

Superintendent Procedure 2161SP Special Education and Related Services for Eligible Students



Approved by: s/Larry Nyland Date: 6/27/17

Dr. Larry Nyland, Superintendent

The purpose of the District's special education program procedures is to address program areas where state and federal regulations require specific local procedures or permit local discretionary choices.

The state regulations governing implementation of special education services pursuant to the Individuals with Disabilities Education Improvement Act (IDEA) of 2004 are addressed in Chapter 392-172A WAC. These procedures do not address all of the requirements established in the regulations. District personnel who are not familiar with the regulations need to contact the special education department's Executive Director or Director if there are questions regarding special education. These procedures describe how the District implements its special education program. District personnel are also directed to additional administrative procedures available in the Special Education Department that further describe how the District implements its special education program.

FREE APPROPRIATE PUBLIC EDUCATION (FAPE)

Services to eligible students with disabilities age three-to-21 will be provided without charge to the student. This does not include incidental fees that are normally charged to all students. Special education services will include preschool, elementary and secondary education and are provided in conformance with the student's Individual Education Program (IEP).

The District provides a continuum of services for students, regardless of the funding source. Where the District is unable to provide all or part of the special education or necessary related services, it will make arrangements through contracts with other public or non-public sources, inter-District agreements or interagency coordination.

Funding

The District will apply annually for Federal Part B and state special education funding to assist in the provision of special education and any necessary related services. This funding is in addition to students' basic education funding and state special education funding.

The Superintendent, in consultation with building staff, shall annually determine whether to use Early Intervening Services (EIS) funding for students 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.

Reporting

The District shall annually report to the Office of Superintendent of Public Instruction (OSPI) the number of students receiving EIS, as well as the number of students who received EIS and subsequently received special education and related services under Part B of IDEA during the preceding two-year period.

Students Covered by Public or Private Insurance

The District may use Medicaid or other public insurance benefits programs in which a student participates to provide or pay for services required to provide a FAPE, as permitted by the public insurance program. However, the District shall not:

- A. Require parents to sign up for or enroll in public benefits or insurance programs in order for their student to receive FAPE under Part B of the IDEA;
- B. 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;
- C. Use a student's benefits under a public insurance program if that use would:
 1. Decrease available lifetime coverage or any other insured benefit;
 2. Result in the family paying for services required after school hours that would otherwise be covered by the public insurance program;
 3. Increase premiums or result in discontinuation of insurance; or
 4. Risk loss of eligibility for home and community-based waivers, based on aggregate health-related expenditures.

The District may access a parent's private insurance proceeds to provide FAPE to an eligible student only if the parent provides informed consent to the District. Whenever the District proposes to access the parent's private insurance proceeds, the District shall:

- A. Obtain parent consent in accordance with Chapter 392-172A WAC each time the District wishes to access benefits for a new procedure; and
- B. Inform the parents that their refusal to permit the District to access their insurance does not relieve the District of its responsibility to ensure that all required services are provided at no cost to the parents.

Before first accessing a parent's or student's public benefits, for the first time and annually after the first notification, the District will provide written notification using the prior written notice provisions under WAC 392-172A-05010(3) that includes:

- A. a statement of the parental consent provisions;
- B. a statement of the "no cost" provisions;
- C. a statement that the parents may withdraw their consent to disclose personally identifiable information to the agency responsible for administering the state's public benefits or insurance, and
- D. a statement that a parent's withdrawal or refusal to consent does not relieve the school district of its responsibility to ensure that all required services are provided at no cost to the parents.

After providing the required notification, the District will obtain written informed consent from the parent allowing the District to disclose information from the student's

educational records to the agency responsible for administering the state's public benefits or insurance programs. The consent will specify:

1. The personally identifiable information that may be disclosed, such as records or information about the services that may be provided to the student;
2. The purpose of the disclosure;
3. The agency to which the disclosure will be made; and

That the parent understands and agrees that the public agency may access the parent's or student's public benefits or insurance to pay for services under the act.

To avoid financial cost to parents who would otherwise consent to use private insurance or public benefits if the parent would incur a cost such as a deductible or co-pay, the District may use its Part B funds to pay the cost the parents would incur.

The IEP Case Manager is responsible for providing the required notices and requests for consent to parents under this section.

Graduation

Any student who is receiving special education or related services under an IEP pursuant to state and federal law, and who will continue to receive such services between the ages of 18 and 21 shall be allowed to participate in commencement ceremonies and activities in his/her fourth year of high school with his/her age-appropriate peers and receive a Certificate of Attendance.

Special education students may also choose to participate in commencement ceremonies and activities, and receive a Certificate of Attendance when their IEP team determines that they are no longer eligible for special education services and/or when they turn 21 years old. However, special education students shall be allowed to participate in commencement ceremonies and activities again if they subsequently meet state and District graduation requirements – including passage of State Assessments or approved options - after their fourth year of high school.

Earning a Certificate of Attendance:

For special education students who are unable to meet state and District graduation requirements, including passage of the HSPE or an Approved Alternative, the District can award the student with a Certificate of Attendance. Participation in a commencement ceremony and receipt of a Certificate of Attendance under this procedure does not preclude a student from continuing to receive special education and related services under an IEP beyond the commencement ceremony. A student's participation in a commencement ceremony and receipt of a Certificate of Attendance under this procedure shall not be construed as the student's receipt of either a high school diploma or a certificate of individual achievement.

Expected Graduation Year for Students with IEPs:

The student's IEP case manager shall set the student's EGY in the IEP if the student will turn 16 during the life of the IEP. The EGY may be entered for students 17 years of age or older if the plan is an Initial or first Review (the student is new to SPS or newly eligible). If

the student is younger than the age of 16, the EGY is optional. If the IEP team adjusts the Expected Graduation Year after the age of 16, it is for IEP planning purposes only and will not impact the original EGY reported to the State.

Parent/Family Participation in Meetings

The District encourages family involvement and sharing of information between District and parents/guardians to support the provision of appropriate services to its students.

As used in these procedures, the term “parent” means:

- Biological or adoptive parents;
- Foster parents;
- Legal guardians generally authorized to make educational decisions for the student, but not the state if the student is a ward of the state;
- Persons acting in the place of a parent, such as relatives and stepparents;
- Persons appointed as surrogate parents; or
- Adult students.

Parents (and as appropriate, students) will be provided the opportunity to participate in any meetings with respect to the identification, evaluation, educational placement and provision of a FAPE.

When a meeting is scheduled, parents will be:

- A. Notified of the meeting early enough that they will have an opportunity to attend; and
- B. Notified of the purpose, time, and location of the meeting and who will be in attendance.

When the meeting is to address the IEP or placement, the parent will be notified that the District or the parent may invite others who have knowledge or special expertise of the student. The meeting shall be scheduled at a mutually agreeable time and place.

Parents Whose Native Language is not English

The District shall take whatever action is necessary to ensure that the parent understands the proceedings of the IEP team meeting or other meetings, including arranging for an interpreter for parents with deafness or whose native language is other than English.

Invitation to Parents

The student’s IEP Case Manager will keep documentation of the information provided and the methods used to notify the parents of the meeting. The District may proceed with the IEP or placement meeting if the District is not able to convince the parent to attend. In this case, the District will document its attempts to arrange the meeting. This documentation will include records of telephone calls and the results, copies of correspondence sent to the parent and/or other means used to contact the parent. This documentation will be kept in the student’s special education file. The student’s IEP Case Manager is responsible for initiating all elements of parent/guardian participation in meetings regarding a student’s services and for documenting and maintaining key paperwork.

If the parent cannot attend the IEP or other meeting but wishes to participate, the District will arrange for other means for the parent to participate, such as individual or conference phone calls.

An IEP meeting does not include: informal or unscheduled conversations involving District personnel; conversations of issues such as teaching methodology, lesson plans, or coordination of service provisions; or preparatory activities that District personnel engage in to develop a proposal or a response to a parent proposal to be discussed at a later meeting.

IDENTIFICATION AND REFERRAL (Child Find)

A. Identification

The purpose of Child Find is to locate, evaluate and identify children with suspected disabilities in need of special education services including those who are not currently receiving special education and related services and who may be eligible for those services. Activities are to reach:

1. Children residing in the school District boundaries including preschool-aged children;
2. Children attending approved, nonprofit private elementary and secondary schools located within the District boundaries;
3. Highly mobile children (such as homeless, foster care and migrant children);
4. Children who have a disability and may need special education services even though they are advancing from grade to grade; and
5. Children at home or home schooled.

The District will consult with parents and representatives of private school students to ensure its Child Find activities are comparable in approved, nonprofit private schools located within District boundaries. These consultations will occur at least twice a year at community meetings.

See the Special Education Administrative Procedure regarding Proportionate Share Budget and Consultation for additional information.

The District reaches students who may be eligible for special education services through:

1. Notification to parents of child find activities in its annual informational packet;
2. Notification to parents District-wide through local papers or other media;
3. Information regarding child find on the District's Web site;
4. Notification to private schools located in the District's boundaries;
5. District informational mailings;
6. Posting notices regarding screening and referral in school buildings and public locations including DSHS community service offices, Employment Security offices, grocery stores, laundromats, day cares, community preschool sites and physicians' offices;
7. Notifying and coordinating with the designated Part C lead agencies;

8. Early childhood screenings conducted by the District;
9. Coordination with other public and private agencies and practitioners;
10. Written information provided to District staff on referral procedures;
11. Training teachers and administrators on referral/evaluation/identification procedures;
12. Review of student behavior, discipline and absentee information and information gathered from District-wide assessment activities.

When District staff have concerns that a student may have a suspected disability which could result in eligibility for special education services, they will notify a member of the School/Student Intervention Team (SIT) or the District Child Find office.

Early Childhood Screenings

The District's special education department conducts early childhood screenings for ages birth-to-five. These occur weekly for birth-to-three and monthly for ages three-to-five at locations within the District. Inquiries about early childhood screening will be referred to the Preschool Assessment team.

The screening process involves the following:

1. Parents are asked to provide information to assist in assessing their child; and
2. Children are screened to assess cognitive, communication, physical, social-emotional and adaptive development.

Parents will be notified at the screening of the results and the parents will also be provided written notice of the results within ten days of the screening. If the screening supports evaluation, the case manager shall obtain written consent for evaluation at the exit interview if possible, or include consent forms with the written notice notifying the parents of the results. If the screening results indicate that the child does not need an evaluation, the case manager shall send written notice to the parents within 10 days of the screening explaining the basis for the District's decision not to evaluate. Evaluation occurs in accordance with evaluation procedures.

