

STUDENTS: Enrollment and Attendance

Assignment to Special Education Program

1. Definition

As used herein, “Students with Disabilities” means those children who have been determined through appropriate assessment as having temporary or longterm special education needs arising from cognitive, emotional, or physical factors or any combination of these. Their ability to meet general educational objectives is impaired to a degree whereby the services available in the general education program are inadequate in preparing them to achieve their educational potential.

2. Identification

Each local elementary and/or secondary school will implement procedures for identifying, locating, and evaluating children within its community who are disabled and in need of these special education programs and services. All students identified through these “Child Find” procedures will be reported to the Maryland State Department of Education using the Special Services Information System.

3. Assessment

An appropriate assessment in the student’s primary language must be conducted for all students identified through established screening procedures as potentially in need of special education programs and services. Assessments are to be conducted individually. Each student must be assessed in all areas where there is a suspected need for special education services.

All assessments must be multi-disciplinary and conducted by personnel certified or licensed in the designated area.

The Maryland State Bylaw for Students with Disabilities requires that an “educational assessment be completed for school age children.” It included appraisal of current function in:

- a. Reading, mathematics, spelling
- b. Written and oral language
- c. Perceptual motor functioning.

Upon receipt of the results of the in-depth assessment, the local school Admission, Review, and Dismissal team will confirm the existence of a disabling condition, specify the instructional and related services needs, and determine the appropriate level of special education program.

4. Placement

Students with disabilities shall be educated in the least restrictive appropriate program level (Levels I through IV) and served in compatible age, developmental, and instructional groupings. Program accessibility shall be assured through identified barrier-free elementary, middle, and high schools.

To the maximum extent appropriate, students with disabilities, including students in private or other care facilities, are to be educated with students who are not disabled. Any placement in special classes, special schools, or removal of students with disabilities from the general education environment should occur only when the nature or severity of the disability is such that education in regular classes with the use of supplementary aides and services cannot be achieved satisfactorily.

Enrollment of students in special education programs and related services shall be based on the verification of the existence of an educational disabling condition and need for special education and/or related services by the local Admission, Review, and Dismissal team (including the student as appropriate and his/her parents.)

Baltimore County will insure that a continuum of alternative placements is available to meet the needs of the students with disabilities as set forth in his/her written Individualized Education Plan.

Each disabled student's educational placement will be determined annually and will be based on his/her Individualized Education Plan. Unless the Individualized Education Plan requires other arrangements, the student with a disability will be educated in the school he or she would attend, if not disabled.

Placements in Levels I through IV may be arranged by the local school administrators. Placements in Levels V and VI will be made by the Office of Special Education. Placements in Levels I through IV which require assignment to a school outside the student's usual attendance area will be made by the Office of Special Education.

Legal Reference: Education Article, §§ 8-301 to 8-307 and §§ 8-401 to 8-416
Annotated Code of Maryland (13.05.0 1)

Rule
Approved: 11/21/68
Revised: 7/11/85
Revised: 3/13/91]

Superintendent of Schools