation may be presented as evidence at any hearing authorized under subsection (7) of this rule.
 - (b) If an administrative law judge requests an independent educational evaluation as part of a hearing, the cost of the evaluation must be at public expense, as defined in paragraph (7)(c) of Rule 6A-6.03411, FAC.
 - (6) State Complaint Procedures. The Department of Education shall provide parents and other interested persons the opportunity to resolve allegations that a school district has violated state requirements regarding the education of students who are gifted through the establishment of state complaint procedures.
 - (a) Within ninety (90) calendar days after a complaint is filed, under the provisions of this rule, the Department of Education shall:
 1. Carry out an independent on-site investigation, if the Department of Education determines that to be necessary;
 2. Give the complainant the opportunity to submit additional information, either orally or in writing, about the allegations in the complaint;
 3. Review all relevant information and make an independent determination as to whether the school district is violating a state requirement regarding the education of students who are gifted;
 4. Issue a written decision on the complaint that addresses each issue presented in the complaint and contains findings of fact, conclusions, and the reason(s) for the Department of Education's final decision; and
 5. Extend the time limit established in paragraph (6)(a) of this rule if exceptional circumstances exist with respect to a particular complaint.
 - (b) Procedures for the effective implementation of the Department of Education's final decision include the following:
 1. Technical assistance activities;
 2. Negotiations; and,
 3. Corrective actions to achieve compliance.
 - (c) Relationship to due process hearings.
 1. If a written complaint is received that is also the subject of a due process hearing requested pursuant to subsection (7) of this rule, or the complaint contains multiple issues, of which one or more are part of that hearing, the Department of Education shall set aside any part of the complaint that is being addressed in the due process hearing until the conclusion of the hearing. However, any issue in the complaint that is not a part of the due process action must be resolved in compliance with the procedures described in subsection (6) of this rule.
 2. If an issue is raised in a complaint filed under this subsection that has previously been decided in a due process hearing involving the same parties, the administrative law judge's decision is binding and the Department of Education shall inform the complainant to that effect.
 3. The Department of Education shall resolve any complaint that alleges that a school district has failed to implement a due process hearing decision.
 - (7) Due process hearings. Due process hearings shall be available to parents of students who are gifted and to school districts to resolve matters related to the identification, evaluation, or educational placement of the student or the provision of a free appropriate public education.

(a) Such hearings may be initiated by a parent or a school district on the proposal or refusal to initiate or change the identification, evaluation, or educational placement of the student or the provision of a free appropriate public education to the student.

(b) A hearing shall be conducted by an administrative law judge from the Division of Administrative Hearings, Department of Management Services, on behalf of the Department of Education.

(c) An administrative law judge (ALJ) shall use subsection (7) of this rule for any such hearings and shall conduct such hearings in accordance with the Uniform Rules for Administrative Proceedings, Chapter 28-106, FAC., as deemed appropriate by the ALJ including, but not limited to: the authority of a party to request a pre-hearing conference, the authority of the ALJ to issue subpoenas to compel the attendance of witnesses and the production of records, and the authority of the ALJ to issue summary rulings in absence of a disputed issue of material fact.

(d) Status of student during proceedings.

1. During the time that an administrative or subsequent judicial proceeding regarding a due process hearing is pending, unless the district and the parent of the student agree otherwise, the student involved in the proceeding must remain in the present educational assignment. If the proceeding involves an application for an initial admission to public school, the student, with the consent of the parent, must be placed in a public school program until the completion of all proceedings.

2. If the administrative law judge agrees with the parent and finds that a change of placement is appropriate, that placement becomes the agreed-upon placement during the pendency of the appeal.

(e) Hearing rights for all parties.

1. Any party to a hearing conducted pursuant to subsection (7) of this rule has the right:

a. To be represented by counsel or to be represented by a qualified representative under the qualifications and standards set forth in Rules 28-106.106 and 28-106.107, FAC., or to be accompanied and advised by individuals with special knowledge or training with respect to the problems of students who are gifted, or any combination of the above;

b. To present evidence, and to confront, cross-examine, and compel the attendance of witnesses;

c. To prohibit the introduction of any evidence at the hearing that has not been disclosed to that party at least five (5) business days before the hearing;

d. To obtain written, or at the option of the parents, electronic, verbatim record of the hearing at no cost to the parents; and

e. To obtain written, or at the option of the parents, electronic findings of fact and decisions at no cost to the parents.