B. Referral

A student, whether or not enrolled in school, may be referred for a special education evaluation by parents, District staff or other persons knowledgeable about the student. Each building principal will designate a person responsible for ensuring that District staff understands the referral process. Special Education Supervisors and Programs Specialists, as well as School Psychologists, help school staff understand the referral process. Referrals are required to be in writing unless the person referring is unable to write. A person who makes a referral orally should be asked to either make the referral in writing or go to the main office of the building for assistance in making the referral.

When a referral is made, the District must act within 25 school-days to make a decision about whether or not the student will receive an evaluation for eligibility for special education services.

All employees will communicate to the appropriate case manager and/or the Student Intervention Team (SIT) member who will document referrals immediately upon a referral being made to the employees or by them. The appropriate Case Manager: (a) records the referral; (b) provides written notice of the referral to the parent; and (c)

advises the appropriate person (member of the School/Student Intervention team or potential Case Manager) to collect and review District data and information provided by the parent to determine whether evaluation is warranted.

During the referral period the Case Manager will collect and review existing information from all sources, including parents. Examples may include:

1. Child's history, including developmental milestones;
2. Report cards and progress reports;
3. Individual teacher's or other provider information regarding the child including observations;
4. Assessment data;
5. Medical information, if provided;
6. Other information that may be relevant to assist in determining whether the child should be evaluated.

If the review of data occurs at a meeting, the parent will be invited. Recommendations regarding evaluation are forwarded to the Case Manager. The Case Manager provides a Prior Written Notice to the parents of the decision regarding evaluation, whether or not the parents attend the meeting.

After staff members on the SIT team review the request for evaluation and supporting data and does not suspect that the child has a disability, the District may deny the request. In this case, a Prior Written Notice, including the reason for the denial and the information used as the basis for the denial, must be given to the parent.

If the determination is that the child should be evaluated, the reviewers shall include information about the recommended areas of evaluation, including the need for further medical evaluation of the student. This information will assist the District in providing parents prior written notice and will assist the District in selecting appropriate evaluation group members. The Case Manager is responsible for notifying parents of the results using a Prior Written Notice. When the determination is that the child will be evaluated, parent consent for evaluation and consent for release of appropriate records will be sent with the notice.

Parent Consent

The Case Manager will seek parental consent to conduct the evaluation. The school District is not required to obtain consent from the biological parent if:

1. The student is a ward of the state and does not reside with a parent;
2. The parent cannot be located, or his/her rights have been terminated; or
3. Consent for an evaluation is given by an individual appointed to represent the student.

When the parent provides consent, the District shall select an evaluation group. The evaluation group is to complete the evaluation within 35 school days after receiving written parent consent, unless:

1. The parents and District agree in writing to extending the timeline;
2. The parent fails or refuses to make the student available for the evaluation; or

3. The student enrolls in another school district after the evaluation is begun but before completion and the parent and new district have an agreement for completion of the evaluation.

If a parent does not provide written, informed consent for the evaluation, the Case Manager shall notify the appropriate regional Special Education Supervisor. District staff will make a determination as to whether or not to use mediation to seek agreement to evaluate or file a due process hearing to override the parent's refusal to consent. The District may not override a parent's refusal to consent for an evaluation if the student is homeschooled or is unilaterally placed in a private school. If the parent does not provide written informed consent and the District does not use mediation or due process, the school psychologist will provide the parent with prior written notice informing the parent that the district cannot proceed with the evaluation to determine eligibility and is not responsible for providing special education and related services without an initial evaluation to determine eligibility.

Evaluation of Students moving from Part C to Part B and Participation in Transition Planning Conferences

The District will participate in transition planning conferences, arranged by the local lead agency as designee of the Part C lead agency for each student who may be eligible for preschool services. Transition plans will be designed to promote uninterrupted provision of appropriate services to the child.

1. The Birth-to-Three Transition Coordinator will serve as the point of contact with the Family Resource Coordinator for timely execution of transition planning conferences that are arranged at least 90 days before the student's third birthday by the designee of the Part C agency;
2. The District will follow the procedures for obtaining consent and conducting an initial evaluation, if it determines that the student will be evaluated to determine eligibility for Part B services;
3. See the Special Education Administrative Procedure regarding Birth-to-Three Transition Procedures and Timelines for further information.

The District will follow the procedures for timelines and evaluation requirements for students moving from Part C to Part B except:

1. Students turning three, who were previously determined eligible for early intervention services under Part C of IDEA, will be evaluated for initial eligibility for special education services under Part B of IDEA. The evaluation must be completed in enough time to develop an initial IEP by the date of the student's third birthday.

Evaluation Requirements

The purpose of the evaluation is to collect information about a student's functional, developmental and academic skills and achievements from a variety of sources, to determine whether a student qualifies for special education and related services, and to develop an IEP. This includes information provided by the parent. All information

gathered in this process is reviewed by the IEP team or other group of qualified professionals.

The evaluation must be an individual assessment designed to determine:

- A. Whether the student is eligible for special education and any necessary related services; and
- B. The nature and extent of special education and related services needed by the student, including information related to enabling the child to be involved in and progress in the general education curriculum.

There are many legal requirements for conducting evaluations. Evaluation procedures or materials must be free of racial, cultural or sexual/gender bias and they must be used for the purpose for which they are valid and reliable. Tests must be appropriate for the student's age and stage of developmental level. Tests should be administered in the native language of the student or conducted in the mode of communication most familiar to the student. If it appears to be clearly not feasible to conduct a procedure or test in the mode of communication most frequently used by the student, the IEP team will contact the special education administrator to develop an individualized strategy for valid evaluation of the student's skills. The inclusion of parents in this collaboration is desirable and strongly encouraged.

Forming the Evaluation Team

The Case Manager shall select the members of the evaluation group. Members selected must be knowledgeable about the student and the areas of suspected disabilities. Qualifications of a group member include having the appropriate professional license or certification and may include outside practitioners when necessary. When assessing for specific learning disabilities, the parent and a group of qualified professionals must be part of the group. If the student requires a medical evaluation in order to determine eligibility, the District will coordinate with the parents to arrange for the evaluation at District expense or through the use of public or private insurance if the parent consents to allow the District to use the insurance.

Conducting the Evaluation

Specific areas to be included in the evaluation are determined by the evaluation team, including parents/guardians, and other qualified professionals, as appropriate, as part of a review of existing data concerning the student. The evaluation does not rely on one source or procedure as the sole criterion for determination, as appropriately determined by the team and as available, the team should include:

1. Review of existing data, including corresponding response to intervention (RTI) documentation;
2. Relevant functional and developmental information;
3. Information from parents;
4. Information from other providers;
5. Information related to enabling access to and progress within the general education curriculum, and assisting in determining whether there is a disability and the content of the IEP;
6. Current classroom-based evaluations, using criterion-referenced and curriculum-based methods, anecdotal records and observations;
7. Teacher and related service providers' observations; and

8. Testing and other evaluation materials, which may include medical or other evaluations when necessary.

All current evaluation data as well as data previously reviewed by the team must be considered. Professional members of the evaluation team need to be familiar with qualifying disability definitions and criteria in federal and state rules.

This review of existing data may be in the form of a meeting of IEP team members, or may be conducted without a meeting. It includes data provided by parents, data gathered in the general education classroom or from state and District level assessments. The data may provide information about the student's physical condition, social or cultural background, or adaptive behavior.

When additional assessments are necessary, the group members have the responsibility of selecting, administering, interpreting and making judgments about evaluation methods and results, and ensuring that the tests and assessments are administered by qualified personnel in accordance with the instructions of the test producer. The gathering of additional data in combination with existing data must be sufficiently comprehensive to address all areas of the suspected disability and any special education needs, whether linked to the disability category or not. If the IEP Team determines that no additional data are needed, the IEP team will notify the student's parent of that determination and the reasons for it, and inform them of their right to request additional assessments. The District will complete the evaluation using existing data.

Parents and District staff are encouraged to work towards consensus, but the school District has the ultimate responsibility to determine whether the student is eligible for special education and related services. The school psychologist will provide the parent with prior written notice of the eligibility decision, as well as a copy of the evaluation report. If the parent disagrees with the eligibility decision, they will be informed of their dispute resolution options described in the procedural safeguards.

Specific Learning Disability (SLD)

The District continues to use the severe discrepancy approach to identify students with a specific learning disability. Student response is only one element of determining whether a child has a specific learning disability. The evaluation will be comprehensive and address all areas of suspected disability and will also include whether the child performs adequately to meet the grade-level standards in the general curriculum and a determination that the failure to make progress is not the result of:

- A. A physical, mental, emotional, cultural or environmental factor or limited English proficiency; or
- B. Inadequate instruction in reading or mathematics.

The District must act promptly on a referral. Anyone, including parents and teachers, can make a referral at any time. A student cannot be required to progress through all levels of intervention before being evaluated if evidence exists to suspect a disability.

Evaluation of Transfer Students

If a student transfers into the District while an evaluation process is pending from another district, the Evaluation Case Manager assigned to Out-of-District IEP review, in cooperation with the regional Special Education Supervisor, is responsible for determining the status of evaluations conducted to date and making a determination as to whether the evaluation can be completed within the 35 school day timeline from the date the parent provided consent. If the determination is that additional time will be needed, the Evaluation Case Manager will notify the parent and obtain the parent's agreement to establish a new timeline.

Please see the Special Education Administrative Procedure regarding Out of District Transfer Students for additional information.

A. Eligibility

The evaluation group and the parents will determine whether or not the student is eligible for special education services.

A student is not eligible if the determinant factor is lack of appropriate instruction in reading or math, based upon the state's grade level expectations or limited English proficiency.

Eligibility may be determined by documented professional judgment when:

- Properly validated tests are unavailable; or
- Corroborating evidence indicates that results were influenced due to measuring a disability.

The parent will be provided with a copy of the evaluation report and the documentation of determination of eligibility. Parents will also be provided with prior written notice of the eligibility decision within ten school days of the decision. The Case Manager is responsible for sending this notice.

Students remain eligible for special education services until one of four events occur:

1. The student is determined through a reevaluation to no longer be eligible for special education;
2. The student has met the District's high school graduation requirements;
3. The student has reached age 21. A student with special needs whose 21st birthday occurs after August 31, shall continue to be eligible for special education and any necessary related services for the remainder of the school year; or
4. The student no longer receives special education services based upon a parent's written revocation of services.

