

COMPENSATORY EDUCATION

The Board of Education, in its commitment to provide an educational program which meets individual student needs, recognizes the importance of compensatory education. The Board therefore directs the Superintendent of Schools to oversee the development, maintenance and evaluation of a compensatory education program coordinated and articulated with the developmental program. The Board endorses early and regular intervention by classroom teachers, administrators, and support staff at the point in the learning process where a student requires it.

The following criteria will be used to determine whether academic intervention is to take place:

- Proficiency in language arts and mathematics
- Portfolio Assessment
- Performance-Based Tasks
- Teacher Assessments
- Local, State and National Tests

To determine student eligibility for federal and state programs, the Superintendent or his/her designee will design appropriate student assessment procedures. Assessment shall be a collaborative effort involving parents, regular classroom teachers, guidance and special education personnel. Referrals may be initiated by Building Principals and/or classroom teachers, based in part on low student scores on state competency tests, but also taking into consideration a broad range of student needs. Students who are participating in Chapter 1 will be eligible for such services until they are performing at grade level. Children eligible for PSEN services will also be served until they are performing at grade level.

Individual assessments shall attempt to gauge a student's need for emotional and/or physical health services, and seek to determine whether his/her academic performance has a basis in a physical or emotional disability. Student learning style and level of proficiency in speaking/reading/writing English must also be assessed. If the latter is a factor, instruction in English as a second language (ESL) and/or bilingual instruction will be provided prior to any determination regarding the need for further specialized instruction. Students whose overall academic performance in language arts and/or mathematics is below district standards will receive additional support to accelerate achievement. All transferring students and new entrants shall be screened to determine their need for compensatory education. A student may be eligible for remediation based on test scores received from the district in which such student was previously enrolled.

If a student is eligible for compensatory education, he/she will be assigned to an appropriately certified teacher qualified to provide instruction in the area for which remediation is required. In-service training in compensatory methods/programs shall be provided to all teachers periodically.

Actual compensatory education will vary in approach, but will focus on common instructional objectives. The Board will support multiple strategies to accommodate differences in student aptitudes and learning styles. Student meetings with trained faculty will be scheduled during the school day, but all faculty members are to be available after school hours to provide a period of help, instruction and make-up work. Teachers are encouraged to involve parents, community volunteers, teacher aides/assistants and student peers whenever possible.

Teachers shall coordinate compensatory education with the student's regular classwork and homework load. Program goals shall include regular coordination of the curriculum across grades and between grade levels, based upon a core curriculum.

All compensatory education programs shall be evaluated yearly. Evaluation shall be based on norm-referenced test scores and other objective student outcomes, such as classroom performance and student behavior. When seeking to improve programs, the Superintendent or his/her designee shall research effective program models used by other districts in New York State and nationally. Such models shall be adapted to district resources and needs. All program outlines shall be submitted to the Board for prior approval.

In addition, the district shall seek all applicable state and federal funding to improve its compensatory education programs and services.

Cross-ref: 1900, Parental Involvement
4000, Instructional Goals
4010, Equivalence in Instructional Staff and Materials
4326, Limited English Proficiency Instruction

Ref: 8 NYCRR §§100.1(g); 100.2(r); 100.3(b); 100.4(d)(e)

Note: Prior policy, Policy Manual, Academic Standards and Assessment Policy (October 18, 1995), revised

a*d