2. Additional disclosure of information.

a. At least five (5) business days prior to a hearing conducted pursuant to subsection (7) of this rule, each party shall disclose to all other parties all evaluations completed by that date and recommendations based on the offering party's evaluations that the party intends to use at the hearing.

b. An administrative law judge may bar any party that fails to comply with subparagraph (7)(e)2. of this rule from introducing the relevant evaluation or recommendation at the hearing without the consent of the other party.

(f) Parental rights at hearings. Parents involved in hearings must be given, in addition to the rights described in paragraph (7)(e) of this rule, the right to:

1. Have their child who is the subject of the hearing present; and

2. Open the hearing to the public.

(g) Duties and responsibilities of the superintendent or designee shall include:

1. Implementing procedures that require the parent of a child who is gifted, or the attorney representing the child, to provide notice to the school district. The notice required, which must remain confidential, must include: the name of the child; the address of the residence of the child; the name of the school the child is attending; a description of the nature of the problem relating to the proposed or refused initiation or change, including facts relating to the problem; and, a proposed resolution of the problem to the extent known and available to the parents at the time. However, the school district may not deny or delay a parent's right to a due process hearing for failure to provide this notice.

2. Immediately forwarding the Division of Administrative Hearings by facsimile transmission of the parent's request for a hearing upon its receipt;

3. Notifying all parties regarding their rights and responsibilities before, during, and after the hearing. This notice should include information to the parent of any free or low cost legal and other relevant services, which are available, if the parent requests this information or if the parent or school district initiates a hearing.

4. Determining whether an interpreter is needed and arranging for the interpreter as required;

5. Complying with the administrative law judge's rulings regarding requests for and exchanges of evidence; discovery; the filing of motions and, scheduling, so as to meet the requirements of this rule, and the deadlines established herein.

6. Arranging for the provision and payment of clerical assistance, the hearing, use of facilities, and a verbatim transcript of the hearing;

7. Completing other responsibilities specified by the school board.

(h) Duties and responsibilities of the Department of Education shall include:

1. Maintaining a list of persons who serve as administrative law judges including a statement of the qualifications of each of these persons; and,

2. Maintaining an index of the final orders of such hearings and providing this information to the public upon request.

(i) Duties and responsibilities of an administrative law judge shall be:

1. To establish the date, time, and location of the hearing and any pre-hearing conference calls and motion hearings. Each hearing involving oral arguments must be conducted at a time and place that is reasonably convenient to the parents and their child;

2. To conduct the hearing in a fair and impartial manner;

3. To ensure that all discovery, motion practice, and pre-hearing procedures are conducted in an expedited manner, consistent with the deadlines established by this rule concerning the exchange of evidence and the issuance of the final decision.

4. To determine if the parent wants an electronic or written copy of the final decision and the administrative record of the hearing;

5. To determine whether the parent wants the hearing open to the public and whether the parent wants their child to attend the hearing;

6. To determine whether the parent's advisor or representative is sufficiently knowledgeable about or trained regarding students who are gifted;

7. To determine how evidence may be exchanged prior to and during the hearing;

8. To determine how witnesses may be compelled to attend, be cross-examined, and confronted during discovery and at the hearing;

9. To determine how evaluations and recommendations may be disclosed prior to and during a hearing;

10. To summarize the facts and findings of the case and to arrive at an impartial decision based solely on information presented during the hearing;

11. To reach a final decision and mail to all parties copies of the facts, findings and decision regarding the hearing within forty-five (45) days of the district's receipt of the parent's request or the filing of the district's request for a hearing, whichever is sooner;

12. To be accountable for compliance with all deadlines and procedures established by the statutes and rules for such hearings;

13. To maintain the confidentiality of all information; and

14. To rule on requests for specific extensions of time beyond the periods set forth in subsection (7) of this rule, at the request of either party.