When a student with special needs is expected to graduate prior to age 21, or when graduation is part of the transition plan, the IEP team will document a student's progress towards achieving course credits towards graduation on the transition portion of the IEP. The District will provide prior written notice to parents and adult students that the student is expected to graduate and will no longer be eligible for special education

services. The District will also provide the parents and student with a summary of academic achievement and functional performance and recommendations to assist the student with postsecondary goals.

B. Evaluation Report

Each person conducting an assessment of the student will specify the procedures and instruments used and their results and the significance of findings related to the student's instructional program, including a specification of the factors interfering with performance and the special education and related services needed.

The evaluation group will determine who is most appropriate to develop the evaluation report reflecting the evaluation information. This will be completed before the conclusion of the evaluation period and will, at a minimum:

1. Identify the disability which requires special education and related services, if a disability exists;
2. Discuss assessments and review data supporting conclusions regarding eligibility;
3. Include the additional information required for the specific learning disability eligibility category;
4. Describe how the disability or disabilities affect the student's involvement and progress in the general curriculum;
5. Make recommendations to the IEP team with respect to special education and related services needed, materials or equipment, instructional and curricular practices, student management strategies, the need for extended school year services beyond 180 school days and location of services;
6. Include other information, as determined through the evaluation process and parent input;
7. Include additional information required for the specific learning disability eligibility category;
8. Provide any necessary professional judgments and the facts or reasons in support of the judgments; and
9. Be signed and dated by the evaluation group members certifying their agreement. Any group member who disagrees with the conclusions shall prepare a statement presenting the conclusion.

The Case Manager is responsible for notifying parents of the date, time and location of evaluation meetings by following the procedures in the parent participation section for inviting parents to meetings. An invitation will be sent by US mail, e-mail, or delivered in person.

C. Reevaluations

A reevaluation of a student receiving special education or related services is conducted if academic achievement and functional performance has improved to warrant a reevaluation, if the IEP team suspects that the student may no longer be a student with a disability or if the child's parent or teacher requests a reevaluation.

A reevaluation will not occur more than once per year, unless the parent and District agree otherwise. A reevaluation must occur at least once every three years, unless the parent

and District agree that a reevaluation is unnecessary. An agreement that an evaluation is unnecessary shall be confirmed in writing to the parent. The Case Manager will schedule a review of this determination and notify the Special Education Department.

A reevaluation is required before making any significant changes in an eligible student's educational placement.

Students who turn six who met the eligibility requirements for the disability category of "Developmentally Delayed" (DD) under the criteria for ages three to six years need not be reevaluated at age six under the criteria for six to nine years until three years after their initial evaluation was completed. Students who were previously eligible under the category "Developmentally Delayed" must be reevaluated before age nine to determine eligibility within another category.

As part of any reevaluation, the IEP team members and other professionals the District determines appropriate will review existing data that includes:

1. Evaluations and information provided by the parents;
2. Current classroom-based assessment, local or state assessments and classroom-based observations; and
3. Observations by other teachers and related services providers.

Based on this review the team will determine whether any additional data is necessary to determine:

1. Whether the student continues to be eligible for special education and any necessary related services;
2. The present levels of performance and educational needs; and
3. Whether any additions or modifications to the student's program are needed.

This review can occur with or without a meeting or through individual review. If the IEP team members and any other persons reviewing the data determine that no further testing is necessary, the District will notify the parents of this determination, using a Prior Written Notice and will inform parents that they have the right to request assessments if they disagree with the determination that additional testing is not necessary.

Parent consent is not required if the reevaluation does not require additional testing. If additional testing is needed, the school psychologist will request written parental consent for reevaluation and will provide prior written notice identifying the areas of assessment. If the parents do not return the signed consent form, the District shall send another letter explaining the need for reevaluation and parent consent and will enclose another consent form and a copy of the prior written notice. In addition, the school psychologist will document his/her reasonable attempts to obtain consent such as telephone calls, emails, personal contact, and other efforts to obtain consent. If the parents do not respond to the request for consent, and the District has documented its reasonable attempts to obtain consent, the District can proceed with the reevaluation. If the parents refuse to consent to the reevaluation, the evaluation group will notify the Special Education Department so that the District can determine whether it will conduct a file review in lieu of a

comprehensive reevaluation, seek mediation in order to obtain consent, or request a due process hearing to ask an administrative judge to override the parents refusal to consent.

After the reevaluation is completed, the school psychologist will both invite parents to a meeting to review the results of the reevaluation, and will provide a Prior Written Notice after the meeting of the results of the reevaluation to parents in their primary language, indicating one or more of the following:

1. Whether the student continues to be eligible and in need of special education;
2. Present levels of performance and educational needs of the student; and
3. Whether any additions or modifications to the special education and related services are needed to enable the student to meet IEP annual goals and to participate, as appropriate, in the general curriculum.

This notice will occur within ten school days of the eligibility decision. The school psychologist is responsible for sending the notice.

D. Reevaluation and Graduation

No reevaluation is required when special education eligibility terminates due to graduation from high school with a regular diploma or due to reaching the end of the school year during which the student turned 21. Instead, the District will provide prior written notice to the student and the parent one month before the student's anticipated last day of school and the IEP team will provide the student with a summary of academic achievement and functional performance, including recommendations on how to assist the student in meeting post-secondary goals. The IEP Case Manager is responsible for assuring the IEP team completes the summary of academic achievement and functional performance.

Independent Educational Evaluations (IEE)

Parents of students eligible for special education, students referred for special education and determined to not be eligible, or students determined not to need an evaluation have a right to request in writing an IEE at public expense each time the District conducts or obtains an evaluation of the student.

When parents request an IEE, the District must decide within 15 calendar days whether or not it agrees to provide it. Any parent request for an independent evaluation should be immediately referred to the Special Education Department. A team shall review the request and determine whether or not the request is warranted. If the District agrees to provide an IEE, arrangements will be made promptly. If the District denies the request to pay for an IEE, it must file for a due process hearing within 15 calendar days of the parent's request. The District may request mediation as an option after filing the due process hearing. If the parents withdraw their request for an IEE, the due process hearing can be dismissed.

In response to the parent's request for an IEE, the District must provide the parent a copy of District criteria and the contact information for some evaluators. If the District initiates a hearing and a decision is made that the District's evaluation is appropriate, the parent still has the right to an IEE but not at public expense. A parent is only entitled to one IEE

at public expense each time the District conducts an evaluation with which the parent disagrees.

If the parent obtains an IEE at either public or private expense, any results of the IEE must be considered by the District if providing FAPE. The IEE may also be presented as evidence at a hearing regarding the student.

IEE Criteria

The following criteria are established for the selection of an individual to conduct an IEE at public expense. These criteria are established in order to identify the knowledge, experience and qualifications of individuals selected to conduct the evaluations. Any individual selected to conduct either a District evaluation or an IEE must be:

1. Licensed, credentialed or otherwise qualified within the state of Washington or state of residence/practice to perform an evaluation in the specific professional discipline for which an independent evaluation is sought;
2. Knowledgeable and experienced in evaluating children with similar disabilities;
3. Geographically located within the state of Washington; and
4. Available to the District at a maximum fee which does not exceed by more than 25% the prevailing average for similar evaluations within the state of Washington.

Exceptions to the criteria will be granted only when it can be shown that the unique circumstances of the child or the disability:

1. Make it impossible to identify anyone within the state of Washington who holds the appropriate credentials or experience necessary to conduct the evaluation; or
2. Require a specialized evaluator whose fee exceeds the prevailing average by more than 25%; or
3. Include factors which would warrant an exception in order to obtain an appropriate evaluation.

INDIVIDUALIZED EDUCATION PROGRAMS (IEP)

A. IEP Development

The term IEP means a written statement for each student eligible for special education that is developed, reviewed, and revised in a meeting in accordance with WAC 392-172A-03095 through WAC 392-172A-03100. The IEP reflects the implementation of instructional programs and other services for students who are eligible for special education services, based on the evaluation of student needs.

An IEP must be in effect before initiation of special education services. The IEP must be developed within 30 calendar days after the student's initial determination of eligibility for special services. IEPs must be updated annually, or revised more frequently if needed to adjust the program and services.

If the school or District receives information indicating a student may have disability-related educational needs that, because of a change in circumstances or other factors (including, for example, that a student with a disability has stopped attending school), are not currently being addressed by the student's IEP, the school or District staff who have received the information will take prompt and appropriate steps, including scheduling an IEP meeting, to consider the information and determine whether a change in the student's IEP is needed to address the information.

Parent consent is required before the initial provision of special education services. If a parent refuses to consent to the provision of special education services, the District may not use mediation or due process to override a parent's refusal. When a parent refuses to provide consent, the Case Manager will notify the parent that the District does not have a FAPE obligation to the student under the IDEA. The notification will be documented in the student's file.

The District will maintain a copy of the current IEP which is accessible to all staff members responsible for providing education, other services, or implementation of the IEP. All staff members will be informed of their responsibilities for its implementation. This includes not only teachers and other service providers, but also bus drivers, playground and lunchroom supervisors, nursing staff, and others who may be responsible for the proper implementation. The IEP Case Manager is responsible for ensuring that staff members are knowledgeable about their responsibilities.

IEPs will be implemented without undue delay following IEP meetings, regardless of the payment source for special education and or related services.

The District will provide parents/guardians with a copy of the District's *Restraint, Isolation, and Other Uses of Physical Intervention* policy and related superintendent procedure (*Policy 3246 and Superintendent Procedure 3246SP*) with each initial and annual IEP.

IEP Team

Parents are members of the IEP team and will have the opportunity to participate fully. The District will make sure that the parents understand the proceedings, including arranging for an interpreter for parents who are deaf or whose native language is other than English. The District will also ensure that meeting locations are accessible. The building principal and Case Manager are responsible for coordinating interpreters and making arrangements for the meeting location.

The IEP team includes:

1. The parent(s) of the student;
2. Not less than one general education teacher (or preschool teacher) of the student if the student is, or will be, participating in the general education environment. The general education teacher will, to the extent appropriate, participate in development of the student's IEP, including determinations of:
 - 1) appropriate positive behavioral interventions and supports for the student;
 - and 2) supplementary aids and services, program modifications, and support

- for school personnel consistent with WAC 392-172A-01185 and WAC 392-172A-03110(2)(b);
3. Not less than one special education teacher, or if appropriate, not less than one special education provider of the student;
 4. A representative of the District, who is qualified to provide or supervise the provision of special education and related services, is knowledgeable about general education curriculum, and is knowledgeable about the availability of District resources;
 5. An individual who can interpret the instructional implications of the evaluation results;
 6. Any other individuals who have knowledge or special expertise about the student. These individuals may be invited by both the District and the parents, at the discretion of the person making the invitation;
 7. The student, when appropriate, or when required;
 8. Students must be invited when the purpose of the meeting includes discussion of transition needs or services;
 9. If another agency is or may be responsible for payment or provision of transition services, an agency representative will be invited, with the parent's consent. If the agency representative cannot attend the meeting, District personnel shall keep the representative informed of the meeting and obtain agency information that will assist in the service provision;
 10. Parents will be notified of the participation of the Part C service coordinator or other designated representatives of the Part C system as specified by the state lead educational agency for Part C at the initial IEP meeting for a child previously served under Part C of IDEA.

