



# Overview Special Education Bloomfield Public Schools

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# PRESENTATION SECTIONS

- Part One: Legal Overview
- Part Two: Bloomfield Public Schools
- Part Three: Appendix of Acronyms

# FAPE

## Free Appropriate Public Education

- The Individuals with Disabilities Education Act (IDEA) is the law that provides a child with the right to a free, appropriate public education.
- The **purpose** of the IDEA is "to ensure that all children with disabilities have available to them a free appropriate public education that emphasizes special education and related services designed to *meet their unique needs and prepare them for further education, employment, and independent living...*"

# What is an I.E.P.

Each public school child who receives special education and related services must have an Individualized Education Program (IEP). Each IEP must be designed for one student and must be a truly *individualized* document. The IEP creates an opportunity for teachers, parents, school administrators, related services personnel, and students (when appropriate) to work together to improve educational results for children with disabilities. The IEP is the cornerstone of a quality education for each child with a disability.

To be appropriate, education programs for students with disabilities must be designed to meet their individual needs to the same extent that the needs of nondisabled students are met. An appropriate education may include regular or special education and related aids and services to accommodate the unique needs of individuals with disabilities.

One way to ensure that programs meet individual needs is through the development of an individualized education program (IEP) for each student with a disability. IEPs are required for students participating in the special education programs of recipients of funding under the *IDEA*.

**The quality of education services provided to students with disabilities must equal the quality of services provided to nondisabled students.** Teachers of students with disabilities must be trained in the instruction of individuals with disabilities. Facilities must be comparable, and appropriate materials and equipment must be available.

# Who Receives Special Education

Children must meet two criteria in order to receive special education:

- (1) the child must have one or more of the disabilities listed , and
- (2) he or she must require special education and related services. **Not all children who have a disability require special education; many are able to and should attend school without any program modifications.**

U.S. Department of Education, Office of Special Education and Rehabilitative Services. (1992). Summary of existing legislation affecting people with disabilities. (ED355701).

# How do students come to receive special services

- Parents request their child be tested
- Teacher and school professionals request a student be tested
- Evaluations: School Psychologist
  - Learning Disability Teacher
  - Consultant (LDTC)
  - Social History by School
  - Social Worker
  - Add't – Neurologist, Psychiatrist

All testing completed is at the expense of the district, there is no fee to the parents.

# Classification Categories

- 1. Auditorily Impaired
- 2. Autistic
- 3. Cognitively Impaired – mild, moderate, severe
- 4. Communication Impaired
- 5. Emotionally disturbed
- 6. Multiply Disabled – two or more disabling conditions
- 7. Deaf/blindness
- 8. Orthopedically Impaired
- 9. OHI-Other Health Impaired – Attention Deficit Disorder, medical conditions such as Sickle Cell, Tourette Syndrome, heart conditions etc.
- 10. Preschool child with a disability (Ages 3-5)
- 11. Social Maladjustment
- 12. Specific Learning Disability
- 13. Traumatic Brain Injury
- 14. Visually Impaired



# District Responsibility

- **Ages Three – Five: Preschool Student with a Disability**
- **Ages 5- 18: Kindergarten through Grade 12**
- **Ages 18 – Twenty-One: Independent Living Skills/ Vocational/Educational**

Students are re-evaluated every 3 years to determine if they are still eligible for special education services.

# Placement – Least Restrictive Environment

Legal requirement is to educate children with disabilities in general education classrooms with children who are not disabled to the **maximum extent possible.**



Placement is not dependent on classification or disability.

# Does Inclusion Benefit All Students?

## YES!



- More diverse social networks
- Increased patience with and acceptance of others with and without disabilities
- Increased willingness to help others
- Increased willingness to accept help
- Reduced fear of differences
- Development of personal principles
- Accommodations benefit all students

## Placement

- Inclusion
- Inclusion with In-class support
- Pull-out replacement
- Self-contained
- Out of District

## Description

- Students remain with peers and receive accommodations
- Spec. Education teacher and/or Paraprofessional support in classroom
- Spec. education teacher provides instruction in a smaller setting by subject area.
- Students receive instruction in a smaller class of approx. 12
- Students attend a specialized school at no cost to the family

**How do we make it work in  
Bloomfield Public Schools**

- PSD
- ABA – Discrete Trial  
Autism
- Learning Disabled (LD)
- Multiply Disabled (MD)
- Behavioral Disorders
- Preschool with disability ages 3-5  
(Students begin on 3<sup>rd</sup> birthday if identified)
- Students receive 1:1 discrete trial teaching methodology for all or part of the day (6-8 students)
- Students require a smaller educational setting for all or part of the day (approx. 12-16 students)
- Students have more than one disability and are significantly below grade level. (approx. 8-12 students)
- Students with behavioral challenges who have difficulty in a large group setting (approx. 8-12 students)

## Types of Self-Contained Classrooms

- VEST (Vocational/Educational Student Training)

CBI – Community Based Instruction

- Vo-Tech

- Bridges Academy

- Cognitively impaired students receive educational, vocational and life skills training.

Component of VEST – Job training

- General and Spec. Educ. Students learn vocational skills (automotive, electrical, cosmetology for example)

- Alternative High School for students 14-18 years old who are unable to attend Bloomfield High School due to their specific needs.

## **Additional High School Programs**

Related Services - In addition to academic support students may also be eligible for additional services such as:

- Speech
- Occupational Therapy
- Physical Therapy
- Counseling
- Social Skills



**Students may need one, two or all related services**

# Staffing for Special Needs Students

- Special Education Teacher
- Speech Therapist
- Physical Therapist
- Occupational Therapist
- School Psychologist
- LDTC-Learning Consultant
- School Social Worker
- Crisis Counselor
- Behaviorist
- Consultants in Autism





**Your Child + Bloomfield Student = Our Responsibility**



**Family + School = Student Success**

“Not every child has an equal talent or an equal ability or equal motivation, however... All children have the equal right to develop their talent, their ability and their motivation”.

John F. Kennedy



# Appendix One: School Related Acronyms

- I.E.P. - Individualized Educational Plan
- C.S.T. – Child Study Team
- L.R.E. – Least Restrictive Environment
- E.S.Y. – Extended School year
- O.T. – Occupational Therapist
- P.T. – Physical Therapist
- S.L.P. – Speech and Language Pathologist
- S.L. – Speech and Language
- I&RS – Intervention and Referral Services
- A.Y.P. – Adequate Yearly Progress
- P.B.S. – Positive Behavioral Supports
- B.I.P. – Behavioral Intervention Plan
- F.B.A. – Functional Behavioral assessment
- A.P.A. – Alternate Proficiency Assessment

## Appendix Two: Government/Legal Acronyms

- FERPA – Family Education Rights and Privacy Act
- FAPE – Free Appropriate Public Education
- NCLB – No Child Left Behind
- IDEA – Individuals w/ Disabilities Education Act
- PRISE – Parental Rights In Special Education
- NJDOE – New Jersey Department Of Education
- NJAC – New Jersey Administrative Code (followed by numbers)
- H.I.B. – Harassment, Intimidation and Bullying
- A.D.A. – Americans with Disabilities Act