(j) Civil action. A decision made in a hearing conducted under subsection (7) of this rule shall be final, unless, within thirty (30) days, a party aggrieved by the decision brings a civil action in state circuit court without regard to the amount in controversy, as provided in Section 1003.57(5), Florida Statutes. The state circuit court shall: receive the records of the administrative proceedings; hear, as appropriate, additional evidence at the request of a party; and, basing its decision on the preponderance of the evidence, shall grant the relief it determines appropriate. In the alternative, any party aggrieved by the administrative law judge's decision shall have the right to request an impartial review by the appropriate district court of appeal as provided by Sections 120.68 and 1003.57(5), Florida Statutes.

Specific Authority 1001.02(1)(2)(n), 1003.01(3)(a)(b), 1003.57(5) FS. Law Implemented 1001.42(4)(l) 1003.01(3)(a)(b), 1003.57(5), 1001.03(8) FS. History New 9-20-2004.

Appendix B

Unique Philosophical, Curricular, or Instructional Considerations

The school district has included as an attachment additional information related to evaluations; qualified evaluators; or philosophical, curricular, or instructional considerations for the exceptionalities identified below:

Section

II.B.1 Autism Spectrum Disorder

- Evaluations Qualified Evaluators
 Unique Philosophical, Curricular or Instructional Considerations

II.B.2 Deaf or Hard-of-Hearing

- Evaluations Qualified Evaluators
 Unique Philosophical, Curricular or Instructional Considerations

II.B.3 Developmental Delays

- Evaluations Qualified Evaluators
 Unique Philosophical, Curricular or Instructional Considerations

II.B.4 Dual-Sensory Impairments

- Evaluations Qualified Evaluators
 Unique Philosophical, Curricular or Instructional Considerations

II.B.5 Emotional/Behavioral Disabilities

- Evaluations Qualified Evaluators
 Unique Philosophical, Curricular or Instructional Considerations

II.B.6 Established Conditions

- Evaluations Qualified Evaluators
 Unique Philosophical, Curricular or Instructional Considerations

II.B.7 Homebound or Hospitalized

- Evaluations Qualified Evaluators
 Unique Philosophical, Curricular or Instructional Considerations

II.B.8 Intellectual Disabilities

- Evaluations Qualified Evaluators
 Unique Philosophical, Curricular or Instructional Considerations

II.B.9 Physically Impaired with Orthopedic Impairment

- Evaluations Qualified Evaluators
 Unique Philosophical, Curricular or Instructional Considerations

II.B.10 Physically Impaired with Other Health Impairment

- Evaluations Qualified Evaluators
- Unique Philosophical, Curricular or Instructional Considerations

II.B.11 Physically Impaired with Traumatic Brain Injury

- Evaluations Qualified Evaluators
- Unique Philosophical, Curricular or Instructional Considerations

II.B.12 Specific Learning Disabilities

- Evaluations Qualified Evaluators
- Unique Philosophical, Curricular or Instructional Considerations

II.B.13 Speech and Language Impairments

- Evaluations Qualified Evaluators
- Unique Philosophical, Curricular or Instructional Considerations

II.B.14 Visual Impairments

- Evaluations Qualified Evaluators
- Unique Philosophical, Curricular or Instructional Considerations

II.B.15 Related Services – Occupational Therapy

- Evaluations Qualified Evaluators
- Unique Philosophical, Curricular or Instructional Considerations

II.B.16 Related Services – Physical therapy

- Evaluations Qualified Evaluators
- Unique Philosophical, Curricular or Instructional Considerations

II.D. Individual Educational Plans (IEPs)

- Development and implementation

II.G. Prekindergarten Children with Disabilities

- Evaluations Qualified Evaluators
- Unique Philosophical, Curricular or Instructional Considerations

III.A. Gifted

- Evaluations Qualified Evaluators
- Unique Philosophical, Curricular or Instructional Considerations

Appendix C
District Plan to Increase the Participation of
Underrepresented Students in the Program for Gifted Students

1. Current Status

Category	All Students #	Gifted Students #	Gifted Students %**
Total Student Population			
Limited English Proficient*			
Low Socio-Economic Status Family			

* Limited English proficient students are those who are coded as "LY," "LN," "LP," or "LF"

** % of gifted students equals the # of gifted students within a category divided by the total number of students within that category

2. District Goal

In the space below, provide the district's goal to increase the participation of students from underrepresented groups in programs for gifted students, including which category(ies) are targeted.