The parents and District must agree in writing before any of the above team members are excused from all or part of a meeting. If a team member's area of the IEP is being discussed or modified, then the parent and District must consent to their excusal; that specific team member must provide advance written input for his/her part of the IEP prior to the meeting. Parents must be notified prior to the meeting if a team member is to be excused, and must agree to continue with the meeting. Existing team members may fill more than one of these roles if they meet the criteria for the role.

If an attorney is expected to attend the IEP meeting, the parents must give the District prior knowledge, and remember that it is the attending attorney's responsibility to inform our district attorney. If a parent's attorney attends a meeting without the District's prior knowledge, the meeting will be postponed until a district attorney is able to attend.

Sometimes parents do not attend IEP meetings. There will also be times the parents do not agree with the IEP as proposed, and despite attempts to reach agreement on IEP content, the team does not reach agreement. If a parent attends the IEP meeting and agreement is not reached on the IEP, the team shall determine whether another IEP meeting should be scheduled as soon as mutually possible, or whether there is enough information to complete the IEP. When the decision is made that the IEP will be implemented, the District must send a Prior Written Notice of the decisions reached to the parent, including the date the IEP will be implemented.

When the parents do not attend the IEP meeting, despite the District's efforts to ensure participation, or if the team does not reach agreement, it is the District's obligation to offer an appropriate educational program:

1. Have IEP members present sign the IEP (or document participation if any member is unwilling to sign);
2. Send a copy to the parent, and provide the parent a Prior Written Notice that the District intends to implement the IEP; and
3. Forward the documentation of actual or attempted contacts to the Special Education Department for processing when parents do not attend the meeting.

When making changes to an IEP after the annual IEP meeting for a school year, the parent and the District may agree not to convene an IEP meeting for the purpose of making changes. The parent and the District must complete a written document indicating the changes; the IEP Case Manager will inform IEP team members and appropriate individuals of the changes. If the parent requests that the district revise the IEP to include the amendments, the IEP Case Manager will revise the IEP.

B. IEP Preparation and Content

IEP teams will consider the recommendations in the initial or most recent evaluation to develop the IEP. In developing each IEP, the team must consider:

1. The strengths of the student, including the academic, developmental, and functional needs of the student and the concerns of the parents for enhancing the education of their child;
2. Whether positive behavioral interventions and supports, including a behavioral intervention plan, as defined by WAC 392-172A-01031, are needed to address the student's behavior;
3. The language needs of the student as those needs relate to the student's IEP, for a student with limited English proficiency;
- 4.
5. Whether Braille instruction is appropriate for a student who is blind or visually impaired;
6. The communication needs of the student (and in the case of a student who is deaf or hard of hearing, consider 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 opportunity for direct instruction in the student's language and communication mode; and
- 7.
8. Whether assistive technology devices or services are needed.

IEP content must include:

1. The student's present levels of academic achievement and functional performance (PLAAFP) with a description of how the disability(ies) affect the student's involvement and progress in the general curriculum or preschool activities.

2. Measurable academic and functional annual goals for the student (including benchmarks or short term objectives if the student is participating in alternate assessments) that will meet the student's needs resulting from the disability(ies) to enable involvement and progress in the general curriculum or in preschool activities, and will meet the student's other educational needs. A statement of special education services, any necessary related services, and supplementary aids and services based on peer-reviewed research to the extent practicable to be provided to the student and program modifications or supports for personnel so that the student may advance towards annual goals, progress in the general curriculum and be educated and participate with other special education students and non-disabled students and participate in extracurricular and other nonacademic activities sponsored by the District. Services must include a start date, end date, location, provider and monitor.
3. A statement of the extent, if any, that the student will not participate with non-disabled students in general classroom, extra-curricular and non-academic activities sponsored by the District.
4. A statement of any individual appropriate accommodations in the administration of state or District-wide assessments of student achievement that are needed to measure academic achievement and functional performance of the child on state assessments. If the team determines that the student will not participate in a particular assessment, the IEP will address why the student cannot participate in the regular assessment(s) and why the particular alternative assessment is appropriate for the child.
5. The date for the beginning of services and the anticipated frequency, location, and duration of services and modifications;
6. A statement of how the student's progress towards goals will be measured, how the student's parents will be regularly informed of their child's progress towards the annual goals, and whether the progress is sufficient to enable the student to achieve the goal by the end of the year. Measurement of the student's progress will be based on the data collected as designated on the IEP. The individual responsible for implementing the goal is responsible for maintaining the data used to measure progress. Information to the parents can be provided at the same time the District issues progress reports or report cards, or other agreed times as identified in the IEP.
7. The projected beginning date for the special education and related services.
8. With an IEP that is in effect when the child turns 16, or sooner if the IEP team determines it is appropriate, a statement of needed transition services and any interagency responsibilities or needed linkages. The transition component must include appropriate measurable postsecondary goals based on age appropriate transition and assessments related to training, education, employment, and independent living skills where appropriate; and the transition services (including courses of study) needed to assist the child in reaching those goals.
9. The procedures by which parents/guardians will be notified of the use of isolation or restraint or a restraint device on their student (*See Superintendent Procedure 3246*).
10. A statement regarding transfer of rights at the age of majority. The Case Manager will provide prior written notice to the student one year prior to student turning 18 years of age, generally at an IEP meeting;

11. Extended school year (ESY) services. The consideration for ESY services is a team decision, based on information provided in the evaluation report and based on the individual needs of a student. ESY services are not limited by categories of disability, or limited by type, amount, or duration of the services. If the need for ESY services is not addressed in the IEP, and ESY services may be appropriate for the student, the IEP team will meet by April 1st to address the need for ESY. Factors for the team to consider when determining the need for ESY may include, but are not limited to: 1) Evidence of regression or recoupment time based on documented evidence; or 2) A documented determination based on the professional judgment of the IEP team including consideration of the nature and severity of the student's disability, the rate of progress and emerging skills.
12. Emergency response protocols, if determined necessary by the IEP team for the student to receive FAPE and parents provide consent. Emergency response protocols must meet the requirements stated in WAC 392-172A-02105.
13. A behavioral intervention plan (BIP), if determined necessary by the IEP team for a student to receive FAPE. The BIP must meet the requirements stated in WAC 392-172A-01301.

Use of isolation, restraint and restraint devices

See Superintendent Procedure 3246SP for complete procedures governing isolation and restraint.

Physical intervention, isolation, restraint, and/or restraint devices should only be used when reasonably necessary to control a student's spontaneous behavior that poses an imminent likelihood of serious harm. These techniques should only be used as a last resort, and only when the specific danger that behavior/condition poses to self and/or others outweigh the risks of the hold or restraint. Staff should use the least restrictive approach appropriate for the situation and constantly assess for the earliest safe opportunity to disengage.

1. Definitions

De-escalation: The use of proactive strategies, including verbal, non-verbal, and para-verbal communication, to defuse a student who is; in the process of losing self-control; non-compliant; demonstrating unacceptable behavior; dangerous; disruptive; or otherwise impeding the learning of a student or others.

Imminent: The state or condition of being likely to occur at any moment or near at hand, rather than distant or remote.

Likelihood of serious harm:

(1) A substantial risk that: (a) Physical harm will be inflicted by a person upon his or her own person, as evidenced by threats or attempts to commit suicide, or inflict physical harm on oneself; (b) Physical harm will be inflicted by a person upon another, as evidenced by behavior that has caused such harm or that places another person or persons in reasonable fear of sustaining such harm; or (c) Physical harm will be inflicted

by a person upon the property of others, as evidenced by behavior that has caused substantial loss or damage to the property of others; or

(2) The person has threatened the physical safety of another and has a history of one or more violent acts.

Physical Intervention: A response (including restraint, restraint devices, and other behavior interventions) to a student posing a threat of harm that is proportionate to the assessed risk of harm to the student or others.

Isolation (also known as “seclusion”): Restricting the student alone within a room or any other form of enclosure, from which the student may not leave. It does not include a student's voluntary use of a quiet space for self-calming, or temporary removal of a student from his or her regular instructional area to an unlocked area for purposes of carrying out an appropriate positive behavior intervention plan.

Restraint: Physical intervention or force used to control a student, including the use of a restraint device to restrict a student's freedom of movement. It does not include appropriate use of a prescribed medical, orthopedic, or therapeutic device when used as intended, such as to achieve proper body position, balance, or alignment, or to permit a student to participate in activities safely.

Physical Restraint: Physical intervention, including force, used to control a student by restricting free movement or reducing the ability of a student to move torso, arms, legs, or head freely. The physical intervention must be consistently effective in achieving the aim of temporarily restricting the student’s movement, thereby protecting her/him and others from harm.

Property: High-value real or personal property (e.g., computers, plumbing system, building structure and fixtures, and windows).

Restraint Device (also known as mechanical restraints): A device used to assist in controlling a student including, but not limited to, soft ties, ankle restraints, leather cuffs, and other hospital-type restraints. This section shall not be construed as encouraging the use of these devices. A restraint device does not include a seat harness used to transport a student safely or other safety devices, including safety belts for wheelchairs, changing tables, booster seats, and other ambulatory or therapeutic devices when used for the purpose intended for the safety of a student.

Positive Behavioral Interventions and Supports: Strategies and instruction that can be implemented in a systematic manner in order to provide alternatives to challenging behaviors, reinforce desired behaviors, and reduce or eliminate the frequency and severity of challenging behaviors. Positive behavioral interventions include the consideration of environmental factors that may trigger challenging behaviors and teaching a student the skills to manage his or her own behavior.

2. Positive Behavioral Intervention Plan (PBIP):

A positive behavioral intervention plan (PBIP) is a plan designed to provide alternatives to challenging behaviors, reinforce desired behaviors, and reduce or eliminate the frequency and severity of challenging behaviors.

