

## **Instruction**

### **Education of Children with Disabilities**

The 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. 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), and representation by counsel, and a review procedure.

The District may maintain membership in one or more cooperative associations of school districts that shall assist the School 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.

To assist with the education of children with disabilities, employees may utilize service animals. An employee may only employ the use of service animals at the District after obtaining written permission from the Superintendent or his/her designee and demonstrating that the service animal has a current rabies vaccination and tag for the safety interests of all individuals in the school environment.

The teacher and/or handler utilizing the service animal must ensure that safety interests of staff and students are met when employing the service animal.

The service animal must be housebroken and be under the control of its handler under all times while on District property. Failure of the handler to maintain control of the service animal may result in the service animal being barred from District property.

A person who is a “sex offender,” as defined by the Sex Offender Registration Act, or a “violent offender against youth,” as defined in the Child Murderer and Violent Offender Against Youth Registration Act, or has otherwise been convicted of a felony, is prohibited from being a handler or otherwise assisting with the service animal.

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 5/14-7.02b.  
23 Ill.Admin.Code Part 226.  
34 C.F.R. §300.

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

ADOPTED: January 9, 2017