The district's plan addressing each of the following areas is included as an attachment:

3. Screening and Referral Procedures

- A description of the screening and referral procedures that will be used to increase the number of students referred for evaluation

4. Student Evaluation Procedures

- A description of the evaluation procedures and measurement instruments that will be used

5. Eligibility Criteria

- A description of the criteria, based on the student's demonstrated ability or potential in the specific areas of leadership, motivation, academic performance, and creativity, that will be applied to determine the student's eligibility; if a matrix is used when determining eligibility, a copy is included as an attachment:

6. Instructional Program Modifications and/or Adaptations

- A description of the instructional program modifications and/or adaptations that will be implemented to ensure successful and continued participation of students from under-represented groups in the existing instructional program for gifted students

7. District Evaluation Plan

- A description of the district's plan used to evaluate its progress toward increasing participation by students from under-represented groups in the program for gifted students

Appendix C

Revision of Plan to Increase Access of Under Represented Students in Gifted Programs

Gifted Rule 6A-6.03019

Clay County District Schools
Exceptional Student Education

District Goal

The Clay County District School System implemented the district approved Plan B Gifted Eligibility Criteria for students from under represented groups during the 1991-1992 school year. Since implementation, Clay County has increased the population of students from under represented groups in the gifted program. The plan is revised regularly to reflect best practices in identification and screening.

Current Gifted membership, from 2008 survey 2, is noted below:

Category	All Students	Gifted Students	% Gifted Students
Total Student Population	36490	1689	4.63
Limited English Proficient	842	16	1.90
Low Socioeconomic Status Family	11566	306	2.65

According to Rule 6A-6.03019(2)(b)(1), Florida Administrative Code (FAC), under represented groups include students who are limited English proficient or from a low socioeconomic status family.

Pursuant to the eligibility provisions of Rule 6A-6.03019(2)(b)2, FAC, the goal of the procedure is to achieve a representation of eligible students in programs for the gifted that is representative of the student population in the Clay County District Schools. The Clay County plan will target students from both of these groups.

The long term district goal for Clay County is to achieve proportional representation in the gifted program of all currently under represented populations.

Screening and Referral Procedures

Screening and referral procedures will identify a pool of potentially gifted students who demonstrate superior abilities and performance in the areas of leadership, motivation, academic achievement, and creativity. Screening and referral procedures will be used to increase the number of students from all under represented groups who will be referred for evaluation. The responsibility for screening will be assigned to the Student Services Team (SST) in each school. This team reviews available data on students and makes recommendations about meeting the needs of those students. The SST has the authority to refer students for ESE evaluation despite the students' scores on various screening instruments. It is anticipated that some students who have not previously met screening cut-off scores for gifted evaluation will now be referred for consideration. It should be noted that Gifted referrals are only required to be presented to the SST if the cut-off scores have not been met, offering yet another opportunity for student to move past screening to evaluation. The guidance counselor in each school coordinates all screening and referral activities. Parental permission for all screening and evaluation activities will

be obtained prior to any assessment. Under represented students may be nominated for consideration by any of the following screening processes:

- (1) All ESL students will be screened by either the English as a Second Language (ESL) teacher or classroom teacher, using the Gifted Traits Screening Checklist (GTSC) (see page 7). A score of 3 or greater will be sufficient for further consideration. This screening will take place after the teacher has had at least six weeks of contact with the student.
- (2) Classroom teachers may nominate students regardless of achievement test scores by completing the GTSC. A score of 3 or greater will be sufficient for further consideration. This screening may be completed after the teacher has had at least six or more weeks of contact with the student.
- (3) Parents may refer their child by completing the Gifted Checklist, Parent Form. A score of ten (10) or greater will be sufficient for further consideration (see page 8).
- (4) Any member of the school or community may nominate a student by completing the Gifted Checklist, Community Member Form. This includes school volunteers and community service organizations. A score of nine (9) or greater will be sufficient for further consideration (see page 9).
- (5) Pilot studies are in progress, in conjunction with guidance from the Working on Gifted Issues (WOGI) project, to screen first grade students at selected schools with non-verbal instruments, including the Naglieri Nonverbal Ability Test® - Second Edition (NNAT® - 2).