3. Behavioral Intervention Plan:

A behavioral intervention plan (BIP) is a plan incorporated into a student's IEP if determined necessary by the IEP team for the student to receive a free, appropriate public education (FAPE). The IEP team must also develop and implement a BIP if it determines that the student's conduct is a manifestation of the student's disability, unless a BIP is already in place. The behavioral intervention plan, at a minimum, describes:

- * The pattern of behavior(s) that impedes the student's learning or the learning of others;
- * The instructional and/or environmental conditions or circumstances that contribute to the pattern of behavior(s) being addressed by the IEP team;
- * The positive behavioral interventions and supports to:
 - (a) Reduce the pattern of behavior(s) that impedes the student's learning or the learning of others and increases the desired prosocial behaviors;
 - (b) Ensure the consistency of the implementation of the positive behavioral interventions across the student's school-sponsored instruction or activities;
- * The skills that will be taught and monitored as alternatives to challenging behavior(s) for a specific pattern of behavior of the student.

4. Emergency Response Protocol:

If the parent and the school district determine that a student requires advanced educational planning, the parent and the district may develop Emergency Response Protocols (ERP) to be used in the case of emergencies that pose an imminent likelihood of serious harm, as defined within this procedure.

(1) Emergency response protocols, if developed, must be incorporated into a student's IEP and reviewed annually. Emergency response protocols shall not be used as a substitute for the systematic use of a behavioral intervention plan that is designed to change, replace, modify, or eliminate a targeted behavior.

Emergency Response Protocols document the advanced educational planning required in order to provide a free, appropriate public education (FAPE) and the consent of the parent in advance of the adoption of the Emergency Response Protocols. Emergency Response Protocols are subject to the conditions and limitations as follows:

- The student's parent provides consent, as defined in WAC 392-172A-01040, in advance, to the emergency response protocols to be adopted;
- The Emergency Response Protocols specify:
 - (i) The emergency conditions under which isolation, restraint, or restraint devices, if any, may be used;
 - (ii) The type of isolation, restraint, and/or restraint device, if any, that may be used;
 - (iii) The staff members or contracted positions permitted to use isolation, restraint, or restraint devices with the student, updated annually, and identify any required training associated with the use

of isolation, restraint, or restraint device for each staff member or contracted position;

(iv) Any other special precautions that must be taken.

- Any use of isolation and/or restraint must be discontinued as soon as the likelihood of serious harm has dissipated.
- Any staff member or other adults using isolation and/or restraint must be trained and certified by a qualified provider in the use of isolation, or restraint.

(2) Documentation and reporting requirements for any use of isolation, restraint, or restraint device is required, regardless of whether the use of isolation, restraint, or restraint device is included in the student's emergency response protocols.

5. Use of Restraint, Isolation and Other Uses of Physical Intervention:

Physical intervention, isolation, and restraint are only permitted when reasonably necessary to control any student's spontaneous behavior that poses an imminent likelihood of serious harm. These techniques should only be used as a last resort, and only when the specific danger that behavior/condition poses to self and/or others outweigh the risks of the hold or restraint. Staff should use the least restrictive approach appropriate for the situation and constantly assess for the earliest safe opportunity to disengage. The use of physical intervention, isolation and restraint is limited to the following conditions:

1. De-escalation or other positive interventions have failed or are inappropriate due to imminent danger.
2. The student's behavior demonstrates imminent danger and likelihood of serious harm as defined above.
3. The student is believed to possess a known or reasonably-suspected weapon or other dangerous object on or within his/her control.
4. Consistent with the provisions found in chapter 392-172A WAC, the use of physical intervention, restraint or isolation may be used as part of emergency response protocols that are incorporated into an Individualized Education Program (IEP) or a Section 504 Plan of a student with a disability, provided that:
 - The protocols are not used as a substitute for the systematic behavioral intervention plan;
 - The student's parent/guardian agrees to the use of the emergency protocols in writing;
 - The protocols specify the conditions when isolation or restraint will be used, the type of isolation and restraint to be used, and any special precautions;
 - The staff or contractors permitted to use the isolation or restraint are trained and certified by a qualified provider in the use of the isolation and restraints specified; and
 - Use of physical intervention, isolation and restraints must be discontinued as soon as the likelihood of serious harm has dissipated.

6. Limitations

1. Physical intervention, restraint, and isolation will not be used as a form of discipline or punishment.
2. Physical intervention, restraints, and isolation may be used only after de-escalation interventions fail or are determined to be inappropriate, and must be used only by personnel trained and authorized to use these tools unless trained personnel are not immediately available due to the unforeseeable nature of the emergency. Staff should use the least restrictive approach appropriate for the situation and constantly assess for the earliest, safe opportunity to disengage.
3. Physical intervention, restraint, and isolation should not be used as an intervention if the school staff initiating them knows that the student has a health condition or physical problem, and that the condition or problem would be exacerbated by the use of such techniques.
4. Physical intervention, restraint, and isolation must be administered in such a way so as to prevent or minimize physical harm to the student. If at any time during the use of isolation and restraint the student demonstrates significant physical distress, the technique must be reduced immediately and, if necessary, school staff must take immediate steps to seek medical assistance.
5. No restraint shall be administered in such a way that the student is prevented from breathing or speaking.
6. No restraint that holds a student against a wall or floor is permitted.
7. Physical intervention, restraint, and isolation will be discontinued when the student no longer poses a threat or the likelihood of imminent serious harm to himself/herself, others, or property has dissipated.
8. Isolation enclosures must be ventilated, lit, temperature controlled, and visually monitored by staff, and a responsible staff person must remain in visual and auditory range of the student at all times.

9. Monitoring

During the administration of physical interventions, isolations or restraints, a staff member shall continuously monitor the physical status of the student, including monitoring for signs of physical distress (e.g., skin color and respiration). The monitoring must be conducted by direct observation of the student. When possible, the administration of physical intervention, isolation or restraints shall be witnessed by at least one adult who does not participate in imposing the physical intervention, isolation or restraint. This guideline does not preclude staff from using physical intervention, isolation or restraints to protect students, other persons, or themselves from imminent bodily injury or likelihood of serious harm if an adult witness is not available.

10. Staff Training Requirements

Seattle Public Schools' intervention strategies, including training in these areas, aim to reduce or eliminate the use of out of classroom and out of school consequences for behavior. All staff will be provided with the district's established policy and procedure regarding the use of restraint, isolation or physical intervention.

The district offers monthly training for those required or reasonably anticipated to use isolation and/or restraint. Please refer to the Employee Self Service (ESS) professional development website for schedule and registration.

- Appropriate staff will be trained in de-escalation strategies, the use of isolation and restraints, and in physical intervention. The appropriate personnel are those staff members who are required to, or can be reasonably anticipated to, use isolation or restraints, or those who are most likely to be called to address disruptive or dangerous student behavior. Training should include: instruction in positive management of student behavior, cultural sensitivity, effective communication for defusing and de-escalating disruptive or dangerous behavior, and safe and appropriate use of isolation and restraints.
- Only staff trained and authorized to use isolation, restraint, and/or restraint devices will administer them to students, or otherwise be available in the case of an emergency when trained personnel are not immediately available due to the unforeseen nature of the emergency.

11. Reporting Requirements

The following reporting requirements will apply when the use of physical intervention, restraint or isolation occurs or a restraint device is used with a student.

12. Incident report

Any school employee, school emphasis team officer or school security specialist who uses physical intervention, isolation or restraints, as defined in this procedure, on a student during school-sponsored instruction or activities, will verbally inform the building administrator or a designee as soon as possible and within two (2) school business days submit a written report of the incident to the Coordinated School Health designee so that the information is collected in the department's database. If the building administrator or designee believes the staff member has failed to report an incident, s/he will notify the appropriate Human Resources manager.

The written report will contain, at a minimum:

- The date, time and location of the incident;
- The name and job title of the individual who administered the restraint or isolation;
- A description of the activity and de-escalation strategies employed prior to the restraint or isolation response;
- The type of restraint or isolation used on the student, and the duration;
- Whether the student or staff was physically injured during the restraint or isolation incident;
- Any medical care provided to the student or staff; and

- Any recommendations for changing the nature or amount of resources available to the student and staff members in order to avoid similar incidents.

13. Parent/Guardian Notification

The building administrator or designee will:

- a. Make a reasonable effort to verbally inform the student's parent or guardian of the incident within twenty four hours of the incident. Efforts will be made to inform parents/guardians by the end of the school business day; and
- b. Send written incident report as soon as practical but postmarked no later than five school business days after the incident. If the school customarily provides the parent or guardian with school-related information in a language other than English, the incident report will be provided to the parent in that language.

IEPs and 504 plans will include the above procedures for notification of parents/guardians regarding the use of isolation and restraint on their student.

IEP Implementation

The IEP case manager is responsible for ensuring that the IEPs for the students on his/her caseload are implemented. All the services in a student's IEP must be provided as described in his/her IEP. Each student's IEP service matrix documents the service area, the location where the services will be provided, the amount of time the services will be provided, and who will provide and/or monitor the services. The IEP must be accessible to each general education teacher, special education teacher, related service provider, and any other provider responsible for implementing the IEP. Staff should contact the IEP case manager for a copy of a student's IEP.

The case manager is responsible for ensuring each teacher and service provider is informed of his/her specific responsibilities related to implementing the IEP and the specific modifications, accommodations, and supports called for in the IEP. To that end, no later than the first week of school each year, the student's case manager will provide all staff members involved in delivering services and supports to a student a summary of that student's goals, modifications/accommodations, and related services described in his/her IEP. When a student's IEP is amended, or an IEP is developed after the beginning of the school year, the case manager will send updated summaries to the appropriate staff members.

The case manager is responsible for communicating and facilitating any changes to the student's or staff's schedules necessary to ensure the services as indicated on a student's IEP service matrix are in place.

IEPs will be implemented without undue delay following IEP meetings, regardless of the payment source for special education and or related services.

Placement

State law emphasizes parent involvement in placement decisions. Parents are to be afforded the opportunity to be members of the team that makes decisions regarding educational placement of the child.

No student may receive special education and related services without being determined eligible for services, and thus the evaluation process and IEP development precedes the determination of the special education placement. When a student has been evaluated and the evaluation team and parent have determined student eligibility and the need for special education and related services, programming decisions must occur. These decisions are made on the basis of information generated through the evaluation and IEP processes. The actual program is considered within the context of least restrictive environment (LRE) and the continuum of placement alternatives (reviewed below). When determining initial eligibility for special education, including determination of the appropriate placement, the parent or adult student must provide written consent for services before the student receives special education services. If the parents do not consent to the provision of special education and related services, the District will not provide special education services to the student. The District will notify the parents that the student is eligible for services and that the District is willing to provide the services when the parent provides written consent. The notification will also inform parents that the District has no FAPE obligation to the student under the IDEA when parents refuse to provide consent.

