

Administrative Procedure 214

SPECIAL EDUCATION PROGRAMS

Background

Special education refers to the education of students with mild, moderate, or severe disabilities and those who are gifted and talented. It is founded on the belief that all children can learn and reach their full potential given opportunity, effective teaching and appropriate resources. Instruction, rather than setting, is the key to success and decisions related to the placement of students are best made on an individual basis in a manner that maximizes their opportunity to participate fully in the experience of schooling.

Procedures

1. Any special education programs will be delivered in accordance with the School Act and the Standards for Special Education.
2. Special Education programming will be coordinated and administered by the Associate Superintendent of Student Learning using the Student Learning Handbook.
3. Educating students with special education needs in inclusive settings is the first placement option considered by the Division in consultation with parents and, when appropriate, students. Inclusion, by definition, refers not merely to setting but to specially designed instruction and support for students with special education needs in regular classrooms and neighborhood schools. Special education programs can be provided in a variety of settings ranging from adapted programs in regular classrooms to specially designed programs in segregated classrooms.
4. The student's needs, ability and educational needs shall be the deciding factors in placement and the recommended placement shall be made in consultation with the student's parent(s) or guardian(s). Placement in Division programs will be reviewed by the Special Education Facilitator, principal and Associate Superintendent of Student Learning.
5. Student assessments will be conducted by qualified personnel.
6. The Associate Superintendent will enter into contracts with professionals and organizations to provide instructional support services.

Reference: Section 8, 23, 45, 47, 48, 123, 124, 125, School Act
Student Record Regulation 71/99
Education Placement of Students With Special Needs Policy 1.6.1
Special Education Policy 1.6.2
Guide to Education ECS to Grade 12
Standards for Special Education