A screening checklist has been developed to identify the gifted traits which are representative of high functioning student from underrepresented populations. The GTSC will be completed by a teacher who is well acquainted with the student. The individual completing the GTSC might be the current classroom teacher, a resource teacher, or the prior year's instructor.

The completed GTSC will be reviewed by the Student Services Team or school guidance counselor, as appropriate. Ratings are on a scale of zero to four. A score of zero indicated the trait was unable to be observed. The ratings are tallied and the sum is recorded. The number of responses with a score of 1 or greater is determined. This is the count. The sum is then divided by the count to obtain the total scores. A total score of 3 or higher indicates that the student is demonstrating traits consistent with those of a gifted learn, and is an indicator that further screening and/or evaluation for gifted placement should be pursued.

Student Evaluation

The Plan B Gifted Eligibility Matrix (see page 10) will be utilized in determining eligibility for placement in the gifted program. The Plan B Gifted Eligibility Matrix will include measures of intellectual development, academic performance, leadership, motivation, creativity and environmental factors through the following means:

Academic Performance

Academic Performance is determined by student grades. Grades are reported in four core curriculum areas: reading, math, science and social studies. Scores are reported on a four point scale. The minimum consideration of eligibility on the Plan B Gifted Eligibility Matrix is a 1.0, which yields a rating of one (1).

Leadership, Motivation and Creativity

A Revision of the Scales for Rating the Behavioral Characteristics of Superior Students (Joseph S. Renzulli, Linda H. Smith, et. al.) will be used to evaluate the student's demonstrated ability or potential in the areas of leadership, motivation, and creativity. The student will be rated by educators with primary observational opportunities. Any number of educators may rate the student. If these scales are completed by multiple observers, the scores will be averaged. Observation of the student will be the most important factor in completing the checklist. The minimum score for consideration of eligibility on the Plan B Gifted Eligibility Matrix is 55, which yields a rating of one (1) (see page 11).

Individual Intellectual Assessment

An individual intellectual assessment will be administered by a psychologist. Test selection will depend on the background of the student, and the professional judgment of the school psychologist. Partial scores may be used, if prior conditions are determined to exist. The minimum score for consideration of eligibility on the Plan B Gifted Eligibility Matrix is 115, which yields a rating of one (1).

Intellectual measures may include, but are not limited to:

- (a) Weschler Intelligence Scales
- (b) Stanford Binet Intelligence Scale, Fourth Edition (SB-IV)
- (c) Kaufman Assessment Battery for Children (K-ABC)
- (d) Leiter International Performance Scale (Leiter-R)
- (e) Differential Abilities Seales (DAS)
- (f) Reynolds Individual Assessment Seales

Environmental Indicators

Environmental factors known to play a significant role in the expression of giftedness will be reviewed by the Eligibility Staffing Committee. These factors will be considered: English proficiency and socio-economic status as measured by free or reduced lunch count. One point for membership in each group will be awarded on the Plan B Gifted Eligibility Matrix. The minimum score for consideration of eligibility on the Plan B Gifted Eligibility Matrix is one (1) point.

Eligibility

A student is eligible for the gifted program in accordance with:

1. Eligibility under 2(a) of State Board Rule 6A-6.03019, FAC
or
2. Eligibility under 2(b) of State Board Rule 6A-6.03019, FAC.

Students eligible under 2(b) will be considered for placement upon completion of the Plan Be Gifted Eligibility Matrix. Gifted eligibility requires a total score of nine (9) or more points and the student must meet the minimum eligibility requirements in each of the four categories on the Plan B Gifted Eligibility Matrix: Intellectual Abilities, Grades, Gifted characteristics, and Environmental Indicators.

Instructional Program Modifications or Adaptations

Rule 6A-6.3019(2)(b)2.3, FAC, Instructional program modifications or adaptations to ensure successful and continued participation of students from under represented groups in the existing instructional program for gifted students.

Philosophy

The philosophy of the Clay County District Schools is reflected in the following mission statement:

“The Clay County School District, in partnership with the entire community, is dedicated to providing a quality education in a safe, inviting environment so that all students learn and become successful, responsible citizens.”

The affective, cognitive and behavioral aspects of a student’s education must be addressed to realize this mission. These aspects of gifted education can be addressed most effectively by recognizing the diversity within and between cultural groups.

