

POLICY

BOARD OF EDUCATION OF ANNE ARUNDEL COUNTY

Related Entries: IFF-RA

Responsible Office: DIVISION OF SPECIAL EDUCATION

SPECIAL EDUCATION PROGRAMS FOR STUDENTS WITH DISABILITIES

A. PURPOSE

To establish a policy that ensures that infants and toddlers and students with disabilities receive a free, appropriate public education (FAPE) and related services in the least restrictive environment appropriate for the child in accordance with federal and State laws and regulations.

B. ISSUE

Federal and State laws and regulations govern the provision of special education services for individuals with disabilities from birth through the end of the school year in which the individual turns 21 years old. These laws and regulations ensure qualified infants and toddlers and students with disabilities receive a free, appropriate public education and related services in the least restrictive environment appropriate in accordance with Individualized Education Programs and Individualized Family Services Plans.

C. POSITION

Federal and State laws and regulations governing the education of infants and toddlers and students with disabilities ensure a free, appropriate public education for all students with disabilities, from birth through the end of the school year in which the child turns 21 years old. Accordingly, the Board of Education of Anne Arundel County is committed to:

1. Ensuring the assessment and identification procedures used to determine who is eligible as a student with a disability or who is experiencing developmental delays and in need of special education and related services are not discriminatory.
2. Developing and implementing appropriate systemwide general education interventions and culturally responsive instructional practices, which aim to link educational content with student culture (e.g., activating student's prior knowledge and capital culture, making learning contextual, and building relationships) that are not contingent on the identification or determination of a disability to eliminate overidentification or misclassification of infants and toddlers and students.

3. Providing a specifically designed educational program that seeks to prepare infants and toddlers and students with disabilities to be fully participating members of our society, including being prepared for education and training, employment, accessing adult services, independent living, and community participation.
4. Creating and actively fostering a climate of inclusivity, acceptance, and respect for individuals with disabilities given that every child can learn and succeed with the support and collaboration of the school system, families, students, and the community.
5. Providing opportunities for infants and toddlers and students with disabilities to participate, to the maximum extent appropriate to meet individual student needs, with peers without disabilities in all aspects of school life, including academic, social, and extracurricular activities, as a critical component to their educational experiences.
6. Promoting high expectations and success for infants and toddlers and students with disabilities by communicating and collaborating with all staff and holding all staff accountable for the education of students with disabilities.
7. Providing an education program where infants and toddlers and students with disabilities have access to the general education curriculum and are included and accepted in general education classrooms and as members of the community participating, learning, belonging, and working with age-appropriate peers to the maximum extent appropriate to meet individual student needs.
8. Active engagement with parents/guardians and families to provide the partnership and collaboration between home and school fundamental to student success.

D. IMPLEMENTATION

The Superintendent is authorized to develop regulations to implement this policy.

Policy History: Adopted on 10/18/06; Revised 05/02/12; 09/06/23

Note Previous Policy History: Replaces Policy 605.06, revised 01/20/93; Replaces Policy 611, adopted 09/04/79 and revised 05/20/91 and 05/04/94

Legal References: Individuals with Disabilities Education Act; 34 C.F.R. Part 300; Section 8-403 of the Education Article; Code of Maryland Regulations 13A.05.01 Provision of a Free and Appropriate Public Education, 13A.05.02 Administration of Services for Students with Disabilities, and 13A.13.01 Provision of Early Intervention Services to Infants and Toddlers and Their Families.