

Section: **INSTRUCTION**

Policy Title: **Special Education and Related Services for Eligible Students**

### **Free Appropriate Public Education and Specially Designed Instruction**

It is the policy of the district to provide a free, appropriate, public education to all eligible students with disabilities, ages three through 21, in a manner consistent with State and federal law. The district shall apply to the State annually for funds pursuant to Part B of the Individuals with Disabilities Education Improvement Act of 2004.

Special education programs for students eligible for special education shall be an integral part of the educational programs of this district, and shall be operated in compliance with federal and State requirements governing special education. Specially designed instruction and related services for an eligible student is identified in the student's Individualized Education Program (IEP). The district is committed to providing special education programs and related services in the least restrictive environment, and to providing a continuum of placement options for qualifying students, based on the students' individual needs.

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 district policy and procedures. (See Board Policy #2162).

### **Mediation or Resolution Sessions and Related Agreements**

The board grants the superintendent or a 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. However, there are students eligible for special education, who have attended four years of high school, but who's IEPs prescribe the continuation of special education and related services beyond the fourth year of high school. Therefore, any such student who will continue to receive special education and related services between the ages of 18 and 21, shall be permitted to participate in the graduation ceremony and activities, after four years of high school attendance, with his or her age-appropriate peers, and receive a certificate of attendance and continue to be eligible to receive special education and related services until they complete their credits for graduation.

The district superintendent shall develop and maintain special education procedures necessary to implement this policy. This policy and the procedures shall be available to the public.

Cross References:

- Policy 2162, Education of Students with Disabilities Under Section 504
- Policy 3241, Classroom Management, Corrective Actions or Punishment
- Policy 3231, Student Records

Legal References:

- RCW 28A.155 Special Education
- WAC 392-172 Special Education Programs
- 20 USC 1400 - 1491o IDEA (1997 Individuals with Disabilities Education Act)
- 34 CFR 99.1 - 99.67 Family Education Rights and Privacy
- 34 CFR 104.1 - 104.61 Nondiscrimination on the basis of handicap in programs and activities receiving or benefiting from federal financial assistance
- 34 CFR 300.1 - 300.754 Assistance to Education of Children with Disabilities Program, Part B
- 34 CFR 303.1 - 303.67 Early intervention for infants and toddlers with disabilities, Part C

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