

Instruction

Education of Children with Disabilities 1

The School District shall provide a free appropriate public education in the least restrictive environment and necessary related services to all children with disabilities enrolled in the District, as required by the Individuals With Disabilities Education Act (IDEA) and implementing provisions of The School Code, Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973, and the Americans With Disabilities Act. ² The term “children with disabilities,” as used in this policy, means children between ages 3 and 21 (inclusive) for whom it is determined, through definitions and procedures described in the Illinois State Board of Education’s *Special Education* rules, that special education services are needed.

It is the intent of the District to ensure that students who are disabled within the definition of Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973 are identified, evaluated, and provided with appropriate educational services. Students may be disabled within the meaning of Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act even though they do not require services pursuant to the IDEA.

For students eligible for services under IDEA, the District shall follow procedures for identification, evaluation, placement, and delivery of services to children with disabilities provided in the Illinois State Board of Education’s *Special Education* rules. For those students who are not eligible for services under IDEA, but, because of disability as defined by Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973, need or are believed to need special instruction or related services, the District shall establish and implement a system of procedural safeguards. The safeguards shall cover students’ identification, evaluation, and educational placement. This system shall include notice, an opportunity for the student’s parent(s)/guardian(s) to examine relevant records, an impartial hearing with opportunity for participation by the student’s parent(s)/guardian(s), representation by counsel, and a review procedure. ³

The District may maintain membership in one or more cooperative associations of school districts that shall assist the District in fulfilling its obligations to the District’s disabled students.

If necessary, students may also be placed in nonpublic special education programs or education facilities. ⁴

¹ State or federal law controls this policy’s content. Each school district and special education cooperative must develop written special education policies and procedures in conformance with ISBE’s rules (23 Ill.Admin.Code §226.710). In its continuing commitment to help school districts and special education cooperatives comply with ISBE’s requirements for policy and procedure, the Ill. Council of School Attorneys, special education committee, reviewed this policy and prepared extensive procedures, *Special Education Procedures Assuring the Implementation of Comprehensive Programming for Children with Disabilities*, that are available gratis on www.iasb.com/law/.

² Opinions vary regarding the extent of a district’s responsibility for providing FAPE to dually enrolled students, i.e., whether the responsibility is limited to the extent necessary to access the public portion of their education. Contact the board attorney for advice.

³ Districts must use ISBE’s procedural safeguards for students who qualify for services under IDEA. For students who qualify for services exclusively under Section 504, the district must establish a system of procedural safeguards or use the ones provided by ISBE’s *Special Education* rules (34 C.F.R. §104.36). ISBE’s rules are more burdensome than is required by Section 504 and districts may, as the policy provides, develop their own procedures. See 6:120-E, Exhibit, *Notice to Parents/Guardians Regarding Section 504*.

⁴ The district may be eligible to receive reimbursement from the State for the student’s expenses (105 ILCS 5/14-7.02).

LEGAL REF.: Americans With Disabilities Act, 42 U.S.C. §12101 et seq.
Individuals With Disabilities Education Improvement Act of 2004, 20 U.S.C.
§1400 et seq.
Rehabilitation Act of 1973, Section 504, 29 U.S.C. §794.
105 ILCS 5/14-1.01 et seq., 5/14-7.02, and 5/14-7.02a.
23 Ill.Admin.Code Part 226.

CROSS REF.: 2:150 (Committees), 7:230 (Misconduct by Students with Disabilities)

Policy Reviewed: October 2003—Policy Revised: November 2003
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Policy Reviewed August 2011
Policy Adopted September 2011

Instruction

Administrative Procedure - Special Education Procedures Assuring the Implementation of Comprehensive Programming for Children with Disabilities

In its continuing commitment to help school districts and special education cooperatives comply with ISBE requirements for procedure, the special education committee of the Ill. Council of School Attorneys prepared model special education procedures. ISBE has approved these procedures as conforming to 23 Ill.Admin.Code §226.710. This ISBE rule contains the requirements for special education procedures that must be adopted by each school district and cooperative entity. The IASB/ISBE model procedures are approximately 80 pages and are available on the IASB website: <http://iasb.com/law/icsaspeded.cfm>.