Least Restrictive Environment (LRE)

When program decisions are addressed by the IEP team, proper consideration must be given to the LRE. Within the educational setting, the student should be placed, whenever possible:

- In the school the disabled student would normally attend; and
- With non-disabled students in the general educational setting to the maximum extent possible.

Special classes, separate schools or removal of students with disabilities from the general education environment occurs only when the nature or severity of the disability is such that education in the general education classroom with use of supplementary aids and services cannot be satisfactorily achieved.

If the IEP team believes that the student will not be successful within the general education classroom, the team will consider:

1. The educational benefits of full-time placement in a general education classroom;
2. The non-academic benefits of such a placement;
3. The overall effect the student will have on the teacher and other students in the general education classroom; and
4. The costs of placing the student in the general education classroom.

The degree to which the student is to be integrated into the general classroom setting is dependent upon the identified needs of the student. This placement is to occur unless the nature of the needs are so severe that this cannot be satisfactorily achieved, even with supplementary aids and services. If the placement is in another building, the appropriate educational placement will be as close to the student's home as reasonably possible.

Within the nonacademic setting, students will be provided the opportunity to participate in nonacademic and extracurricular activities sponsored by the District with non-disabled students, including clubs, athletics, and transportation. Limits on nonparticipation or conditions of participation must be designated in the IEP.

The District will also make opportunities available for students eligible for special education to participate with non-disabled students in the District's art, music, PE, and career and technical education classes.

Within the District, a continuum of alternative placement options exists, spanning within a class, resource room, self-contained, home-bound and out-of-District provisions. These options are intended to address the individual needs of students and they are considered according to the following process.

The placement of each student with a disability will be determined annually, or sooner if appropriate, by the IEP team.

The appropriateness of placement options will be based upon various decisions, including:

1. Data-based judgments in IEP development;
2. Data-based judgments in determining LRE;
3. The reasonable probability of the placement option(s) assisting the student to attain annual goals and objectives and the quality of services needed; and
4. The consideration of potentially harmful effects upon the student or on the quality of services needed.

Placement options along the continuum must include alternative placement options identified in the definition of special education and make provisions for supplementary services such as resource room or itinerant instruction to be provided in concert with the general education placement.

Transportation

If the student requires transportation as a related service, determined by his or her identified needs, the IEP case manager should begin coordinating these needs with the Program Specialist prior to the IEP meeting. The district transportation department requires 7-10 days notice before transportation begins. The Program Specialist will enter the initial transportation request into the Transportation Operations Procedures System (TOPS) in a timely manner so that transportation can begin immediately after the IEP meeting is held.

Students with disabilities will be treated the same as the non-disabled students with respect to the length of the school day, unless a shortened school day is determined necessary pursuant to the IEP process to meet a particular student's individual needs.

Likewise, students with disabilities should follow the general education school day start and end times, unless an individual start and end time is determined necessary, pursuant to the IEP process, to meet a particular student's individualized needs.

Students with disabilities should use the same entrances and exits as general education students, unless the use of a separate entry or exit is for a legitimate, non-discriminatory reason, such as a determination, pursuant to the IEP process, that use of separate entrance or exit is necessary to meet the individualized needs of the disabled student.

Delivery of Services and Supports

Special education and related services must be provided by appropriately qualified staff, regardless of the setting – general or special education – in which the instruction or related services are provided. Other staff, including general education teachers and paraprofessionals, may assist in the provision of special education as long as the instruction is designed and supervised by special education certificated staff. Likewise, general education teachers and paraprofessionals may assist in the provision of related services, as long as the services are designed and supervised by a certificated educational staff associate (ESA). Student progress must be monitored and evaluated by special education certificated staff or, for related services, a certificated ESA.

Specially-Designed Instruction (SDI) must be provided during implementation of services (adapting the content, methodology or delivery of instruction). SDI should align with the general education content and focus on IEP annual goals. The individual providing a student's instruction or related services shall collect data on student outcomes. The measures indicated in the IEP goals should be used to collect data and monitor progress. Once the data is gathered, the individual who collected it will provide it to the student's IEP case manager. The case manager will then complete the student's IEP progress reports, based on the data provided.

The IEP case manager is responsible for ensuring that the supports identified in each student's IEP are in place where services are delivered throughout the student's school day and week. Staff members (general educators, special educators, others) who are implementing student supports must have knowledge of the supports and how to implement them with fidelity and consistency. The case manager is also responsible for ensuring that supports identified for school personnel are provided. Staff should contact the IEP case manager with questions about supports for either students or school personnel.

Transfer Students

Students who transfer from one district to another within the state continue to be eligible for special education and any necessary related services. When an eligible student transfers into the District, the enrollment office will notify the special education department. The special education department will review the student's IEP to ensure the District provides services comparable to those in the previous IEP until the District adopts the previous IEP or develops, adopts and implements a new IEP.

When a student who was identified as eligible for special education transfers from out-of-state into the District, the Enrollment office will notify the Special Education Department as soon as possible. The Out-of-District Evaluation Case Manager will review the evaluation, eligibility documentation and IEP to determine whether or not the student

meets state eligibility criteria. If the student meets the state eligibility criteria, the District shall follow the procedures described in the previous paragraph to provide comparable services until the District develops an IEP for the student. If the student needs to be evaluated to determine eligibility in this state, the Evaluation Case Manager will notify the parents, obtain consent and evaluate the student for eligibility within 35 school days of receipt of the parental consent. The District, in consultation with the parents, will continue to provide special education services comparable to the services on the student's out-of-state IEP, pending the results of the initial evaluation.

The District must take reasonable steps to promptly obtain records, including IEP supporting documents and any other records related to special education or related services from the previous school.

Please see the Special Education Administrative Procedure regarding Out of District Transfer Students for more detailed information about this process.

Students Unilaterally Enrolled In Private Non-Profit Schools By Parents

By December 1, the District shall conduct an annual count of the number of private elementary and secondary school students eligible for special education who are unilaterally enrolled by their parents in a private school located within District boundaries. The District Private School Special Education Supervisor shall have timely and meaningful consultation with appropriate representatives of private schools and representatives of parents of private school students and make determinations about who will receive services and what services will be provided. The purpose of the child count is to determine the proportionate amount that the district must spend on providing special education and related services, including transportation, to private elementary or secondary school students in the next fiscal year.

The District is required to spend a proportionate amount of federal special education Part B and Section 619 funds to provide special education and related services to private school students. In order to determine which students will receive services, what services will be provided, how and where the services will be provided, the District shall consult with private school officials and representatives of private school parents of private school students. The District shall make the final decision with respect to services to be provided to eligible private school students. During its communications with private school officials, the District requests that the Private School indicate the designated representative for the school. While consultation is ongoing, the District shall hold two meetings throughout the year to discuss supports/services and federal mandates (including Special Education). The first meeting will occur before the end of March, shall be held to review counts, services, proportionate share, and recommendations for how, when and who will provide and receive services in the upcoming year. Upon completion of the consultation process, the District shall communicate a final decision at the second meeting, to occur in May.

The District Private School Special Education Supervisor and Program Specialist are responsible for private school involvement and service plan development. A private school student has no individual entitlement to any service or amount of service (s)he

would have received if enrolled in a public school to receive FAPE. However, for each private school student receiving special education or related services, the District shall initiate and conduct meetings to develop, review and revise a services plan describing the special education and related services that the District will provide. The services plan must: (1) be developed consistent with IEP content requirements as appropriate; and (2) be developed, reviewed, implemented and revised annually consistent with the requirements for IEP review. The District shall make every effort to include a representative from the private school at each meeting. If the private school representative is not able to attend, the District shall use other methods, including individual or conference telephone calls, to assure the representative's participation.

Private school students may receive a different amount of services than students in public schools who receive special education. However, the special education services provided to eligible private school students will be provided by personnel meeting the same standards as personnel providing the services in the District, unless the services are being provided by the private school's teachers.

If it is determined through the consultation process, services to students in private schools including private sectarian schools may be provided on-site. District personnel may be made available to private schools only to the extent necessary to provide the services required, if those services are not normally provided by the private school. Services will not include payment of private school teachers' or other employees' salaries, except for services performed outside regular private school hours and under public supervision and control.

Equipment and/or supplies may be placed on private school premises for the period of time necessary for the services plan program, but the District shall retain and exercise title and administrative control of said equipment/supplies. The District shall keep records and make an accounting assuring that said equipment/supplies is/are used solely for the services plan program. Said equipment/supplies shall be removed if necessary to avoid its/their use for other purposes or if no longer needed for the services plan program. No District funds shall be used for repairs, minor remodeling or construction of private school facilities.

The District shall provide services to students in private schools in a manner that: (1) maintains physical and administrative separation between the private and public school programs; and (2) does not benefit the private school at public expense.

Please see Special Education Administrative Procedure regarding Proportionate Share Budget and Consultation Process for additional information.

PROCEDURAL SAFEGUARDS

A. Parental Consent

The District will obtain informed, written parental consent before:

1. Conducting an initial evaluation;
2. Providing initial special education and related services to a student; and

3. Conducting a reevaluation if the reevaluation includes administration of additional assessments.

Parental consent is not required to review existing data as part of an evaluation or reevaluation, or to administer a test or other evaluation that is administered to all students unless consent is required of all students' parents.

Informed consent means that the parent or adult student:

1. Has been fully informed of all information that is relevant to the activity for which the District is asking consent, and that the information is provided in his or her native language or other mode of communication;
2. Understands and agrees in writing to the activity for which consent is sought and the consent describes the activity and lists any records which will be released and to whom; and
3. Understands that the granting of consent is voluntary and may be revoked at any time. If consent is revoked, the revocation does not negate an action that has occurred after the consent was given and before the consent was revoked.

The District may not use a parent's refusal to consent to one service or activity to deny the parent or child any other service, benefit or activity of the District.

If the District is unable to obtain a parent's consent, the District may use mediation procedures to obtain a parent's consent or request a due process hearing asking the administrative law judge to override the parent's refusal to consent to an evaluation or reevaluation. The District may not request a due process hearing to override a parent's refusal to consent to initial special education services. The District may not use mediation or due process procedures to override a parent's refusal to consent to an evaluation or reevaluation if the student is homeschooled or enrolled in a private school.

