

policy

**BOARD OF EDUCATION
GENEVA COMMUNITY UNIT
SCHOOL DISTRICT #304**

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EDUCATION OF CHILDREN WITH DISABILITIES

Free and Appropriate Public Education

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. 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.

Child Find

The School District shall be responsible for actively seeking out and identifying all children ages 3 through age 21 within the School District (and those parentally-placed private school children for whom the School District is responsible who may be eligible for special education and related services). This requirement relates to homeless children, children who are wards of the state, and highly mobile and migrant children.

Evaluation

The School District shall be responsible for conducting an evaluation using a variety of evaluation methods and instruments that are nondiscriminatory, culturally unbiased and administered in a child’s primary language. Explanation of evaluation results to the child’s parents shall be communicated in a culturally sensitive manner and in the parents’ primary language. Consistent application of the established eligibility criteria shall be applied to all students in determining eligibility.

Placement

The School District supports the right of children with disabilities to be educated with nondisabled children to the maximum extent appropriate. Placement shall be based on the child’s IEP and shall be as close as possible to the child’s home. Unless the IEP of a child with a disability requires some other arrangement, the child shall be educated in the school that he or she would attend if nondisabled. A placement determination based solely upon the category of a child’s disability or on the current configuration of the School District’s service delivery system is prohibited. In selecting the least restrictive environment (LRE), consideration shall be given to any potential harmful effect on the child or on the quality of services received. The School District may maintain membership in one or more cooperative

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associations of school districts that shall assist the School District in fulfilling its obligations to the District's disabled children. If necessary, a student may also be placed in nonpublic special education programs or education facilities.

Educational Services

The School District shall take steps to ensure that children with disabilities have equal access to the variety of educational programs and services available to nondisabled children. Steps shall be taken by the School District to ensure the availability of regular educational programs and services to children with disabilities.

During all IEP meetings for all students believed to have a developmental disability, the opportunity to enroll in the Prioritization of Urgency of Need for Services ("PUNS") database will be discussed.

Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973

For those students who are not eligible for services under IDEA, but, because of a condition or disability as defined by Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973, need or are believed to need accommodations or modifications related to the condition or disability, the School District shall establish and implement a system or procedural safeguards. The Safeguards shall cover students' identification, evaluation, and educational placement.

105/10-22.31, 105/14-1.01 et seq.

105 ILSC 5/2-3.163

23 ILAC 226

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