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Administrative Procedure - Access to Classrooms and Personnel

Access to classrooms and personnel is permitted in limited situations by Section 105 ILCS 5/14-8.02(g-5), amended by P.A. 96-657. Guidelines follow:

1. These guidelines apply to access requested by the parent/guardian of a student receiving special education services or being evaluated for eligibility, an independent educational evaluator, or a qualified professional retained by or on behalf of a parent/guardian or child. A *qualified professional* means “an individual who holds credentials to evaluate the child in the domain or domains for which an evaluation is sought or an intern working under the direct supervision of a qualified professional, including a master’s or doctoral degree candidate.” These individuals are referred to in this procedure as *visitors*.
2. Visitors will be afforded reasonable access to educational facilities, personnel, classrooms, and buildings and to the child. To minimize disruption, reasonable access means that the parent(s)/guardian(s) or qualified professional retained by or on behalf of a parent/guardian or child is allowed access once per school quarter for up to one hour or one class period. ⁵ A visitor may request the authorized administrator to grant longer or additional observations based on individual circumstances and provide any supporting documentation in support of such a request. A professional evaluator can request longer or additional observations in his or her initial request. The administrator may grant, deny, or modify the request, and the administrator’s decision shall be final.
3. Visitors must comply with:

⁵ State law is silent on the frequency and length of access. These provisions may be omitted or changed. If the frequency or length of access is limited, the procedure should allow a visitor to request longer or additional access (as in the next sentence).

- a. School safety, security, and visitation policies at all times.
 - b. Applicable privacy laws, including those laws protecting the confidentiality of education records such as the federal Family Educational Rights and Privacy Act and the Illinois School Student Records Act.
 - c. Board policy 8:30, *Visitors to and Conduct on School Property*. Visitors may not disrupt the educational process.
4. If the visitor is a parent/guardian, he or she will be afforded reasonable access as described above for the purpose of:
 - a. Observing his or her child in the child's current educational placement, services, or program, or
 - b. Visiting an educational placement or program proposed for the child by the IEP team.
5. If the visitor is an independent educational evaluator or a qualified professional retained by or on behalf of a parent or child, he or she must be afforded reasonable access of sufficient duration and scope for the purpose of conducting an evaluation of the child, the child's performance, the child's current educational program, placement, services, or environment, or any educational program, placement, services, or environment proposed for the child, including interviews of educational personnel, child observations, assessments, tests, or assessments of the child's educational program, services, or placement or of any educational program proposed by the IEP team, services, or placement. If one or more interviews of school personnel are part of the evaluation, the interviews must be conducted at a mutually agreed upon time, date, and place that do not interfere with the school employee's school duties. The Building Principal or designee may limit interviews to personnel having information relevant to the child's current educational services, program, or placement or to a proposed educational service, program, or placement.
6. Prior to visiting a school, school building, or school facility, a visitor must complete 6:120-AP2, E1, *Request to Access Classroom(s) or Personnel for Special Education Evaluation and/or Observation Purposes*. This form serves to:
 - a. Inform the Building Principal or designee in writing of the proposed visit(s), the purpose, and the duration, and
 - b. Identify requested dates/times for the visit(s) to facilitate scheduling.
7. The student's parent/guardian must consent in writing to the student being interviewed by the named evaluator as part of a visit. The parent/guardian will grant this consent by completing 6:120-AP2, E1, *Request to Access Classroom(s) or Personnel for Special Education Evaluation and/or Observation Purposes*.
8. The student's parent/guardian, or the student, if he or she is over the age of 18, must execute an Authorization to Release Student Record Information before an independent educational evaluator or a qualified professional retained by or on behalf of a parent/guardian or child will be given access to student school records or to personnel who would likely release such records during discussions about the student. If a student is over the age of 12 and the records contain mental health and/or developmental disability information, the student must also be requested to sign the Authorization to Release information before any observation by or disclosure of school student records or information to a visitor.
9. The visitor must acknowledge, before the visit, that he or she is obligated to honor students' confidentiality rights and refrain from any re-disclosure of such records. The visitor will provide this acknowledgment and agreement by completing 6:120-AP2, E1, *Request to Access Classroom(s) or Personnel for Special Education Evaluation and/or Observation Purposes*.

10. The Building Principal or designee will attempt to arrange the visit(s) at times that are mutually agreeable. The Building Principal or designee will accompany any visitor for the duration of the visit, including during any interviews of staff members.
11. If the visitor is a professional retained by the parent/guardian, the visitor must provide identification and credentials before the visit.
12. This procedure applies to any public school facility, building, or program and to any facility, building, or program supported in whole or in part by public funds. The student's case manager or other District designee must facilitate such visit(s) when the student attends a program outside of the School District, such as at a private day program or residential program, provided it is supported in whole or in part by public funds.