Curriculum

The goals of the instructional program will correspond with the goals identified in the Sunshine State Standards, curriculum developed as a result of Project GAGE: Greater Accountability in Gifted Education and the Duval County Gifted Curriculum project. When necessary, program modifications will be made to meet the needs of students with particular learning styles and cultural values.

Program expectations will not be lowered for Plan B students. Instead, adaptations will build on the identified needs and characteristics of students from under represented groups as identified in the information compiled by the Working on Gifted Issues (WOGI) Challenge Grants.

The goals of the gifted program for under represented students will focus on the development of abilities valued by them, by their culture, and necessary for successful participation in society. The curriculum will focus on the positive talents of each gifted child. Instructional strategies will include:

- a. Individual and small group projects based on the student's interest
- b. Community exploration and service
- c. Creative physical expression
- d. Counseling
- e. Challenging subject area and interdisciplinary courses
- f. Research strategies
- g. Parent involvement and information

Instructional Support

To ensure successful and continued participation of students from under represented groups, instructional support will be provided within the school system and the community. Additional support will include:

- a. Staff development for teachers and counselors
- b. Workshops for parents
- c. Partnerships between school and community
- d. Access to technology
- e. Materials and services provided by FDLRS (Florida Diagnostic and Learning Resource System) and other agencies

Evaluation Design

Evaluation of nomination, screening, and identification procedures is an ongoing process.

Specific data, as it related in reaching the stated district goal in identifying under represented gifted students, will be compiled annually. The data collected will be used to compare the incident rate of identified gifted students in each category (free or reduced lunch and Limited English Proficient). This data forms the basis our District Plan to Increase Access of under Represented Students in Gifted Programs and utilized as part of the continuous improvement process.

Gifted Forms

SCHOOL DISTRICT OF CLAY COUNTY, FLORIDA

Gifted Traits Screening Checklist (GTSC)

Plan A or B

(Circle one)

Student Name _____ Grade _____ School _____

Date of Birth _____ Teacher Name _____

Check applicable categories: LEP student Free or reduced lunch

This inventory has been devised to measure the traits which best describe the student's functioning level. Indicate the degree to which the student exhibits the following traits. Mark all items.

Rating Code:

- 4 = Consistently exhibits this trait
- 3 = Often exhibits this trait
- 2 = Sometimes exhibits this trait
- 1 = Rarely/Never exhibits this trait
- 0 = Not able to observe

Verbal, Learning, and Motivation **Rating**

Has an enriched vocabulary	
Asks unusual questions to find out more information	
Expresses ideas well	
Elaborates on questions or information	
Exhibits quick mastery of skills	
Has long-term recall of information	
Has interest in how things work	
Has the ability to see relationships and make connections	
Is able to retain more information with less repetition	
Displays creativeness, originality, putting things and ideas together in novel ways	
Has a lot of information about one topic	
Has a questioning attitude	
Signals perfectionistic tendencies	
Likes to solve puzzles and trick questions	
Has a wide range of interests	
Performs well mathematically	
Stays with a project until it is completed	
Sets high standards for self	
Is inquisitive	
Has a tendency to lose awareness of time; intense concentration	
Becomes easily impatient with drill and routine procedures	
Is persistent	
Has keen powers of observation	
Requires little direction	

Social Abilities, Leadership and Creativity **Rating**

Tends to dominate peers	
Has unusual, often highly developed sense of humor	
Is independent	
Often finds and corrects own or others' mistake	
Is anxious to complete tasks	
Is often overly sensitive	
Adapts readily to new situations	
Is well-liked by classmates and demonstrates leadership	
Carries responsibility well	
Is self-confident with own age group	
Is cooperative with teacher and classmates	
Makes up games and activities displaying imagination	
Expresses original ideas in other ways	
Demonstrates ability to express feelings and emotions	
Is articulate in role playing and storytelling	
Displays a richness in imaginary and informal language	
Demonstrates ability in fine or practical arts	

Total score is determined by dividing the sum of ratings with the number of responses with a one (1) or greater rating.

SUM

÷ by COUNT (1 or greater)

= TOTAL SCORE

SIGNATURE OF PERSON COMPLETING FORM DATE

PRINT NAME AND TITLE

CLAY COUNTY DISTRICT SCHOOLS
Exceptional Student Education

Gifted Checklist

Parent Form

Child's Name _____ Teacher _____

Please return this form to your child's teacher. Mark one response for each behavior.

