

Special Education And Related Services For Eligible Students

Policy No. 2161

Free Appropriate Public Education and Specially Designed Instruction

Educational Service District 112 provides a free appropriate public education with specially designed instruction (special education) for all eligible individuals with disabilities, ages 3 to 21, who reside in the district.

It is the policy of the district that special education services shall be provided in accordance with ESD 112 special education policies and operational guidelines (or procedures).

Not all students with disabilities are eligible for special education. The needs of disabled students who are not eligible for special education will be addressed individually. If a student qualifies, and as appropriate, the student will be provided accommodations and/or modifications required under Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act, in accordance with the district's Section 504 Rehabilitation Act policy and procedures.

Mediation or Resolution Sessions and Related Agreements

The board grants the ESD 112 superintendent or designee decision-making authority for the purpose of participating in and entering binding agreements in the course of resolution sessions pursuant to WAC 392-172A-05090 and/or mediations pursuant to WAC 392-172A-05060.

Graduation Ceremonies and Certificate of Attendance

Generally, in order to participate in commencement exercises, students must have met the minimum criteria for graduation prior to the date of the exercise and otherwise be in good standing with their school through the commencement date. Minimum criteria for participation may be adjusted for special education students whose disabilities have impacted their opportunity to accumulate credits. Each student's Individual Education Plan (IEP) team will determine the student's graduation plan, including graduation date. Special education students who have attended four years of high school and need additional time to complete IEP goals and/or credits may request participation in commencement exercises. IEP students will receive a certificate of attendance until they complete their credits for graduation.

The district superintendent shall develop and maintain procedures necessary to implement this policy. This policy, ESD 112's Special Education Policy and ESD 112's special education operational guidelines shall be available to the public.

Special Education and Related Services for Eligible Students

The District is a member of the Educational Service District 112 (ESD 112) Special Education Cooperative. ESD 112 provides special education services to all eligible individuals with disabilities who reside in the Cooperative Member Districts.

ESD 112 has adopted Special Education and Related Services for Eligible Students Procedures, which are attached hereto. The ESD 112 Special Education Procedures will be followed in the district.

As reflected in the ESD 112 Special Education Procedures:

1. The District will notify the special education team assigned to a building where a student is enrolled if any of the District personnel have reason to suspect the student may be eligible for special education or related services.
2. The District will provide nonacademic and extracurricular activities and services to students that are eligible for special education services, affording all students an equal opportunity to participate in nonacademic and extracurricular activities and services.
3. A general education teacher and an administrator or an administrator's designee will participate in student evaluations, development of the Individualized Education Program (IEP) and IEP team meetings.
4. If the District removes a special education student from the school setting or placement identified in the student's IEP because the student violated the District's code of student conduct:
 - a. The District's building administrator and/or the Superintendent will consult with the special education team that provides services in the building where the student is educated to determine what, if any, special education procedures or requirements apply; if emergency circumstances prevent the administrator or superintendent from consulting with the team prior to removing the student, the administrator or superintendent will notify the team immediately following the student's removal;
 - b. After a student has been removed from his or her current placement for ten school days in the same school year, during any subsequent days of removal the District must provide educational services so as to enable the student to continue to participate in the general education curriculum and to progress toward meeting the goals set out in the student's IEP; .
 - c. When the disciplinary removal is ten days school days or less in a school year, the District will provide services during periods of removal to a student eligible for special education to the same extent and in the same manner as it provides services to a student without disabilities who is similarly removed;
 - d. When disciplinary changes in placement exceed ten consecutive school days, and the special education team that provides services in the building where the student is educated determine that the behavior

that gave rise to the violation of the school code is **not** a manifestation of the student's disability, the District may apply the relevant disciplinary procedures to students eligible for special education in the same manner and for the same duration as a district would apply discipline procedures to students without disabilities, except that the District must provide educational services so as to enable the student to continue to participate in the general education curriculum and to progress toward meeting the goals set out in the student's IEP;

- e. When disciplinary changes in placement exceed ten consecutive school days, and the special education team that provides services in the building where the student is educated determine that the behavior that gave rise to the violation of the school code is a manifestation of the student's disability, the District may **not** apply its regular disciplinary procedures; instead, the student must be returned to the placement specified in the IEP or, if the parents agree, to a different placement developed through the IEP process.
6. The District personnel will notify the building special education team when the District receives:
 - a. A complaint from or about a special education student;
 - b. A request for a student evaluation for eligibility or a referral for special education and related services;
 - c. A request for a reevaluation; and
 - d. A request for a change of placement and/or placement in a private school.
 7. The District will notify the building special education team, who will notify the ESD Special Education Cooperative Director, when the District receives a request for any of the following:
 - a. An independent educational evaluation for a student receiving special education or related services;
 - b. A due process hearing;
 - c. Mediation;
 - d. Copies of IEPs or educational records for students that are receiving special education or related services;
 - e. Revocation of consent to an initial evaluation or to the continued provision of special education services.
 8. The District will notify the ESD Special Education Cooperative Director when it receives notice that a student that is eligible for special education services may be transferring to the District under a boundary exception.

Individuals who want additional information or have questions regarding the procedures for the provision of special education or related services need to contact the ESD 112 Special Education Cooperative Director at (360) 750.7500.