



Responsible Office: Office of School Leadership

BOARD POLICY 6800

SPECIAL EDUCATION

PURPOSE

The Board of Trustees (Board) is committed to providing individualized instruction in the least restrictive environment to students with disabilities, empowering them to achieve their individualized goals and objectives. It is the responsibility of the Washoe County School District (District) to build an equitable education environment and customize the learning environment to meet the wide-ranging needs of diverse learners and to provide learning opportunities for each and every student.

DEFINITIONS

1. "Individualized Education Program (IEP)" refers to the written document required for each child who is eligible to receive special education services. It is provided to a student who has been determined first to have a disability and, second, to need specially designed instruction because of that disability.
2. "Individualized Instruction" refers to a method of instruction in which content, instructional technology, and pace of learning are based upon the abilities and interests of each individual learner.
3. "Local Educational Agency (LEA)" is a public board of education or other public authority legally constituted within a state for either administrative control or direction of or to perform a service function for public schools. The LEA is acting on behalf of the school board of education when making decisions, committing resources, and implementing the IEP.
4. "Least Restrictive Environment (LRE)" is the requirement that students with disabilities receive their education, to the maximum extent appropriate, with nondisabled peers and that special education students are not removed from regular classes unless, even with supplemental aids and services, education in regular classes cannot be achieved satisfactorily.
5. "Child Find" is a requirement under the Individuals with Disabilities in Education Act (IDEA) that school districts shall identify, locate, and evaluate all children

with disabilities, in need of special education and related services. Child Find extends to all children residing in the district from age 3 through 21 and is not limited to those attending public schools.

6. "Specially Designed Instruction" refers to adapting, as appropriate, to the needs of an eligible child, the content, methodology, or delivery of instruction to meet the student's unique needs.

POLICY

1. Students with disabilities shall receive individualized instruction aligned with their IEP in the LRE in order to access grade level content and meet the goals identified in the IEP.
 - a. The academic success of students with disabilities is a responsibility shared by students, educators, families, and the community.
 - b. The IEP shall be developed using Nevada Academic Content Standards (NVACS), evidence-based practices, use of assessment data, and communication with families.
 - c. The District shall provide general and special education teachers, school administrators, and applicable support personnel with professional learning opportunities related to special education services on an ongoing basis.
2. The District will support families to build capacity in their advocacy of students with disabilities by ensuring parent notice and participation in the IEP process as required in state and federal laws, and communicating to families the role of Child Find in identifying students with disabilities.
3. The Board hereby directs the Superintendent to adopt an Administrative Regulation to implement and maintain the purpose of this Board Policy. The Superintendent shall include in the Administrative Regulation the following provisions:
 - a. The provision of professional learning to District employees that focuses on inclusive practices, instructional practices, specially designed instruction, building partnerships with families, and compliance for general education teachers, special education teachers, and employees;
 - b. The process for schools to provide related services for students with disabilities;

- c. A process to assist school-based employees with IEP development and compliance;
- d. A process to assist schools in reviewing data related to progress towards IEP goals for students with disabilities; and

The provision of professional learning for school administrators who serve as the LEA to lead the IEP team and help to identify the individual needs of students.

LEGAL REQUIREMENTS AND ASSOCIATED DOCUMENTS

1. This Board Policy reflects the goals of the District's Strategic Plan and aligns/complies with the governing documents of the District, to include:
 - a. Board Policy 5200, Family Engagement;
 - b. Board Policy 6600, Course of Study;
 - c. Board Policy 9200, Harassment and Discrimination Prohibited; and
 - d. Board Policy 9210, Equity and Diversity.
2. This Board Policy complies with Nevada Revised Statutes (NRS) and Nevada Administrative Code (NAC), to include:
 - a. Chapter 388, System of Public Education, and specifically:
 - i. NRS 388.417 – 388.525, Pupils with Disabilities;
 - b. Chapter 389, Academics and Textbooks; and
 - c. Chapter 392, Pupils.
3. This Board Policy complies with federal laws and regulations, to include:
 - a. American with Disabilities Act Amendments Act of 2008;
 - b. Civil Rights Act of 1964;
 - c. Title IX of the Education Amendments of 1972;
 - d. Section 504 of Rehabilitation Act of 1973; and
 - e. Individuals with Disabilities in Education Act (IDEA).

REVISION HISTORY

Date	Revision	Modification
1/10/2017	1.0	Adopted:
07/26/2022	2.0	Revised: Update format and clarify language