My Child:	Almost Always	Often	Sometimes	Hardly Ever	Almost Never
1. Asks a lot of questions					
2. Tries to solve problems and figure things out					
3. Has many ideas and has a lot to say					
4. Is interested in many things					
5. Learns faster than others					
6. Likes to make new things and/or tell stories					
7. Is not afraid to be different					
8. Does not mind working alone					
9. Is imaginative (likes to pretend)					
10. Likes to play with other children					
11. Influences others					
12. Likes to help others					
13. Can make good choices					
14. Is popular with others (children and/or adults)					
15. Likes school					
16. Is good at art or drawing cartoons					
17. Is good at music and/or dance					

Parent Signature _____ Date _____

Address _____ Phone _____

Comments: _____

The statements will assist in determining your child's educational/intellectual needs. For each statement, indicate the degree to which this characteristic has been observed. Please consider each answer carefully.

CLAY COUNTY DISTRICT SCHOOLS
Exceptional Student Education
Gifted Checklist
Community Member Form

Child's Name _____ Teacher _____

Please return this form to _____ School. Mark one response for each behavior.

This child:	Almost Always	Often	Sometimes	Hardly Ever	Almost Never
1. Likes to help others					
2. Is popular with a variety of people					
3. Thinks of creative ways to do things					
4. Influences others to join in activities					
5. Has a lot of energy					
6. Adapts easily to new situations					
7. Has an adult understanding of the world					
8. Has a good sense of humor					
9. Is involved in community activities					
10. Has a keen sense of fairness and justice					
11. Is not afraid of being different					
12. Shows imagination					
13. Is curious					
14. Enjoys music and/or dance					
15. Has a variety of interests, hobbies, or talents					
16. Is good at sports					

Signature _____ Date _____

Relationship to child _____

Address _____ Phone _____

Comments: _____

The statements will assist in determining your child's educational/intellectual needs. For each statement, indicate the degree to which this characteristic has been observed. Please consider each answer carefully.

**SCHOOL DISTRICT OF CLAY COUNTY, FLORIDA
PLAN B GIFTED ELIGIBILITY MATRIX**

Student Name: _____ Date of Eligibility Staffing: _____

Birth Date: _____ Grade: _____ Student #: _____ School: _____

See Directions Below

Matrix Area	Weight				Score (Circle)
Indicators	4	3	2	1	
Intellectual Abilities	Full Scale Score				0
Intelligence Test _____					1
Test Date: _____					2
Verbal Score: _____					3
Performance Score: _____	126-129+	122-125	118-121	115-117	4
Full Scale Score: _____					
Grades	Total Score				
Record the grade in each subject for the past four grading periods					
Reading _____					
Math _____					
Science _____					0
Social Studies _____					
Count the number of: As and multiply by 4					1
Bs and multiply by 3					
Cs and multiply by 2	3.5 – 4.0	3.01 – 3.49	2.1 – 3.0	1.0 – 2.0	2
Ds and multiply by 1					3
Total and divide by the number of all grades. Total Score: _____					4
[Example: 13 As, 1 B and 2 Cs (13*4) + (1*3) + (2*2) = 59/16 = 3.69 (Total Score)]					
Note: Cross-reference kindergarten grade S = A/B, N = B/C, U = Not scored.					
Gifted Characteristics	Total Score				0
Date of Assessment: _____					1
Motivation Score: _____ of 44					2
Creativity Score: _____ of 36	95-108	81-94	67-80	55-66	3
Leadership Score: _____ of 28					4
Total Score: _____ of 108					
Environmental Indicators					0
One point for each category					1
Receives free or reduced lunch _____			2	1	2
Limited English Proficient _____					

Directions – If the student meets one of the indicators on the chart, circle each indicator met.

Total Score

Eligibility requires a total score of nine (9) or higher and a minimum rate of one (1) in each category.