B. Revocation of Consent

Parents may revoke consent for the continued receipt of special education and related services. If parents revoke consent, the staff member receiving the revocation will forward the revocation to the IEP Case Manager and the regional Special Education Supervisor.

Upon receipt of the parent's written notice of revocation, the IEP Case Manager:

1. Will provide prior written notice within a reasonable time before the District stops providing services. The notice will include information about the effect of revocation and will inform the parent of the date the District will stop providing special education and related services;

Discontinuation of special education and related services in response to the parent's written revocation will not be in violation of FAPE under the IDEA, and eliminates the District's requirement to convene an IEP meeting or develop an IEP. However, the District does have a continuing Child Find duty, and staff will follow referral procedures if they believe the student should be referred for special education. In addition, parents

may request that the district conduct an initial evaluation for eligibility for special education services after they have revoked consent for continued services.

C. Notice of Procedural Safeguards

In addition to protections provided to parents of eligible students, parents also have procedural safeguard protections when a student's identification, evaluation or placement is at issue. The District shall provide a copy of the procedural safeguards notice to the parents and adult students one time a year and:

1. Upon initial referral or parent request for evaluation;
2. Upon receipt of the parent's first state complaint and first request for due process hearing in a school year;
3. Upon a disciplinary action that will result in a disciplinary change of placement; and
4. Upon request by a parent.

The procedural safeguard notice used by the District includes a full explanation of all the procedural safeguards relating to independent educational evaluation, prior written notice, parental consent, access to educational records, discipline procedures for students who are subject to placement in an interim alternative educational setting, requirements for unilateral placement by parents of children in private schools at public expense, state complaint procedures, mediation, the child's placement during pendency of due process proceedings including requirements for disclosure of evidence, due process hearings, civil actions and attorney's fees. Copies of the District's special education procedural safeguards are available at school sites and at the District's Central office. They are also available online – there is a link on the SPS Special Education web page.

D. Prior Written Notice

Prior written notices are provided to parents when a District makes a decision relating to a student's identification, evaluation, placement or provision of a FAPE. Prior written notices document the decisions made by the IEP teams and evaluation group.

The District will provide prior written notice to the parent whenever the District proposes or refuses to initiate or change the identification, evaluation, educational placement or provision of a FAPE to the student.

The prior written notice will include:

1. A statement that the parents have procedural safeguard protections, and if a copy of the procedural safeguards do not accompany the notice, a statement that describes how a copy of the statement of procedural safeguards may be obtained;
2. A description of the action proposed or refused by the District;
3. An explanation of why the District proposes or refuses to take the action and a description of other options that the District considered and the reasons why the options were rejected;
4. A description of any other factors which are relevant to the District's proposal or refusal;
5. A description of each evaluation procedure, test, record or report the District used as a basis for the proposal or refusal; and

6. A description of any evaluation procedures the District proposes to conduct and sources for parents to contact to obtain assistance in understanding the procedural safeguards provision of this chapter.

Prior written notice and the notice of procedural safeguards must be provided in the native language of the parent or other mode of communication used by the parent unless it is clearly not feasible to do so. If the native language or other mode of communication of the parent is not a written language, the District will take steps to ensure that the notice is translated orally or by other means to the parent. This may involve:

1. Arranging for an interpreter if English is not the native language of the parent or if the parent has a hearing impairment; or
2. Providing notice orally if the written language is not a native language.

The District will document in writing how this information was provided and that the parent understands the content of the notice. The relevant case manager is responsible for sending the Prior Written Notice after evaluation, eligibility, IEP team, and placement decisions.

E. Transfer of Educational Rights to an Adult Student

When a student eligible for special education reaches the age of 18, all educational rights under Part B of the IDEA, previously exercised by the parent, transfer to the student, unless the student is determined incapacitated in a guardianship proceeding or the District has appointed an educational representative for the student. When the student turns 18, the District will notify the parent and student that the educational rights have transferred to the student and will send any required notices to both the parent and the adult student. The student's appropriate case manager will provide this notice.

At an IEP meeting occurring one year before the student turns 18, the District will inform the parents and the student that educational rights will transfer to the student and the District will inform the student about those educational rights. This information will be documented on the IEP.

Appointment of an Educational Representative

A student over the age of eighteen is presumed to be capable of making educational decisions and able to provide informed consent unless he or she is determined to be "incapacitated" through a legal guardianship proceeding. If a parent, another interested party, or the district believes that a student over the age of eighteen is unable to provide informed consent or to make educational decisions, and the student does not have a legal guardian, the parent or other interested party may ask the District to appoint an educational representative. This determination will only be made if two separate professionals, as defined by WAC 392-172A-05135(5)(a), state that they conducted an examination and interviewed the student, and concluded the student is incapable of providing informed consent. The District will inform the student of the decision and appoint the spouse, the student's parents, another adult, or a surrogate educational representative to represent the student. The appointment of the educational representative will continue for one year.

The student or other adult may challenge the certification of the representative at any time. If a challenge occurs, the District will not rely on the education representative until the representative is recertified, or the certification is confirmed.

Confidentiality and Records Management

The Executive Director of Special Education is responsible for maintaining the confidentiality of personally identifiable information pertaining to special education and all other students. The Executive Director of Special Education will maintain, for public inspection, a current list of the names and positions of District employees who have access to personally identifiable information of special education students. The District will provide parent and adult students, upon request, a list of the types and locations of educational records collected, maintained or used by the District.

The District will provide instruction annually to employees collecting or using personally identifiable information on the procedures to protect the confidentiality of personally identifiable information. The training will address the protections outlined in WAC 392-172A, state law and federal regulations implementing the Family Educational Rights and Privacy Act, FERPA, (34 CFR Part 99).

Upon request, the parent(s) of a special education student or adult student will be afforded an opportunity to inspect, review and challenge all educational records which shall include, but not be limited to, the identification, evaluation, delivery of educational services and provision of FAPE to the student. The District shall comply with the request promptly and before any meeting regarding an IEP or hearing relating to the identification, evaluation, educational placement of the student or provision of FAPE to the student, including disciplinary proceedings. In any case, the District shall respond no more than 45-calendar days after the date the District received the request. If an educational record includes information on more than one student, the parents (and/or adult student) may only inspect and review information relating to their child. School personnel receiving requests for educational records will immediately forward the request to the Special Education information management team.

If parents believe that information in an education record is inaccurate or misleading or violates the privacy or rights of the student, they may request that the District amend the information. Board Policy No. 3231 and Superintendent Procedure 3231SP, Student Records, describe the process and timelines for challenges and hearings regarding student records.

The District follows the guidelines for records retention outlined in the Secretary of State's, *General Records Retention Schedule and Records Management Manual*. The District shall inform parents or adult students when personally identifiable information collected, maintained or used is no longer needed to provide educational services to the student. The information shall be destroyed at the request of the parent(s) or adult student, or will be provided to the parent or adult student upon their request. However, a permanent record of the student's name, address and phone number, his or her grades, attendance, record, classes attended, grade level completed and year completed will be maintained without time limitation.

Surrogate Parents

A surrogate parent is a person appointed by the school District to act on behalf of a student to help ensure the rights of the student to a FAPE when a parent cannot be identified, the whereabouts of the parent are unknown, or the student is a ward of the state and does not have a foster parent.

The Case Manager, working with the area Supervisor, is responsible for determining the need for appointment of a surrogate parent. The District will at a minimum identify a surrogate parent and communicate their role.

Natural or adoptive parents, foster parents, persons acting in the place of a parent such as stepparents or relatives, and persons with legal custody or guardianship are considered parents. Students who are homeless and not living with a parent may need a surrogate parent.

In cases where the student is in out-of-home care, the District must determine the legal custodial status of the child. The following is guidance for the District to follow to assist in determining the status of the parent's rights to make educational decisions:

- Parents who have voluntarily placed their child in state placement still retain legal custody of the child and retain the right to make educational decisions. In this situation the student is not a ward of the state.
- Parents whose children are placed in group care, pending a determination of "dependency" may still retain rights to make educational decisions unless otherwise ordered by the court.
- When a disposition order and order of dependency is issued, the state becomes the legal as well as physical custodian of the child. Parents may no longer have the right to make educational decisions during this stage of dependency.
- Parents whose parental rights are terminated no longer have the right to make educational decisions on behalf their child.

When a student is placed in foster care, the foster parent may act as the parent. When a student is placed in group care, the District will work with the parents, case-worker(s), foster parents and others who have knowledge of the student's legal status in order to determine the need for appointment of a surrogate.

When selecting a surrogate parent, the District will select a person willing to participate in making decisions regarding the student's educational program, including participation in the identification, evaluation, placement of and provisions of FAPE to the student.

If a student is referred for special education or a student eligible for special education who may require a surrogate parent transfers into the District, the District's Special Education Department will be notified of the potential need. The Special Education Department will then work with other professionals to identify a trained individual who can adequately represent the student to ensure that all student rights are observed.

The person selected as a surrogate:

- Must have no interest that conflicts with the interests of the student he or she represents;

- Must have knowledge and skills that assure adequate representation of the student; and
- May not be an employee of a school District and/or other agency which is involved in the education or care of the student. This includes OSPI, DSHS, District employees and group care providers.

The district will at a minimum, review with the surrogate parent procedural safeguards, parent involvement in the special education process, parent education publications and special education regulations. The district will also cooperate with other districts, the ESD or OSPI in training surrogate parents and in establishing a list of persons willing and able to serve as surrogate parents.

DISPUTE RESOLUTION

Due Process Hearing

Both parents and districts may file due process hearings involving the identification, evaluation, placement or provision of FAPE to a student. IDEA requires that specific information be provided as part of a due process hearing request. The requirements are identified in the notice of procedural safeguards. If parents request information about how to file a due process hearing, the District will provide the parent with a due process hearing request that contains the required information. Due process hearing request forms are available on the SPS website and on the OSPI Special Education and Administrative Resources Web site.

If any staff receives a request for a due process hearing, a copy of the request should be immediately forwarded to the SPS legal department. If the parent has not filed the request for a hearing with OSPI, the District will forward the parent request to OSPI Administrative Resources Section. The District may not delay or deny a parent's due process hearing request. Parents are entitled to a copy of the notice of procedural safeguards if this is the first due process hearing in a school year. The District legal department is responsible for providing the parents a copy of the procedural safeguards in this situation and documenting that the safeguards were provided to the parent.

When a parent files a due process hearing, the student remains in the placement at the time of the request for a hearing unless the parents and District agree to a different placement. See the discipline section below for placements when a disciplinary action is challenged.

