

Identification And Evaluation Of Individuals For Special Education

Note: Education Code 56300, as amended by SB 1498 (Ch. 179, Statutes of 2008), and 34 CFR 300.111 require each district, Special Education Local Plan Area (SELPA), or county office of education to actively seek out all residents from birth to age 21 (not "through" age 21) who have disabilities as defined by Education Code 56026. The district is also required to include a "child find" process to identify children with disabilities placed by their parents/guardians in private schools; see BP/AR 6164.41 - Children with Disabilities Enrolled by Their Parents in Private Schools.

Note: Identification, evaluation, assessment, and instructional planning procedures for children younger than age 3 must conform with Education Code 56425-56432 and the California Early Intervention Services Act (Government Code 95000-95029). The California Department of Education and local education agencies are responsible for providing early intervention services to infants and toddlers who have visual, hearing, or severe orthopedic impairments; the Department of Developmental Services and its regional centers must provide services to all other eligible children in this age group. The law also requires regional centers and local education agencies to coordinate family service plans for infants and toddlers and their families. Education Code 56441.11 sets forth eligibility criteria for preschool children ages 3-5.

The Governing Board recognizes the need to actively seek out and evaluate district residents from birth to age 21 who have disabilities in order to provide them with appropriate educational opportunities in accordance with state and federal law.

(cf. 0430 - Comprehensive Local Plan for Special Education)
(cf. 6164.41 - Children with Disabilities Enrolled by Their Parents in Private School)
(cf. 6164.6 - Identification and Education Under Section 504)

Note: Education Code 56301 mandates that districts, SELPAs, or county offices have policies and procedures for a continuous "child find" system which addresses the relationships among identification, screening, referral, evaluation, planning, implementation, review, and triennial assessment.

Note: Pursuant to Education Code 56302.5, the term "assessment" as used in state law has the same meaning as "evaluation" provided in 20 USC 1414, the federal Individuals with Disabilities Education Act (IDEA) and accompanying federal regulations. The following policy and administrative regulation use the term "assessment."

The Superintendent or designee shall develop processes to determine when an individual is eligible for special education services and shall establish systematic procedures for special education program identification, screening, referral, assessment, planning, implementation, review, and triennial assessment. (Education Code 56301)

The Superintendent or designee shall establish a method whereby parents/guardians, teachers, appropriate professionals, and others may refer an individual for assessment for special education services. Identification procedures shall be coordinated with school site procedures for referral of students with needs that cannot be met with modifications to the regular instructional program. (Education Code 56302)

Note: Education Code 56301 mandates policy ensuring the following notification. See the accompanying administrative regulation for specific notification requirements.

The Superintendent or designee shall notify parents/guardians, in writing, of their rights related to identification, referral, assessment, instructional planning, implementation, and review,

including the district's procedures for initiating a referral for assessment to identify individuals who need special education services. (Education Code 56301)

(cf. 1312.3 - Uniform Complaint Procedures)
(cf. 3541.2 - Transportation for Students with Disabilities)
(cf. 4112.23 - Special Education Staff)
(cf. 5144.2 - Suspension and Expulsion/Due Process (Students with Disabilities))
(cf. 5145.6 - Parental Notifications)
(cf. 6159 - Individualized Education Program)
(cf. 6159.1 - Procedural Safeguards and Complaints for Special Education)
(cf. 6159.2 - Nonpublic, Nonsectarian School and Agency Services for Special Education)
(cf. 6159.3 - Appointment of Surrogate Parent for Special Education Students)
(cf. 6162.51 - Standardized Testing and Reporting Program)
(cf. 6162.52 - High School Exit Examination)

Legal Reference:

EDUCATION CODE

44265.5 Professional preparation for teachers of impaired students
56000-56885 Special education programs, especially:
56195.8 Adoption of policies
56300-56304 Identification of individuals with disabilities
56320-56331 Assessment
56333-56338 Eligibility criteria for specific learning disabilities
56340-56347 Instructional planning and individualized education program
56381 Reassessment of students
56425-56432 Early education for individuals with disabilities
56441.11 Eligibility criteria, children ages 3-5
56445 Transition to grade school; reassessment
56500-56509 Procedural safeguards

GOVERNMENT CODE

95000-95029.5 California Early Intervention Services Act

CODE OF REGULATIONS, TITLE 5

3021-3029 Identification, referral and assessment
3030-3031 Eligibility criteria

UNITED STATES CODE, TITLE 20

1232g Family Educational Rights and Privacy Act of 1974

1412 State eligibility

1415 Procedural safeguards

CODE OF FEDERAL REGULATIONS, TITLE 34

104.35 Evaluation and placement

104.36 Procedural safeguards

300.1-300.818 Individuals with Disabilities Education Act, especially:

300.301-300.306 Evaluations and reevaluations

COURT DECISIONS

Hood v. Encinitas Union School District, (2007) 486 F.3d 1099

Management Resources:

FEDERAL REGISTER

Rules and Regulations, August 14, 2006, Vol. 71, Number 156, pages 46539-46845

WEB SITES

California Department of Education, Special Education: <http://www.cde.ca.gov/sp/se>

*U.S. Department of Education, Office of Special Education Programs:
<http://www.ed.gov/about/offices/list/osers/osep>*

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