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Exhibit - Request to Access Classroom(s) or Personnel for Special Education Evaluation and/or Observation Purposes

Student name: _____ DOB: _____

School attending: _____ Grade: _____

The following information must be completed by individuals requesting to access a school building, facility, and/or educational programs or to interview District personnel or the student named above for the purpose of assessing the student’s special education needs. Please complete this form and return it to the Building Principal or Program Director where the student is enrolled. He or she will contact you to coordinate your visit:

Parent/Guardian *(Complete this section if the person making the request is the parent/guardian.)*

Name: _____ Title: _____ Phone: _____

Address: _____

I am the parent/guardian of the above-named student and wish to observe my child in the following classroom/settings: _____
for the purpose of: _____

I am the parent/guardian of the above-named student and wish to observe the following classroom/settings which have been recommended for my child: _____
_____ for the purpose of: _____

Observations are limited to one hour or one class period per school quarter.

Parent’s Independent Evaluator or Other Qualified Professional *(Complete this section if the person making the request is not the parent/guardian.)*

Name: _____ Agency/Company: _____

Phone: _____ Email address: _____

Address: _____

My professional training and/or licensure or certification, if applicable, is (check all that apply):

Teacher, certified in the areas of: _____ Illinois certified? Y N

- | | |
|--|--|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Clinical Psychologist | <input type="checkbox"/> School Psychologist |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Licensed Clinical Social Worker | <input type="checkbox"/> Licensed Social Worker |
| <input type="checkbox"/> School Social Worker | <input type="checkbox"/> Occupational Therapist |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Physical Therapist | <input type="checkbox"/> Speech/Language Pathologist |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Audiologist | <input type="checkbox"/> Psychiatrist |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Registered Nurse | <input type="checkbox"/> Certified School Nurse |

Other qualified professional (list credentials): _____

I have been requested by the above named student’s parent/guardian to conduct an evaluation of the student for the purpose of: _____

As part of this evaluation, I am requesting the following for the length of time noted (check all that apply):

- Observation of student in the following classroom(s)/setting(s): _____
Duration: _____
- Opportunity to interview the following personnel believed to work with the student: _____
Duration: _____
- Opportunity to interview the student.
- I will need more than one hour or one class period for my visit for the following reason(s): _____
- Student records, as noted in the attached, signed Authorization to Release Student Record Information.

Acknowledgement *(To be completed by the person making the access request.)*

I understand that the School District will allow me reasonable access to the school, school facilities, or educational programs or individual(s) I have requested as related to the purpose of my visit. I have been provided with a copy of 6:120-AP2, *Access to Classrooms and Personnel*, and agree to comply with its terms and conditions. I further understand that during my visit, I must honor all students' confidentiality rights and refrain from any re-disclosure of such records.

Individual Requesting Access Signature

Date

Parent/Guardian Verification *(Must be completed whenever an independent evaluator or other qualified professional requests access.)*

I, _____, am the parent/guardian of the above-named student, and I confirm that I have requested an evaluation of my child by the individual named herein, for the stated purpose(s). If requested above, I consent to my child being interviewed by the named evaluator as part of this visit understanding that the District has not conducted a background check on the evaluator. I have no reason to believe the evaluator poses a safety risk to my child or others. I further understand and agree that it is my responsibility to notify the School District in writing if I end my working relationship with the named evaluator prior to the completion of the tasks outlined herein and that the School District otherwise will work with the evaluator to provide reasonable access to the school, school building, school facility, personnel, or my child at mutually agreed upon times and in a manner that is least disruptive to the school setting or my child's academic program.

Parent/Guardian Signature

Date

Instruction

Administrative Procedure - Care of Students with Diabetes

The Ill. Council of School Attorneys prepared material for implementing the Care of Students with Diabetes Act (105 ILCS 145/, added by P.A. 96-1485). This material includes:

1. Sample procedures for the care of students with diabetes
2. Answers to FAQs on: process for selecting a delegated care aide; training; developing a diabetes care plan; classroom management; and sample authorization, release, and acknowledgement

The material is posted on the IASB website, iasb.com/law/diabmats.cfm.

School officials should periodically check the IASB website for updates to the material that are made in response to legislation or other developments.