Due Process Resolution Meeting

When parents file a request for a due process hearing, the District will immediately schedule a resolution meeting. The meeting must occur within 15 days after a parent files a due process request with the District and provides a copy of the request to OSPI, or within seven (7) days if the hearing request involves an expedited hearing regarding discipline. The SPS legal department will determine the appropriate District staff that will attend the resolution meeting. The District will ensure that one of the District representatives attending the resolution meeting has authority to bind the District in any

resolution agreement. The District will not bring District counsel to a resolution meeting unless the parent is bringing an attorney to the meeting. At the meeting, the parties shall discuss the complaint and the facts that form the basis of the complaint, and shall be provided an opportunity to resolve the complaint. If resolution is reached at the meeting, the parties shall execute a legally binding settlement agreement that is signed by both the parent and the representative of the District who has authority to bind the District. The document will inform the parent of his/her right to void the agreement within 3 business days of signing the agreement.

See Special Education Administrative Procedure regarding Resolution Sessions for additional information.

The Director or Executive Director of Special Education has the authority to approve an agreement up to \$10,000. An agreement over \$10,000 and up to \$40,000 must be approved by the Assistant Superintendent for Teaching and Learning and the District's Legal Department. The Accounting Manager must approve agreements over \$40,000 and up to \$100,000. The Superintendent must approve agreements over \$100,000 and up to \$250,000. The Board must approve agreements over \$250,000.

Mediation

The purpose of mediation is to offer both the parent and the District an alternative to a formal due process hearing. Mediation is voluntary and requires the consent and agreement of both parties. Mediation cannot be used to deny or delay access by a parent to a due process hearing. Mediation is used to resolve disagreements concerning the identification, evaluation, and delivery of educational services or provision of a FAPE to a special education student. Mediation may be terminated by either party at any time during the process.

The primary participants are the parents, District representatives and mediator. The process is voluntary, confidential, and informal. It is a collaborative process, conducted in a non-adversarial manner. Mediation services will be provided by the Office of Superintendent of Public Instruction (OSPI) at no cost to either party.

The District's Special Education Director is responsible for coordinating requests for mediation. If a parent requests mediation, notify the Executive Director and s/he will respond to the parent and coordinate with OSPI's contracted agent. Discussions that occur during the mediation process are confidential.

One person designated by the District to attend the mediation must have authority to bind the District in any agreement reached through mediation.

DISCIPLINE

Students eligible for special education may be disciplined consistent with the disciplinary rules that apply to all students. The District shall determine on a case by case basis whether discipline that is permitted under WAC 392-400 should occur. However, students eligible for special education must not be improperly excluded from school for disciplinary reasons that are related to their disability or related to the District's failure to implement a student's IEP. The District shall take steps to ensure that each employee,

contractor, and other agents of the District responsible for education or care of a student is knowledgeable of special education disciplinary rules.

A. Removal Up to Ten Days

A principal may order the removal of a special education student from a current placement. The District need not provide services to a student who is removed from the current placement for ten school days or less in any school year, if services are not provided to a student without disabilities.

B. Removal for More than Ten Days

Once a student has been removed from placement for a total of ten school days in the same school year, and if the District determines that the removal is not a change of placement, the District must, during subsequent days of removal, provide appropriate services to the extent necessary to enable the student to participate in the general curriculum, although in another setting, and to progress toward meeting the goals set out in the student's IEP. The Principal, in consultation with a regional Supervisor and one or more of the student's teachers, shall make the determination of such necessary services.

C. Change in Placement

A change of placement occurs when an eligible student is:

- A. Removed from his/her current placement for more than ten consecutive school days in a school year; or
- B. Subjected to a series of removals in a school year and which constitute a pattern of removal because: 1) the series of removals total more than ten school days in a year; 2) the student behavior is substantially similar to the student's behavior in previous incidents that resulted in the series of removals; and 3) because of factors such as the length of each removal, the total amount of time a student is removed, and the proximity of the removals to one another.

Whether a pattern of removal constitutes a change in placement is determined on a case-by-case basis by the building principal and special education regional Supervisor and is subject to review through due process and judicial proceedings. Principals are responsible for immediately notifying the regional Supervisor when a student with an IEP is removed from school.

D. Manifestation Determination

Within ten school days after the date on which the District makes a decision to change the student's placement, the District shall conduct a "manifestation determination" meeting to determine the relationship between the student's disability and the behavior subject to the disciplinary action.

The review of the relationship between a student's disability and the behavior subject to the disciplinary action will occur at a meeting that includes the parent and relevant members of the IEP team who are selected by the parent and the District. The principal is responsible for scheduling this meeting and identifying the appropriate participants. The team shall review all relevant information in the student's file, including the IEP, teacher observations and information provided by the parent to determine:

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

If the team determines that the behavior resulted from either of the above, the behavior must be considered a manifestation of the student's disability.

The District must take immediate action to remedy the deficiencies, and will

1. Conduct a functional behavioral assessment (unless already completed) and implement a behavioral intervention plan if one is not already in place; or
2. Review the existing behavioral intervention plan and modify it to address the behavior; and
3. Return the child to the placement from which she/he was removed from unless the parents and the District agree a change is necessary as part of the behavioral intervention plan, or unless the infraction involves drugs, weapons or serious bodily injury.

Special Circumstances

School personnel may order a change in placement to an appropriate interim alternative educational setting for the same amount of time that a student without disabilities would be subject to discipline, but for not more than 45 school days, if a special education student:

1. Possesses a "dangerous weapon" or carries such a weapon to school or to a school function; or
2. Knowingly possesses or uses "illegal drugs" while at school or a school function; or
3. Sells or solicits the sale of a "controlled substance" while at school or a school function; or
4. Inflicts serious bodily injury upon another person while at school or a school function. Serious bodily injury means 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.

Any interim alternative educational setting in which the student is placed is determined by the student's IEP team and will:

1. Be selected so as to enable the student to participate in the general curriculum, although in another setting and to progress toward meeting the goals set out in the student's IEP; and
2. Include services and modifications designed to address the behavior or to prevent the behavior from recurring.

The District may ask an administrative law judge, or seek injunctive relief through a court having jurisdiction of the parties, to order a change in placement to an appropriate interim alternative educational setting for not more than 45 school days or seek injunctive relief through a court having jurisdiction of the parties when:

- The District believes that maintaining the student's current placement is substantially likely to result in injury to the student or others. If the student's IEP team believes that the student may not be maintained in his or her current

placement, the IEP team should work with the Regional Supervisor, or if needed, the Director or Executive Director of Special Education.

Unless the parent and the District agree otherwise, if a parent requests a hearing to challenge either the manifestation determination or the interim alternative educational setting, the student must remain in the interim alternative educational setting pending the decision of the hearing officer or until the expiration of the 45 day period, whichever occurs first.

Basis of Knowledge: Protections for Students Not Yet Identified as Eligible for Services

A student who has not been determined eligible for special education services may assert the protections if the District had knowledge that the student was eligible for special education before the behavior that precipitated disciplinary action occurred.

The District is deemed to have knowledge if:

- The parent expressed concern in writing (or orally if the parent does not know how to write or has a disability that prevents a written statement) to District supervisory or administrative personnel or a teacher that the student is in need of special education and related services;
- The parent requested that the student be evaluated for special education services; or
- The teacher or other school personnel has expressed specific concern about a pattern of behavior demonstrated by the student directly to the Director or Executive Director of the Special Education Department or to other supervisory personnel.

If instituting disciplinary action that would exceed ten days and the principal believes that one or more of these events applies to the student, the principal will notify the Special Education Department to determine the appropriate disciplinary procedures.

The District is not deemed to have knowledge if, as a result of receiving the information described above, the District either:

- Conducted a special education evaluation of the student and determined that the student was not eligible for services; or
- The parent of the student has not allowed an evaluation of the child or has refused services.

If the District is not deemed to have knowledge that a student is a student eligible for special education services, the student may be disciplined as a student without disabilities who engages in comparable behaviors. The District shall conduct an evaluation, which is requested during the time period such a student is subjected to disciplinary measures, in an expedited manner. Until the evaluation is completed, such a student shall remain in the educational placement determined by the District, which can include suspension or expulsion without educational services.

Notwithstanding the foregoing, the District may report a crime committed by a student eligible for special education services to appropriate authorities. In the event of such a report, the District shall ensure that copies of the student's special education and

disciplinary records are transmitted for consideration by the appropriate authorities to whom the crime is reported; to the extent transmission of the records is permitted by the Family Educational Rights and Privacy Act (FERPA).

STAFF QUALIFICATIONS

All employees of the District funded in whole or part with state or federal excess special education funds will meet the standards established by the State Board of Education (SBE) and defined in WAC 392-172A-02090. All employees will hold such credentials, certificates or permits as are now or hereafter required by the SBE for the particular position of employment and shall meet such supplemental standards established by the District.

Special Education Teachers

All special education teachers providing, designing, supervising, evaluating or monitoring the provision of special education shall possess “substantial professional training.” This shall be shown by the issuance of an appropriate special education endorsement on an individual teaching certificate issued by the Superintendent of Public Instruction.

In the event a special education teacher does not have a certificate endorsed in special education, a District may apply for a pre-endorsement waiver through the special education section of the OSPI. To qualify for the special education pre-endorsement waiver, the teacher must meet SBE criteria.

If the District must temporarily assign a classroom teacher without a special education endorsement to a special education position, a member of the Human Resources team will document in writing that:

1. The District is unable to recruit a teacher with the proper endorsement who was qualified for the position; and/or
2. The need for a teacher with such an endorsement could not have been reasonably anticipated and the recruitment of such a classroom teacher at the time of assignment was not reasonably practical; and/or
3. The reassignment of another teacher within the District would be unreasonably disruptive to the current assignments of other classroom teachers or would have an adverse effect on the educational program of the students assigned to the other teacher.

If one or more of these criteria can be documented and the District determines that a teacher has the competencies to be an effective special education teacher and the teacher has completed six-semester hours or nine-quarter hours of course work which are applicable to the special education endorsement, the District can assign the teacher to special education in compliance with the process for making out-of-endorsement assignments and reporting them to the state.

Classified staff will present evidence of skills and knowledge necessary to meet the needs of students with disabilities. The District will provide training to classified staff to meet the state recommended core competencies.

Adopted: August 2013

Revised: October 2016, June 2017

Cross Reference: Policy Nos. 2161, 2415, C62.00; Chapter 28A.155 RCW; Chapter 392-172A WAC