

## **SPECIAL EDUCATION**

The board recognizes some students have different educational needs than other students. The board will provide a free appropriate public education program and related services to students identified in need of special education. The special education services will be provided from birth until the appropriate education is completed, age twenty-one or to maximum age allowable in accordance with the law. Students requiring special education will attend general education classes, participate in nonacademic and extracurricular services and activities and receive services in a general education setting to the maximum extent appropriate to the needs of each individual student. The appropriate education for each student is written in the student's Individualized Education Program (IEP).

Special education students are required to meet the requirements stated in board policy or in their IEPs for graduation. It is the responsibility of the superintendent and the area education agency director of special education to provide or make provisions for appropriate special education and related services.

Children from birth through age 2 and children age 3 through age 5 are provided comprehensive special education services within the public education system. The school district will work in conjunction with the area education agency to provide services, at the earliest appropriate time, to children with disabilities from birth through age 2. This is done to ensure a smooth transition of children entitled to early childhood special education services.

All handicapped children from birth to 21 years of age, regardless of the severity of their handicap, who reside within the Midland Community School District and who require special education and related services shall, in cooperation with the Grant Wood Area Education Agency (GWAEA), be identified, evaluated and provided a free and appropriate public education in accordance with the Code of Iowa, the Education of all Handicapped Children Act (P.L. 94-142), applicable state/federal regulation and the district's goal of providing full educational opportunities for handicapped students.

Handicapped students and their parents or guardians shall be afforded all rights and procedural safeguards to which they are entitled under state and federal law, rule, and regulation. These include:

- \* Establishment and maintenance of ongoing identification and evaluation activities to ensure early identification of appropriate special education for pupils of all ages requiring special education.
- \* A free and appropriate public education provided within the least restrictive appropriate educational placement in accordance with an individual education plan which shall identify and make provision for all special education instructional programming, support services and related services the student may require.
- \* Conduct of appropriate pre-evaluation and pre-placement activities designed to facilitate meeting student educational needs within the regular education program.
- \* Due process in identification, evaluation, educational placement, and programming.
- \* Protection in the conduct of evaluation, placement, and re-evaluation procedures.

- \* Appointment by the GWAEA Directors of Special Education of a surrogate parent to act in place of a parent in protecting the pupil's rights in the educational decision making process when the pupil's parents known, unavailable, or the parent's rights have been terminated and the pupil is under the guardianship of the state.

- \* Parent consent for initial special education evaluation and written notice prior to subsequent re-evaluation.

- \* Parent consent prior to the initiation of special education programming or services and written notice prior to subsequent changes in programming or services.

- \* Conduct of evaluation, individual education plan development, placement, annual review, and re-evaluation activities by an appropriately constituted multi-disciplinary team.

- \* Confidentiality of information and records.

In all respects applicable to the District's responsibility for the provision of Special Education Services in conjunction with the GWAEA, the District shall adhere to the rules and procedures prescribed by the Iowa Rules of Special Education. These shall be supplemented as may be required state/federal law, and regulation.

When necessary, the District shall contract with other districts, area education agencies, and other public or private agencies for the purpose of providing an appropriate special education program and related services for individual pupils or groups of pupils. The district shall assure and condition payment of the proper delivery of these services.