**A REVISION OF THE SCALES FOR RATING THE BEHAVIORAL
CHARACTERISTICS OF SUPERIOR STUDENTS**

Joseph S. Renzulli, Linda H. Smith, et. al.
Modified by School District of Clay County

Name _____ Date _____

School _____ Grade _____ Age _____
Year/Month

Teacher or person completing this form _____

How long have you know this child? _____

DIRECTIONS: These scales are designed to obtain teacher estimates of a student's characteristics in the areas of motivation, creativity, and leadership. The items are derived from the research literature dealing with characteristics of gifted and creative persons. It should be pointed out that a considerable amount of individual differences can be found within this population and, therefore, the profiles are likely to vary a great deal. Each item in the scales should be considered separately and should reflect the degree to which you have observed the presence or absence of each characteristic. Please read the statements carefully and place an X in the appropriate place according to the following scale of values:

1. If you have seldom or never observed this characteristic
2. If you have observed this characteristic occasionally
3. If you have observed this characteristic to a considerable degree
4. If you have observed this characteristic almost all of the time

SCORING: Separate scores for each of the three dimensions may be obtained as follows:

...Add the total number of X's in each column to obtain the "Column Total."

...Multiply the Column Total by the "Weight" for each column to obtain the "Weighted Column Total."

...Sum the Weighted Column Totals across to obtain the "Score" for each dimension of the scale.

...Enter the scores below.

Motivational Characteristics	_____
Creativity Characteristics	_____
Leadership Characteristics	_____
Rating Total	_____

Original- School Copy 1- Referral

ESE-2-9088

Student Name _____

**A REVISION OF THE SCALES FOR RATING THE BEHAVIORAL
CHARACTERISTICS OF SUPERIOR STUDENTS**

PART I: MOTIVATION CHARACTERISTICS

	Seldom or Never	Occasionally	Considerably	Almost Always
The student demonstrates...	1	2	3	4
1. the ability to concentrate intently on a topic for a long period of time.				
2. behavior that requires little direction from teachers.				
3. sustained interest in certain topics or problems.				
4. tenacity for finding out information on topics of interest.				
5. persistent work on tasks even when setbacks occur.				
6. a preference for situations in which he or she can take personal responsibility for the outcomes of his or her efforts.				
7. follow-through behavior when interested in a topic or problem.				
8. intense involvement in certain topics or problems.				
9. a commitment to long term projects when interested in a topic.				
10. persistence when pursuing goals.				
11. little need for external motivation to follow through in work that is initially exciting.				
Column Total				
Weight	1	2	3	4
Weighted Column Total				
Total				

Original- School Copy 1- Referral

ESE-2-9088

Student Name _____

**A REVISION OF THE SCALES FOR RATING THE BEHAVIORAL
CHARACTERISTICS OF SUPERIOR STUDENTS**

PART II: CREATIVITY CHARACTERISTICS

	Seldom or Never	Occasionally	Considerably	Almost Always
The student demonstrates...	1	2	3	4
1. imaginative thinking ability.				
2. a sense of humor.				
3. the ability to come up with unusual, unique, or clever responses.				
4. an adventurous spirit or a willingness to take risks.				
5. the ability to generate a large number of ideas or solutions to problems or questions.				
6. a tendency to see humor in situations that may not appear to be humorous to others.				
7. the ability to adapt, improve, or modify objects or ideas.				
8. intellectual playfulness, willingness to fantasize, and manipulate ideas.				
9. a nonconforming attitude, does not fear being different..				
Column Total				
Weight	1	2	3	4
Weighted Column Total				
Total				

Original- School Copy 1- Referral

ESE-2-9088

Student Name _____

**A REVISION OF THE SCALES FOR RATING THE BEHAVIORAL
CHARACTERISTICS OF SUPERIOR STUDENTS**

PART III. LEADERSHIP CHARACTERISTICS

	Seldom or Never	Occasionally	Considerably	Almost Always
The student demonstrates...	1	2	3	4
1. responsible behavior; can be counted on to follow through on activities/projects.				
2. a tendency to be respected by classmates.				
3. the ability to articulate ideas and communicate well with others.				
4. self-confidence when interacting with age peers.				
5. the ability to organize and bring structure to things, people, and situations.				
6. cooperative behavior when working with others.				
7. a tendency to direct an activity when he or she is involved with others.				
Column Total				
Weight	1	2	3	4
Weighted Column Total				
Total				

Original- School Copy 1- Referral

ESE-2-9088